

JOY OF LIVING

Gift of Life

W I N T E R 2 0 1 6

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Dear Gift of Life Supporters:

When I was told that I may need a liver transplant, my family and I turned to Gift of Life for guidance. The Transplant Mentors program offered our family hope and encouragement as we found ourselves starting down an unfamiliar path. Eventually, our transplant experience went full circle when we learned my donor had heard a Life Savers classroom presentation given by Gift of Life at his high school. I am grateful for the second chance that has been given to me and my family.

I hope you will consider a year-end contribution, perhaps in honor or in memory of someone, to Gift of Life, because it truly is the gift that keeps on giving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McNugh".

Peter McNugh, Liver Recipient
President, Gift of Life Board of Directors

Educate. Inspire. Talk About It.

On October 18th, four hundred students, teachers, volunteers, and special guests attended the fourteenth annual Life Savers Rally in Yardley Hall at Johnson County Community College. When **Kelly Hulsey** (moderator) took center stage, the audience didn't know that when she was ten-years-old, her mother, due to an accident, became an organ donor. Kelly, a senior at St. Teresa's Academy and a Gift of Life Youth Advisory Board member, shared her story at the conclusion of the rally; there was not a dry eye.

There were several featured speakers at the rally. Opening was **Dr. Sangeev Aggarwal**, a heart transplant surgeon at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City. Also presenting were **Becki and Abby Huether**, who shared the story of Abby receiving a liver transplant as a baby (she is now in grade school). **Sharon Kelly** expressed her gratitude for a double-lung transplant after waiting seventeen months, saying her every breath is a gift. Closing comments were made by **Shon Yust**, who shared his family's story of how, through a tragic event, their nine-year-old daughter, Halley, became an organ donor just two years ago.

Through a competition, high school students were challenged to help find a way to spread the word about talking about organ, eye and tissue donation. Winnetonka High School and Blue Valley High School received the Life Savers Achievement of Excellence Award for reaching their peers about the importance of donation. **Skai Gray**, a student at Olathe Northwest High School, created a one-minute video as an example of how to reach high school students with the same message. Lastly, Shawnee Mission North High School won the competition for "Social Me", a contest showcasing the use of social media to spread the message about life-saving donations. ✨

THANK YOU

Life Savers Rally Sponsors

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- Nate & Kim Harbur
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Life Savers Planning Team

- Joanne Forster, Michele Hendrickson, Kathy Kratofil, Sam Loughmiller, Pam McHugh, Diane Ravis

Life Savers Rally Volunteers

- Kelly Boeh, Jerri Carroll, Aimee, Cate & Sidney Crenshaw, Sally Dishman, Sherri Doherty, AJ Donnelly, Kat Forster, Cindy Geiman, Sheryl Granville, Skai Gray, Mike Holleron, Maureen Hulbert, Jill Kane, Dave & Kathy Kratofil, Alix & Patrick Kumer, Sam Loughmiller, Frank Mascaro, Pete & Pam McHugh, Sharon Nelson, Jeff Rock, Jackie Russell, David Seldner, Stacy Smith, Libby Stone and Karen Swope.

High School Attendees:

Belton, Blue Valley, Eudora, Mill Valley, Northeast, Olathe Northwest, Pembroke Hill, Raytown, Shawnee Mission Horizons, Shawnee Mission North, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Turner, Winnetonka

Thank you to the teachers and sponsors who made it possible for the students to attend.



Students enjoy the 2016 Life Savers Rally.
Life Savers Rally moderator, Kelly Hulsey and liver recipient Abby Huether.

- Gift of Life Youth Advisory Board:**
- Jasmine De La Rosa
 - Sally Dishman
 - Chase Elias
 - Max Garrett
 - Jessica Gebauer
 - Skai Gray
 - Eba Hendrickson
 - Emily Hohnecker
 - Kelly Hulsey
 - Hannah Knight
 - Patrick Kumer
 - Naomi Mendoza
 - Hannah Nelson
 - Dominic Padilla
 - Rachel Perez
 - Cecilia Roblewsky
 - Will Schmitt
 - Porter Volk
 - Jake Zink

Life Savers classroom program is offered in one hundred area high schools. The goal of the program is to educate students about organ, eye and tissue donation, so they make an informed decision and share their decision with loved ones. ✨



A Note from Keith Anderson



"I will be forever grateful for the opportunity that I have had to be surrounded with such giving and hopeful individuals. It is with a heavy heart that I have resigned as Executive Director due to a medical condition. You may follow my progress on caringbridge.org if you desire. Kim Harbur will serve as Interim Executive Director as Gift of Life continues to look toward a bright future. May your life be filled with blessings, I know my life has..." ✨

3 More Philly Awards!

33!

