**Kat Williams Remembers the Most Exciting Time of Her Life**

By Noel Jefferson

**Kat Williams has given years of her time and talent to the infirm, elderly, churches and between 80 – 100 not-for-profits, including:** “Council For The Aging,” “Safe Light,” “Make a Wish Fund,” “Brother Wolf,” Domestic Life Programs and others. When she was well, she’d go from church to church, singing in the choir each Sunday, oftentimes singing in both services!

**Why?** Because Kat feels that ‘her singing heals and that she’s meant to heal!’ “I’m here to serve my community” says she with a heartfelt smile and true conviction!

**It is because Kat is who she is, such a giving person, The Arts Council of Hendersonville will donate a portion of our ticket sales toward Kat’s upcoming kidney transplant! She needs $60,000.00 more than she has. If you are unable to attend our event, please consider sending a check, made payable to the “Kat Williams Fund,” to the Arts Council of Hendersonvile.**

Kat attributes her renal disease to the diabetes medicine she took for two decades! It’s being ‘substituted by a small pill that not only controls her diabetes, but also helps her to control the renal kidney illness.’

Born 1967, Buffalo, New York, Kat Williams was orphaned… not to have met her mother until she visited her at age 3 where Kat happily lived with loving foster parents. When Vicky visited Kat and identified Michael Jackson’s poster on her wall, Kat remembers that moment as the “happiest moment in her life!” Her mother left, never to return. Yet, Kat remembers how happy she made her on that one visit!

Kat grew up quickly as her foster parents grew ill and depended upon Kat to manage the household… at nine years old! Kat reminisces proudly that she wrote checks for the bills, traveled alone to the bank to handle her bedridden mother’s transactions. Kat took on these responsibilities as if they were normal, as she cared for her mom who was suffering with colon cancer and diabetes… terminal illnesses.

After her mother died, and her “father” was transported to an assistant living home, Kat was left **HOMELESS.** Not helpless though! As a junior in High School, her main focus was to complete her education. Soon it became evident to Kat’s classmates that she was indeed homeless! Her classmates invited her to stay with them for a week or two, sheltering her from the homeless system! However, when a school counselor was informed of Kat’s condition, she directed her to the Social Service’s Office where a supervisor met with her and asked how she could help? “My parents died and I want an education,” was Kat’s reply.

Following graduation, at age 20, Kat became a Correction Officer in New York. And began singing in Karaoke Bars. However, once her superiors learned that she was “singing where “Liquor was served…” in but was banned from singing there, because “Liquor was served…” she was forced to quit singing in such locations. Although, when Kat brought it to her superiors that “fellow officers frequented these same bars and drank the liquor they were served,” a ‘ban was initiated, disallowing Officers from frequenting bars…’ Subsequently, Kat became the target of a brutal workforce whereby she was constantly bullied and disrespected by her male co-workers.

By this time Kat “knew 12 songs” and while singing one of them, in Asheville at a Karaoke Bar, she caught the attention of the Late Robin Williams who immediately hired her to sing at a birthday party! Soon afterwards Kat “Opened” on the Jay Leno Show, and was then invited to move to Los Angeles. Her one regret is having declined his invitation! Kat recalls Mr. Leno as “one of the kindest and congenial people she’s ever met! Her performance at Harrah’s Casino, in Cherokee, NC and then got the attention of many… including a crowd of more than 5,000 people in Asheville, NC. President Clinton’s event coordinator asked Kat to Open for him by singing the National Anthem. However, because he arrived an hour late for his, Kat performed a solo concert.

Kat’s been performing for 20 years, giving her time and sharing her talent with the disabled, disadvantaged and others through her beautiful, heartfelt singing.

In 1997, Kat moved to Western North Carolina where she returned to the Corrections system, but still sang whenever the opportunity rose… especially at church.

Before Obama Care, and his Affordable Care Act was put into law, many musicians and artists only went to doctors when they were too ill to perform! In 2015, on such a visit, Kat learned that unless she got a kidney transplant, she’d die! Stage 4 renal disease is called a “silent death illness.” Thirty percent of her kidney was functioning! A transplant was eminent, however not until she reached a 10% function level, and lost 50 pounds!

Kat’s lost 40 pounds within the past 2 months and recently started dialysis. However, the water retention from dialysis, adds pounds to her healthy diet: No sodium, sugar, alcohol, or flavored beverages! She consumes only: fruit, vegetables, poultry, salads and home prepared meals. Today, Kat foresees within another month and a half she’ll lose the last required 10 pounds to qualify for her kidney transplant! (Thus far, her list of kidney donors is 80!)

Over the past two years, since being treated for her illness, she’s depleted her savings and donations. And her medical bills and living expenses have exceeded $100,000. Kat Williams needs another $60,000. for the kidney transplant. She’s reached the 10% kidney functioning rate required and as soon as her weight drops another 10 pounds and the right donor is selected, her funds need to be adequate for the surgery!

Your kind donations will not only be appreciated by all, but you’ll be giving a gift to someone who certainly deserves each and every prayer along with your generous donation!

You are invited to join **The Arts Council of Henderson County** and friends to the Crate Wine Market for a sip of wine, to be paired with delicious cheeses at our **Annual Fund Raiser**…

Saturday, May 6th, 2017

Crate Wine Market

100 Daniel Drive, Laurel Park

Hendersonvile, NC

5 – 7 PM

Tickets are $25.00 each and can be purchased by calling the Arts Council at 828.693.8504, visiting the Arts Council at 401 N. Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hendersonville, or at Crate Wine Market!

**Kat Williams, a significant force in our Community, will have CDs available for purchase, if you are so inclined.**