Larry Swilling, whose sandwich board urged kidney for wife, finds donor

The devoted South Carolina husband and wife Sue are thrilled the yearlong effort appears to have paid off. If testing proves favorable, Sue Swilling, who ‘knew it was going to happen,’ could have surgery as early as Thursday.

BY LEE MORAN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
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Larry Swilling has been married to Sue for more than 55 years.

A husband who pounded the streets of South Carolina with a sandwich board begging for a new kidney for his wife has had his wish granted.

Larry Swilling, 78, went to extraordinary lengths to find a replacement organ for his spouse of more than 55 years, Sue, whose health was starting to seriously fail.

Sue Swilling, who was born with only one kidney, began experiencing health problems after the birth of the couple’s third child, and now the organ must be replaced.

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For more than a year, he was a regular feature on the roads of Anderson and upstate, bearing a sign that read, "NEED KIDNEY 4 WIFE" and listed his contact number.

"I knew it was going to happen, because I know Larry," Sue said.

It seems his incredible efforts have paid off: A donor has come forward, it was announced this week.

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Swilling had become a fixture on the streets of Anderson and upstate South Carolina in his quest to find his wife a donor.

If tests on the willing participant, who has not been identified, prove positive, then surgery on the 76-year-old could take place as soon as Thursday.

"I knew it was going to happen, because I know Larry," said his delighted wife, who was born with only one kidney.
'He would not have stopped until he got me one,' wife Sue said of Larry's laudable determination.

ABC reports that she suffered complications after the birth of their third child, and now the failing organ has to be replaced.

"He would not have stopped until he got me one," she added.