



Special Edition: Colleagues Are a Match

At APHSA, many of us have worked together for years. Over time, colleagues often become more than just the people you work with—they become family. Jennifer Kerr and Maurine Jones are the most recent and extraordinary examples of the culture of care and belonging that we make the effort to cultivate at our association.

Maurine Jones, also known as MJ and APHSA's Senior Meetings Manager, was diagnosed with kidney disease in February 2020. Earlier this year, her condition reached a critical point, and a kidney transplant became necessary. Though her sisters wanted to donate, they were ineligible, pushing MJ to search for another living donor.

Jennifer Kerr, our Organizational Effectiveness (OE) Director, knew of MJ's condition. "Maurine and I both started working at APHSA in March 2016," Jen said. "We were both assigned as liaisons to NSDTA [the National Staff Development and Training Association affinity group] and connected almost immediately—developing a friendship that has only grown in the nine years since then."

It was through that friendship that Jen learned MJ's condition had reached a critical point. She decided to help. "It is because of our friendship



that I underwent extensive compatibility testing. Helping Maurine and her quality of life was the most important factor in my decision."

Jen discovered that she was a match and because of the friendship they had built over almost a decade, she made the decision to donate one of her kidneys. The choice wasn't taken lightly, but for Jen, knowing what it could mean for MJ made it an easy one.

Following an intensive preoperative and surgical process, and a well-deserved rest period, Jen is back at

work! She's recovering more each day and looks forward to easing back to a more familiar life. MJ is still recovering and will not return to work until October, but she's in wonderful spirits and is getting healthier each day.

Jennifer's extraordinary act of compassion and generosity is a shining example of APHSA's values in action. Her willingness to step up and support a friend in such a profound way reminds us all what it truly means to foster a workplace rooted in empathy, connection, and care. **P**