



Breathing easy thanks to gift of life and new
Mayo Clinic Lung Transplant Program in Arizona

Video	Audio
Courtesy: Scherer Family	It was love at first sight for Craig and Nanci Scherer. Their smiles, just as radiant as on their wedding day 32 years ago. They raised a family, and planned for the future. But their love story took a turn they didn't expect.
Craig Scherer Patient	"I couldn't do things, and even if I could go and do things, I didn't have the strength to do it or the stamina because my lungs would wear out."
Courtesy: Scherer Family	At 60, Craig was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD — a progressive disease that damages the lungs, making it hard to breathe. With no cure, the silent assault often continues day by day until reaching its most severe stage.
Courtesy: Michaela Chioino Michaela Chioino Granddaughter	"My grandfather is suffering from COPD, stage 4 COPD."
	"We're going to name five things you've had had to give through this struggle."
	"I've given up my mobility. I can no longer go anywhere without the need of oxygen."
	But treatments can stop working, leaving patients like Craig with end-stage organ failure and only one last option, a lung transplant. That's when Craig turned to the new Mayo Clinic Lung Transplant Program in Arizona, where he became the new program's first patient to undergo a lung transplant.
Jonathan D'Cunha, M.D., Ph.D. Surgical Director, Lung Transplant Program Mayo Clinic in Arizona	"When your lungs are failing, that's a very scary thing, and lung transplant can give that hope to patients."
	Craig's transplant was a success. Within days, he was taking his first steps with his new lungs.
	"Thumbs up! You're walking!"
	A day to celebrate for Craig and Mayo Clinic in Arizona, home to the largest adult single organ donor transplant center in the country.

	"Bringing the lung program to Mayo Clinic in Arizona is, I think, the final piece to this transplant center for where we're at now."
	Two and a half weeks after surgery, Craig is heading home, breathing on his own for the first time in years.
Bashar Aqel, M.D. Director, Transplant Center Mayo Clinic in Arizona	"We always need to think about the donors and the donor families because without that generous gift, none of this could happen."
	(nats)
	"We are just thrilled with the way this has gone, so with each and every breath, congratulations."
	"You gave me a new life. You gave me life. Thank you all very much."
	Gratitude shared by Craig and Nanci ... already planning the next chapter of their love story.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Marty Velasco Hames.