

# Studio HOPE BOUTIQUE

Vintage, Artisan and Curated Thrift

Benefiting orphaned pets and people battling kidney disease.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Studio Hope Boutique Hosts Inspiring Author Event for April Organ Donor Awareness Month

Burbank, CA — In a heartfelt celebration of Organ Donor Awareness Month, Studio Hope Boutique, an artisan, vintage, and curated thrift shop located in Burbank's vibrant Magnolia Park, invites the community to a unique author event on **Sunday, April 26, from 4:00 to 5:30pm at 817 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA**. The event is free to the public and offers an inspiring opportunity to "shop for a cause" and connect with authors whose stories illuminate hope, joy, and the incredible journeys surrounding organ donation.

Attendees will hear from three remarkable authors: Dr. Somone Washington, Lori Hartwell and Rachel Bennett Steury. Each brings a unique perspective as organ donors, transplant recipients, and passionate advocates for people who have kidney disease and who are waiting for a transplant.

California Department of Health statistics reveal that 4.4 million Californians are living with chronic kidney disease. In the United States alone, over 100,000 people are on the waiting list for an organ transplant, with more than 90,000 awaiting a kidney.

Rachel Bennett Steury, a living kidney donor and one of the event's featured authors, expresses her thoughts on how she came to make this choice: "I never thought I would write a book or donate a body part, but it has given me so much. I've learned a lot about life and loving." Rachel's powerful memoir, *Losing My Kidney and Finding My Voice: Confessions of a Living Donor*, details her own experience and the inspiration she drew from her uncle's legacy as a deceased organ donor.

Dr. Somone Washington's memoir, *The Best of All Things: A Tapestry of Faith, Hope, Resilience, and the Human Connection*, says "We need to remember the power of community and importance of friendship and caring about each other." Her book extends hope to those battling chronic illness, especially people undergoing dialysis, and offers guidance to caregivers and loved ones.

Lori Hartwell, founder of Studio Hope Boutique, Renal Support Network and Paws Fur Hope, is a leader in advocacy for people who have kidney disease and the pet community. "I was diagnosed with kidney failure at a young age and received the gift of life. I have been given so many second chances. If it wasn't for my beloved dog Pepi, I may not have decided to get out of bed some mornings."

Through her work, she raises awareness and funds to support, develop and implement programs for causes that are near and dear to heart. Her book, *Chronically Happy – Joyful Living in Spite of Chronic Illness* came out some time ago but still is relevant today.

Donations are graciously accepted, furthering the shop's mission to support kidney health and pet welfare. Books will be available for purchase, with links to e-books and audiobook formats also provided

817 N Hollywood Way • Burbank, CA 91505 • [StudioHopeStore.org](http://StudioHopeStore.org) • [@StudioHopeBurbank](https://www.instagram.com/StudioHopeBurbank)  
Parking in Back • Store Hours: Wed – Sat 11am to 6pm, Sun 11am to 4pm