Each year Nonprofit Connect honors excellence in non-profit communications with their annual Philly Awards. This year Gift of Life received awards for: Print or Electronic Newsletter, *Joy of Living 2015*; Special Event Invitation, 2016 GOSEEDO and Website Redesign. None of this would be made possible without the creative design work of Dan Auman of Auman Mack & Karen Swope. ✨

Transplant Mentors! 500 Families Supported!

When the Transplant Mentors program was established in 2009, the goal was to support and encourage families and patients as they faced the new journey of a transplant. To date, we have helped: over 500 patients, family members, caregivers, and living donors. Transplant Mentors have been trained by Gift of Life and accept the responsibility to meet the standards expected within their respective program. They do not offer medical advice but encourage patients to be their own best advocates. Those patients and families who have been mentored by Gift of Life have expressed their gratitude to **Andy Donnelly**, Transplant Mentors Program Manager and his team of volunteer mentors.

Individuals are selecting Kansas City to receive transplants because of the excellent transplant hospitals that provide premium care. Gift of Life has mentored patients from twenty states that include: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

Pre + Post are transplant community gatherings that offer information about different but related topics considered helpful for patients in recovery and with their progress. Recently, a workshop was offered on "Helping Those with Depression, Grief & Loss", and on October 27th, a Q & A provided knowledge from the experience of patients, living donors and caregivers. Panelist included: **Rita McGuire**, kidney/pancreas recipient; **Ashleigh Moulder**, kidney/pancreas recipient; **Kathy Kratofil**, liver recipient; **Dan Welch**, liver/kidney recipient; **Joan Welch**, living kidney donor; and **Sharon Spencer**, caregiver. Mark your calendar for January 24, 2017, 5:00-7:00 pm, for "Donor Family Correspondence", hosted by Midwest Transplant Network (located at 1900 West 47th Place Westwood Kansas). Please RSVP to Andy Donnelly at andyd@giftdonor.org if you plan to attend.

For more information regarding the Transplant Mentors program, contact Andy Donnelly, Transplant Mentors Program Manager. ✨

Founder's Day Celebration

UMB Bank hosted a Founder's Day Celebration for Gift of Life. The evening was filled with reflection on the early years of Gift of Life and honored, founding members and supporters for their continued dedication. David Kling, Gift of Life Board Member and recipient grandfather was the energy behind the event. It was a special evening of remembering the past, but seeing great promise for the future. ✨



Jeri & David Kling with UMB Community Bank President Leo Nunnick.

Your Support Creates Informed Generosity for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation.

None of this would be possible without the ongoing financial support of those listed on this page. Thank you!

Community Partners

Contributors who commit to an annual gift of \$5,000 or more

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**Acronyms!
Did You Know?**

UNOS United Network for Organ Sharing is the private, non-profit organization that manages the nation's organ transplant system under contract with the federal government. Their system serves as the model for transplant systems around the world.

LVAD Left Ventricular Assist Device is a mechanical pump that is implanted inside a person's chest to help a weakened heart pump blood. The pump doesn't replace the heart; it just helps the heart do its job.

DCD Donor Donation after Circulatory Death is a donor who has suffered devastating and irreversible brain injury and may be near death but doesn't meet formal brain-death criteria. In these cases, the family has decided to withdraw care.

GODAC Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee is a ten-member committee appointed by the Governor and assists the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services with the development and implementation of the Organ & Tissue Donor Program. The committee recommends priorities for expenditures for the Organ Donor Program Fund to meet program mandates. ✨

**2016
GoSeeDo
NETS
\$140,000**

On April 16, 2016, over four hundred supporters attended Gift of Life's annual fundraiser, GoSeeDo. The message was, "We Are Family". Proceeds from the event help support the Life Savers education program for students in one hundred area highschools. It also helps fund the Transplant Mentors program, which supports and provides encouragement for families as they face the journey of a transplant.

