

Baby needs donor kidney

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system is too weak and he's prone to infections.

"His doctors don't want him in a public facility," Karol Vaughn said.

That's also why Gore hasn't been to any family gathering during Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

"He is still getting used to his family," his mother said. "We couldn't take him to family groupings. One of us would have to stay (with Gore) and one would be able to go."

Karol Vaughn said Gore can't go outside often in winter because of his weak immune system. "He also tires quicker than most children," she said. "He's not around a lot of children, so he can interact socially. He picks up everything."

Despite it all, Gore is a "very happy baby," Karol Vaughn said.

"His attitude is good. Even when he is sick, he's happy. With what he has been through, a little thing is not as bad. Unlike most babies, when (his temperature) is 102, he is up

because that's good for him."

Gore can use an adult liver, which would be trimmed to fit, or he can take a baby's liver. That could work to his advantage on the national registry for liver donors.

"They want to find one that's right for him," his mother said.

However, Karol Vaughn said, there are two teenagers on the list who are sicker than Gore and would get priority.

"They told us some people have been on the list for years, but once you have been on the list one time, it does not take long," she said.

Karol Vaughn said doctors still aren't sure what caused Gore's rare condition. Family histories reveal no genetic pattern.

Gore will undergo another round of tests and treatments, including a biopsy beginning Monday.

"They want to see if something has developed to say what caused it in the first place," Karol Vaughn said. "They want to see if there have been any changes, any improvements."

"They really try to put off

doing transplants as long as possible, because the medicine and stuff they have to take the rest of their life is so hard on their body. The transplant will only be the beginning. The first year is spent going in and out of the hospital because the body is getting used to the new liver. You have to take medicines to suppress illness. Those are hard on the body. He will have to take them the rest of his life."

At this point, securing a new liver is most important, Karol Vaughn says.

"If he gets a liver, he will have a normal life. He may not be able to play football or hockey, but otherwise he will have basically a healthy life," she said. "He'll have to watch his diet. If he didn't tell anybody, they will probably not know he had (a transplant)."

Contributions to Gore Vaughn's medical expenses should be made to: Teller, BB&T Bank, 200 College Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28202. Checks should be made to the Gore Trust Fund.

Walk-in contributions can be made at any BB&T branch.

Jail conditions concern NAACP officials

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"I know everything they say is not true, but when you go up to the top and down to the bottom and everyone says the same thing, you've got to say, 'Hey, something's wrong,'" she said.

Sheriff Gerald Hege wondered how Hargrave and other NAACP members could find such a drastic change in so short a time. He said that conditions are much the same as they were two years ago.

"A month ago, they couldn't find anything wrong," Hege said. "Every jail, regardless how clean or modern, when you put in 200 guys, they're going to get head lice, bed lice. You've got

everything when you coop up everyone together."

Hege has been criticized in the past for some of his policies, which he says are designed to make inmates not want to return. County commissioners are working with an architect on jail expansion and renovations to correct problems blamed on the jail's age and small size.

Hege said the jail is cleaned and jailers do their best with the old building.

That he let Hargrave's group tour the jail even though their visit was unannounced shows he has nothing to hide, Hege said.

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