Seven years and a couple of hundred pounds ago, Renard Williams faced a critical decision. A diabetic, he had strolled off course with diabetes, mediations and exercise, and weighed 445 lbs. “I got on the scale and said, I have to do something about this I really need to lose weight.”

To regain control of his diet and health, Renard chose gastric bypass surgery and shed nearly half his body weight. But just when things started looking good again, he started feeling very sad again. His doctor delivered heart-breaking news, Renard’s kidneys were failing, and he needed dialysis.

Choosing freedom, and Liberty
The news was difficult, but choosing a therapy was not. Renard’s nephrologist discussed peritoneal dialysis with the Liberty.

Select Peritoneal Dialysis Cycle: for a variety of reasons. For one, a close friend with kidney disease had chosen peritoneal dialysis with the Liberty.

“With PD, we just stop travelling to dialysis,” Renard remembers. “Our attitude was whatever we do, as long as we have to make sure to make room for these big bags.”

But the biggest appeal for PD for Renard was the control over his therapy caring for his own equipment, dialysing on his own schedule, and not spending hours in the car and at the clinic three days a week as would be the case with peritoneal dialysis. Being home also allowed him better oversight of meal times, choices and preparation, helping Renard to manage his diet and weight. He was determined to be the most adherent patient he could be.

Reliability Benefits
“I put it this way,” says Renard, with a hint of humor, “if you have a,you child, to matter how much they barge on your nerves, every right you are going to give them dinner and a bath and care of your child is not.” Renard stayed accountable and felt he had a trusted partner in his Liberty system. He needed a cycle that would drain him without the possibility of stopping mid-cycle.

“The Liberty will just do that,” says Renard’s ‘third eye’, Renard’s ‘third eye’, “Just pull and pull until it couldn’t pull any more.”

Due to his background in technology, at one point Renard was asked by his doctor to try a new cycle, one with a multitude of high tech interfaces. He agreed, but, after three more months of frustrations, concluded ‘Renard is good at P3.’

“The other system had great intentions, but wasn’t the right fit for me,” Renard says, every time it was, “Okay, it’s not just deep and we’re deep, and Renard’s doctors felt he had reached the limit, and swapped the new cycle for the Liberty.”

“After the doctor told me, the cycle didn’t tell me, nice.”

Faith rewarded
At his clinic, Renard was known for being good natured and a great patient. Throughout his first few years he was PD, he never missed a routine treatment journey within his home.

“When it came to the clinic, I had a favorite saying, ‘If you can’t come to trouble, I rec’d a laugh with a ‘you just have to make your job as easy as possible.’

Healthy and living strong to treatments made Renard a strong, confident and a transplant and, his dedication paid off Sept. 13, 2019, when he received a new kidney.

“I’ve definitely seen a spike in my energy, and a spike in wanting to do more since I did before,” Renard said of his life after transplant. “I want to go to the gym. I can just roll over and get up. I just feel that need to do something, something.

Renard also has a medical appreciation for his family, friends, and the things that seemed so routine before he got his life back.

Looking back, and forward
“When you’re healthy you take things for granted,” Renard says, “private time with your wife, going to the park and laughing with family time, he confides.” “Once you go through something like this, you appreciate family, you appreciate life, you appreciate everything you put on.”

Renard credits his faith and his wife of nine years, Liza, for helping him get through the tough times and getting him where he is today. “She was 100% incredible, and still is to this day,” he says. “My attitude was not always great, but my wife would just talk to me and help me, and never had a negative word, ever.”

Along with a new kidney and renewed vigor, Renard also has some new goals - exercising for an hour a day, eating more vegetables, and not forgetting the word PD therapy. His Facebook page, once dedicated to helping him find a kidney, is now a source of encouragement and information for others.

“I don’t want my next step is,” he says. “But the kidney journey and the kidney fight are going to be part of it.”