

JOY OF LIVING

GIFT OF LIFE
SPRING 2009



Talk

Organ & tissue donation. Share your decision.

Life Mentors

Pilot Program
in Three Hospitals

GoSeeDoKC09

Over 150
Volunteers

Slam Dunk

ViraCor Celebrates
Lab Week

DeSoto Rotary

Stirs Up
Chili Contest

Life Savers

Second Semester
Recap



2

9

GoSeeDoKC09!
**GO FAR.
 SEE MORE.
 DO GOOD.
 PARTY ON!**

Diane Ravis



Tammy Heath



Koji Attwood,
Pianist

1



Classic Cup
Cellar

2



Original Juan's
Specialty Foods

3



Jerry & Margaret Nerman's
World Class
Art Collection

4



The Roasterie

5



National World War I
Museum

6



Fiorella's Jack Stack

7



K.C. Strings

8



KMBC-TV-9

9



**Hats
Off!**



Donor father and board member **Larry McMillin** has been nominated by Gift of Life for a national award, The Dr. James S. Wolf Award for Courage presented by the Donate Life America Partnership. Larry is a trained Gift of Life volunteer speaker. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Gift of Life and chaired the annual auction for GoSeeDoKC.

As a donor father, Larry shares the story of his daughter, Dena. On

her sixteenth birthday the family prepared a surprise party for her while her girlfriend took her for a drive. At an intersection very close to their home a truck hit the girls causing fatal injury to Dena. The next call to the party came from the police. Larry now tells their story of new life as a positive legacy to honor the life of Dena. If Webster ever redefines courage, the reference would read, "See McMillin." *

VOLUNTEERS

150+

GUESTS

300

GOAL

\$100,000



Over 150 Volunteers Make GoSeeDoKC09! The Story.

Event chairs **Diane Ravis and Tammy Heath** led an army of volunteers, sponsors and auction contributors who were responsible for the record-breaking Gift of Life fundraiser, GoSeeDoKC09! Including sponsorships, Community Partner support, auction and ticket sales, **the event raised a net figure of \$100,000.** This record amount is one third of the annual budget for Gift of Life.

Anticipating the impact of a tight economy, volunteers signed up to prepare food, tend bar, bus tables, host at nine tour venues, pick up auction items and even loan refrigerator space to help cut costs. Board member **Larry McMillin led the auction team** that wrangled donations prior to the event. Kim Harbur, Co-Founder and Director of Education coordinated the onsite logistics and food preparation with a team of volunteers including Susan and Todd Dublin.

Guests visited one of nine interesting tour venues and attended the celebration and auction at Starlight Theatre. **The celebratory crowd gave a standing ovation to Honorary Chairs Michael and Barbie Nolte.** They shared their story as a donor family and how their lives changed after Michael became a bone and skin recipient following a car explosion. The Nolte's brought the conversation of volunteerism full circle by praising their friends and community who made their recovery bearable. Michael continues to volunteer in the Gift of Life classroom program, Life Savers, honoring the donor families and volunteers who help Gift of Life make a difference. *





Thank you

GoSeeDoKC09!

Honorary Chairs

Michael & Barbie Nolte

Event Chairs

Tammy Heath

Diane Ravis

Presenting Sponsors \$5,000

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ViraCor Laboratories

Contributing Sponsors \$2,500

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The Transplant Institute at
Research Medical Center

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Diane Ravis

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University of Kansas Hospital