Under the leadership of Alix Kumer, Michele Hendrickson and a team of eighty volunteers, the community supported Gift of Life through GoSeeDo once again! Kathy and Dave Kratofil led a team of volunteers who prepared and served all of the food for the event. Thank-you to all of the sponsors and auction item donors for the success of this special event.



PJ McHugh GOSEEDO program host & auctioneer Col. Kent Jursch try to get top dollar for dinner at JJ's on The Plaza for six guests.



GOSEEDO Volunteers Maureen Hulbert, living donor; Kathy Kovac; Jerri Carroll, donor mom & Shoncontra Ruff.

2017

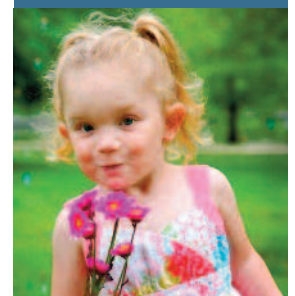
Pam McHugh and Joanne Forster will co-chair the 2017 GoSeeDo. Mark your calendars for April 8, 2017. Sponsor packets will be mailed after January 1st. ✨



Cindy Geiman, Tammy Rock & Anne Arney show Royals spirit at Prairie Highlands.

Isabelle's Legacy The Isabelle Ellis Memorial Classic completed its eighth year on a beautiful day at Prairie Highlands Golf Course. Isabelle's parents, **Chris and Amanda Ellis**, welcomed over 120 guests to a barbeque at the conclusion of the tournament. **Tammy Rock**, Gift of Life classroom educator, shared her story of how their son, Conor has received two liver transplants, and he is only twenty-four. The event is made possible by the generosity of volunteers and auction donors. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League created fifty blankets in memory of Isabelle and donated them to Children's Mercy Hospital. **Special thanks to the sponsors: Dan & Sherri Doherty, Barbara Milliken, Ron Ellis, Dell Services, Schrote Farms, Jim Yarrington, Fidelity Bank. The date is set for 2017 on June 5th. ✨**

Isabelle lost her life waiting for a heart transplant, but her legacy lives on.





TRANSPLANT MENTORS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Make a Difference! Support Gift of Life



**Give
online**
giftdonor.org

Please consider supporting Gift of Life with a year-end gift. We are proud to say that 83% of every dollar goes to programs to help build awareness and provide support to the transplant community. Simply call **913-851-1947**, give online at gift-donor.org/participate/become-a-supporter/ or mail a contribution to Gift of Life, 6405 Metcalf, Suite 109, Overland Park, KS 66202.



**Organ &
tissue
donation**
Share your
decision

Volunteers LIFE SUPPORTERS



Volunteers of the Year

Board Welcomes New Members

The Gift of Life Board of Directors thanked retiring board members **Dr. Brad Koffman** and **Chris Ellis**. Their dedication and support to Gift of Life has been exceptional. New board members for 2017 include: **Terry Garrison**, recipient spouse, CoreSource, **Julie Kliegl**, President-Viracor-IBT, **Victor Wilson**, Chaplain-Menorah Medical Center ✨

2017 Board of Directors

- Peter McHugh - President
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- Bradley Warady, M.D.
- Bob Watson

Volunteers gathered at Profile Cabinet & Design to celebrate their commitment to Gift of Life. **Milt Strader**, kidney recipient, received the Michael Ravis Leadership Award for his leadership to the Life Savers high school classroom program. This award was established by Diane Ravis, recipient spouse, in memory of her husband. The Goodyear Award honored **Nancy Post** for her readiness and willingness to do anything that needs to be done at any time. Thank you to the over two hundred volunteers that gave their valuable time in 2016. ✨



Anne & Milt Strader (backrow) with Nancy Post

Our Mission Gift of Life is a national model for the support, awareness and success of organ, eye and tissue donation through education, mentoring and collaboration with partners and individuals in the transplant community.

Our Vision All transplant needs are met in every community served.