Event Hosts \$500

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Durrie Vision

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Special Thanks

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Gena Bardwell

Terrence Brown

Marshaun Butler

Kevin Campbell

Mike Dempsey & Becky

Renard

Tiffany Donnelly

The Donnelly Girls

Karen Douglas

Kris & Melody Drake

Ellie & Wil Dublin

Carole Dunn

Elizabeth Edwards

John Emley

Fiorella's Jack Stack BBQ

Lowell & Teresa Ghosey

Morgan Ghosey

Del & Leslie Goodyear

Chuck Gowans

James Grantham

Stacy Green

Carol Hamblen

Nate, Cole & Luke Harbur

Josh Hayes & Family

Sharon Henderson

Mert Hersh

Mike, Lisa & Katie Holleron

Charlene Hughes

Molly Hundley

The Jeter Family

Molly Kennedy &

Matt Groebe

Norm Killmon

Marie Koffman

Beulah Langford

Bob & Beverly Lang

Phyllis Leach

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Gail McRorie

Steffney Messer

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Vicki Norris

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Lindsey Rood

Kassie Sands

Dan Stalp

Karen Swope

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Jing Yu

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Koji Attwood

Nell Bowen

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Col. Kent & Karen Jursch

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Lon Lane

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Keith & Margi Pence

Postage underwritten by
Michael Ravis Memorial Fund

Single Adults for
Community Service

Support Kansas City

Thank You...GoSeeDo Tours

Koji Attwood, pianist

Bryson & Kathie Cloon

The Classic Cup Cellar

Original Juan's Specialty Foods

Jerry & Margaret Nerman

The Roasterie

The National WWI Museum

Fiorella's Jack Stack BBQ

KC Strings

KMBC-TV 9

...and to all who donated to the auction

We apologize for any omissions
due to print deadline.

Photographs by
Bernard Concannon,
byinvitationKC.com



Bone marrow donor Margi Pence and her husband Keith, hosted the patron's party at their home in Hallbrook.



Honorary Chairs Michael and Barbie Nolte with their daughters Justine, Emma-Lea and Caroline.

Never Judge a Mystery Novel by It's Cover

An author's understated transplant victory
Jeanne Glidewell exudes energy and classic understatement. She doesn't boast, so it is up to you to ask the questions and learn that she decided to become a writer following her kidney and pancreas transplant three years ago. Just this month, she received notice that her second novel in the **Lexie Starr** cozy mystery series has been accepted for publication.

At 51, writing seemed like a logical next adventure for someone who already cruised the world twice, traveled five continents, hunts, fishes, enjoys photography, and was an all-around athlete playing college volleyball, softball and basketball. Did homecoming queen or class officer get mentioned? Suffice it to say that Jeanne celebrates daily the gift she received in 2006, alongside Bob, her husband of twenty-five years.

Battling a life-long struggle with diabetes, Jeanne's busy life came to a screeching halt in the summer of 2004. At the time, she and Bob were running their successful business in Cheyenne, Wyoming when she was hospitalized with double pneumonia, anemia, diabetes and other health issues leading to a pulmonary/cardiac arrest which resulted in intubation (A tube inserted in the throat for breathing). She writes, "I was also suffering from an acute case of kidney failure ... (In Intensive Care) I was told that I was a perfect candidate for an SPK, or simultaneous pancreas/kidney transplant. I am fortunate that I was born with no fear. It served me well in this instance. I was elated and couldn't wait to get the show on the road." Her spirit is indomitable.

They relocated to Kansas City for family support and to be near The Transplant Institute at Research Medical Center. Jeanne continues, "My waiting time on the list was one week shy of six months. I was anxious in an excited way and felt hopeful every time the phone rang... Due to the diabetic complication known

as gastroparesis, I was just concentrating on getting through each day without ending up in the back of an ambulance."

During the wait all travel halted and driving ceased after she returned home with a traffic ticket from a trip to downtown Kansas City she did not remember. Bob became her driver and her rock every step of the way. She stands fast that support from spouses, partners, family members and friends is key during the waiting period and post-transplant. "They become your rock, your heroes and your saving grace, alongside your donor and the donor family.

Peggy McGinnis, a social worker at Research Hospital, was part of the team that developed the Life Mentors program for Gift of Life. Knowing that Life Mentors will provide encouragement and support to those waiting for a life-saving transplant; and that their partners and spouses would also help as Life Champions, Peggy immediately recommended Jeanne for the program. Since then, Jeanne has become the Volunteer Coordinator for transplant candidates at Research Medical Center as part of a team with Terrence Brown, also a kidney recipient and Life Mentor.

On the heels of her third transplant anniversary, Life has quieted down for Jeanne and Bob. They have called on transplant candidates as a Life Mentor and Life Champion between trips to Alaska, a Caribbean cruise, Honduras, the Panama Canal and, of course, the annual Crawfish Festival in Louisiana. Jeanne is also providing support during her mother's battle against breast cancer. "My mother always told me, when one door closes, another one opens. I believe in walking through it." That is an understatement. (See Jeanne's story in the Life Mentors section). *



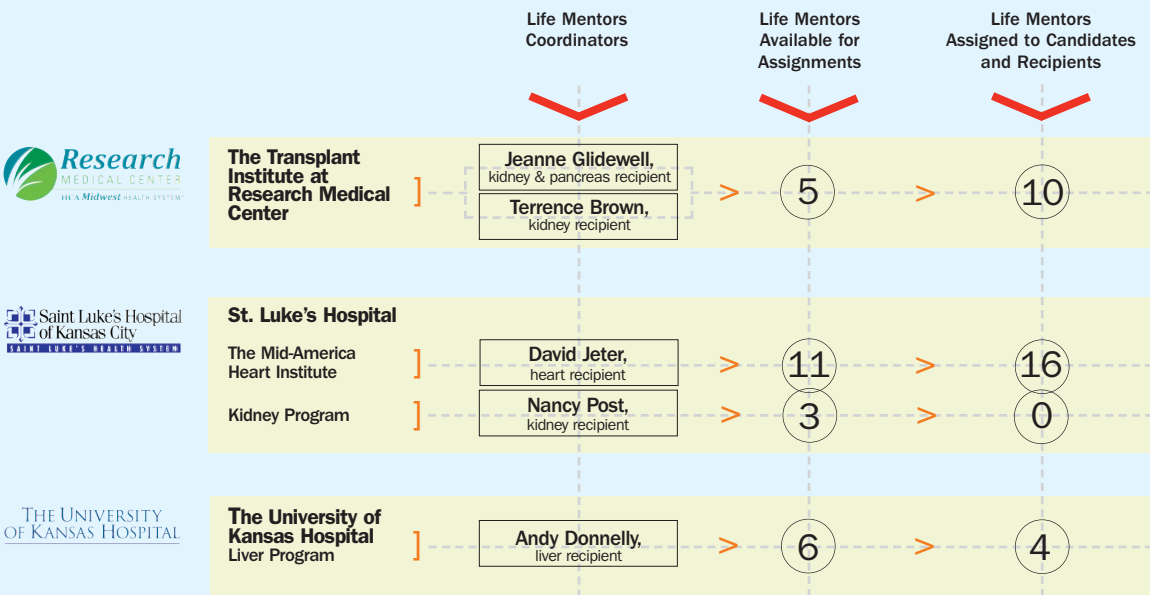
Mentors Make
a Difference...

Life Mentor Volunteer Coordinator
Jeanne Glidewell,
kidney/pancreas recipient
wrote about her
early mentoring experience:

Pilot Program Now in Three Hospitals

In six short months the Life Mentors program from Gift of Life is now offered to transplant candidates and patients at Research Medical Center (kidney and pancreas), St. Luke's Hospital (kidney and heart) and the University of Kansas Hospital (Liver Program). Life Mentors are transplant recipients trained by Gift of Life to offer encouragement and support to those waiting for a life-saving transplant. Gift of Life has completed two Life Mentors training classes. The result? **31 Life Mentors completed the training and are now actively mentoring 30 transplant candidates, recipients and their loved ones.** A third class is scheduled for late summer, including new training to compliment Life Mentors named **"Life Champions."** Life Champions mentor family members, spouses and partners of recipients who serve as caregivers. *

* **Life Mentor Coordinators** have now been named for each hospital. These volunteers accept the responsibility to connect transplant candidates or new recipients with a Life Mentor from their hospital program. Life Mentors have logged fifty hours in 2009 offering support and encouragement to those beginning their transplant journey.



(We met...) last night and it was a great success. She was tickled to death to talk with me (and my Life Champion/husband) and plans on keeping in touch with me, meeting again and calling me occasionally. She thinks talking with a Mentor in person is a fabulous idea. She commented that she had no one to talk to about what she is going through. Her family and friends don't want to talk about it with her. She had almost talked herself in to not going through with it and we totally changed her mind. We could see her attitude change right before our eyes. She told me she was less concerned about the transplant itself than she was about going back to leading a normal life post-transplant... Anyway, this meeting is exactly what mentoring is all about. She said she hadn't been sleeping well at all and thought she would finally get a good night's sleep after our meeting. *

In Memoriam... Condolences are extended to the family of heart recipient **Stacy Green**, 39, who passed away this month. Her cheerfulness and energy will be missed by friends and the staff at St. Luke's Mid-America Heart Institute and Gift of Life.

> Note: The transplant candidate mentioned above received her new kidney on May 6th.

Pre-Transplant Meetings at KU and St. Luke's

Life Mentor Program Manager Andy Donnelly and Volunteer Coordinator Nancy Post speak with new patients undergoing evaluation for kidney transplant at St. Luke's Hospital on a regular basis as part of the new patient orientation. Every Friday Andy meets with new liver transplant candidates at the University of Kansas Hospital. He is also available to speak to transplant support groups or medical professionals that would like to learn more about the Life Mentors program and Gift of Life. *

Funding a Transplant?

Periodically Gift of Life receives requests from individuals challenged to meet the expense of a transplant. Do you have a success story or cautionary tale to share on this topic? The first line of action should be to make an appointment with your hospital social worker, but Gift of Life would like to support that effort with tips for local patients that need financial assistance during their transplant journey. *

If you would like to be referred to a Life Mentor, contact **Andy Donnelly** 913 851-1947 andy@giftdonor.org for more info.



Other News:

David Jeter & Jim Kidwell Honored by Foundation

The Truman Heartland Community Foundation will honor heart recipient David Jeter and liver recipient Jim Kidwell with the Humanitarian of the Year Award on September 26th. The award will be presented at the Foundation's annual gala at the Muehlebach Tower of the Kansas City Marriott. David is a Gift of Life board member and active in the Life Mentor program as a volunteer. Jim is a Community Partner providing annual support to Gift of Life. Both have served as Honorary Chairs for GoSeeDoKC. Congratulations to both for a well-deserved honor. *

DeSoto Rotary Stirs Up Chili Contest

Life Mentors and interested volunteers are encouraged to join the Gift of Life chili team to raise funds for the Life Mentors program. You do not need to be a chef and we will be serving Dr. Forster's Prescription Chili. Known more for his expertise as a transplant surgeon, Dr. Jameson Forster at the University of Kansas Hospital has shared his secret recipe which includes peanut butter...hmmmmmm. Sign up for a shift, prepare a gallon or just have fun at Zimmerman's Farm in DeSoto between 11:30 am & 1 pm on May 30th. Co-sponsored by Oklahoma Joe's with the DeSoto Rotary Club, this is an official CASI (Chili Appreciation Society International) event.

➤ For details, contact Gift of Life at 913- 851-1947 or email giftdonor@giftdonor.org. *

Slam Dunk for ViraCor!

ViraCor Laboratories celebrated National Laboratory Professionals Week – Lab Week, by making a contribution to Gift of Life in honor of their key customers in hospitals and labs across the United States. ViraCor specializes in providing diagnostics to physicians who treat patients with infectious diseases. They also provide an important service to the transplant community with twenty-four hour testing of blood samples for those with suppressed immune systems.

In addition to the Lab Week contribution, a fleet of ViraCor volunteers assisted with GoSeeDoKC. However, (drum roll here), the grand slam of their commitment was a contribution of the funds they raised for Gift of Life during National Take Your Child to Work Day.

President John Martin and ViraCor Chairman Flip Short, a Gift of Life board member, set up a carnival dunk tank on that beautiful 80 degree day. Employees and their kids visiting work paid \$5 per throw to dunk the ViraCor Executives! The total equaled nearly 120 dunks! You do the math. *

Washington High School Presents Week of Assemblies

The health careers class under the direction of Stephen Palmerin at Washington High School in Kansas City, Kansas, hosted a week of student assemblies to introduce the concepts of organ donation. Using the format of the Life Savers program from Gift of Life, students prepared powerpoint presentations to music and shared speaking responsibilities. Special guest speakers at each assembly were donor parents Tonya and Bob Brown. Their son Chris would have graduated from Washington last year but was killed by a drunk driver. The Brown family has generously donated their story and their time for a classroom video used by Director of Education Kim Harbur at other schools in the metro area. *

Organ & Tissue Donation School Program Thrives

The day for Kim Harbur, Gift of Life Co-Founder and Director of Education frequently begins in the classroom at 7:15 am and runs through the school day. She delivers the Life Savers classroom program by sharing her story as the mother of Luke, a liver transplant recipient. Frequently supported by other volunteers with transplant stories, the program includes detailed instruction about the organ donation process. The fact that one organ and tissue donor can potentially save eight lives and enhance up to fifty lives through eye and tissue donation is a key point in the presentation. At the end of each presentation, students are given a Life Savers brochure to use as a conversation guide with family members to share their wishes regarding donation. *

Life Savers & Education Outreach (Jan – May 2009)

Students Reached

14 Assemblies
3,735 Students



178 Presentations
4,009 Students



192 Presentations
7,744 Students

Adults Reached

6 Presentations
291 Adults



1 Parade*
5,000 Adults



7 Presentations + Parade
5,291 Adults

* Thank you Phil Duncan

Thank You Life Saver Classroom Volunteers

Speakers

Pam Brandsted
Bob & Tonya Brown
Marshaun Butler
Jeri Carroll

Kris Drake
Phil Duncan
Morgan Ghosey
Lowell Ghosey
Luke Harbur

Michelle Jacobsen
Dave Jeter
Beulah Langford
Larry McMillin
Rose & Paula Naughtin

Mike Nolte
Glenn & Tricia Rosario
Emily Tuttle,
Heartland Lions Eye
Bank

Life Savers Schools*

Cass County
Archie
Belton Freshman
Center
Harrisonville
Heartland Christian
School
Ray-Pec Freshman
Center
Clay County
Kearney
Liberty JHS
Liberty HS
North Kansas City
Oak Park
Staley
St. Pius X
Winnertonka
Douglas County
Eudora

Jackson County
Barstow
Don Bosco Charter
Central
Cristo Rey
Grain Valley
Grandview
Hickman Mills
Lee's Summit North
Manual Technical
Center
Northeast
Ozanam
Paseo Academy
Pembroke Hill
Raytown
Raytown South
St. Teresa's Academy
University Academy
Chartered
Westport

Johnson County
Bishop Miege
Blue Valley
Blue Valley North
Blue Valley Northwest
Blue Valley West
Brighton Academy
DeSoto
Gardner-Edgerton
Mill Valley
Olathe East
Olathe North
Olathe Northwest
Olathe South
Shawnee Mission East
Shawnee Mission
Northwest
Shawnee Mission
South
Shawnee Mission West

St. Thomas Aquinas
Platte County
Park Hill South
Platte County
Shawnee County
Topeka West
Washburn Rural
Wyandotte County
Fairfax Campus
Schlagle
JC Harmon
Sumner Academy
Turner
Washington
Wyandotte

JOY OF LIVING
SPRING 2009

Gift of
LIFE

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KS 66202

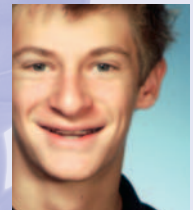
Joie de Vivre, © 1997 Richard MacDonald

Give to Live. Live to Give.

Gift of Life builds awareness of the critical need for organ and tissue donation, and provides assistance to transplant patients, their families and living donors. Thanks to community support, we have reached over 100,000 high school students and their families through our Life Savers program. The Life Mentors program provides encouragement and support to new transplant candidates, transplant recipients and their families. * giftddonor.org 913-851-1947

Memorium

LIFE SAVERS



Legacy of **Bryan Barrow** to be Honored Heartfelt condolences were recently extended to the family of Gift of Life board member Anne Peterson and her husband Dr. Bruce Barrow when they lost their seventeen year old son, Bryan, in a car accident prior to spring break. **Bryan was an organ donor and was able to save the lives of five people.** Bryan had already discussed his decision to be an organ donor with his family. His obituary reflected a colorful, courageous and caring young man with many friends. As a competitive skateboarder, Bryan recently received his first corporate sponsorship to launch his career. Comments from the family also offered **Bryan's advice for teens with messy rooms: "Nothing falls off the floor."** *

To express appreciation for the Barrow family's ongoing involvement with Gift of Life and as a donor family, the Board of Directors voted to **dedicate the 2009 Life Savers Rally to the legacy of Bryan Barrow**, a young man who chose to make a difference.

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