We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.

“WHAT WE GIVE.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL
We are so grateful for Gift of Life Transplant House and their facilities. Thank you for being here for us and for all who follow.

Nila and Marshall Pudwill
As we say goodbye to 2015 and begin our journey into 2016, we at Gift of Life Transplant House are very grateful for yet another successful year. As we look back at the year, there were several highlights that we would like to share with you.

2015 marked our 31st year of service to our community, our guests, and our caregivers. With that came many events and fundraisers, some old and some new. Our fundraising events kicked off with the 2nd Annual Iron Chef Challenge in March, 6th Annual Gift of Life Transplant House 5K Run/Walk in June, our 31st Annual Golf Tournament in June, and our 1st Annual Gala of the Decades in August.

The Gala of the Decades proved to be a spectacular event, as the evening was one that will never be forgotten. From the food, to the touching stories of love and life, to the sounds of a 1940s big band, it is no wonder why the Gala of the Decades has become our premier fundraising event. And that is why we would like to invite each and every one of you to attend the 2nd Annual Gala of the Decades; the 1980s, on Saturday, August 27th. For additional information please visit our website or call the Gift of Life Transplant House. We would love to see you all there!

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the year came early in the year when Gift of Life Transplant House, with the incredible help of our friends at Mayo Clinic Rochester, received news from The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation of a major donation to the house. It has always been the dream of Gift of Life Transplant House to retire the debt and to be able to set up an endowment fund in order to continue to aid and help those in need, while going through the transplantation process. The biggest challenge has always been we were never sure of how or when we would be able to do such a thing. With the gracious gift from The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, we are able to make our dream a reality.

2015 was an amazing year, and it could not have been possible without the constant support and love from our volunteers, staff, and benefactors. The impact that each and every one of you has on Gift of Life Transplant House will continue to have a lasting impression on our guests and caregivers, and will help guarantee the continued success of our mission for years to come. This is truly a blessing, and words cannot express our love, gratitude and joy for all that you do.

Thank you again for your dedication and support of Gift of Life Transplant House.

with our deepest gratitude,

NICK POMPEIAN
President, Board of Directors 2015
I had followed her journey closely as she and her husband traveled out to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, WA where she received a bone marrow transplant. At one point, I observed her experience firsthand when I flew her children out to see her during recovery. With her bald head and prednisone puffed face, she was almost unrecognizable.

In the meeting with Dave’s oncologist, he reassured us that there is now a medication that can control CML. Dave would not die from leukemia but would live many years with the disease. He compared it to diabetes and needing to find the appropriate dosage of the medication. We were told that 90% of CML patients can tolerate the medication. Dave was prescribed three different medications over a period of time. Unfortunately, his platelets began to drop after taking each of them. He was then sent to Mayo Clinic Rochester in June of 2015. The plan was a bone marrow transplant. In the fall, Dave’s siblings were tested as a potential match. None was a full match so the national/international donor registry was searched. During this process, it was found that he has an interfering substance in his blood that prevents him from being compatible with any unrelated donor. The three qualifying male siblings were again tested for a half match.

Our journey began May 30, 2014 when we were given the news that Dave had Chronic Myeloid Leukemia. He sat stunned and I was devastated. I immediately flashed back to 17 years earlier when a dear friend was given the same diagnosis.
His youngest brother, Ed, was the only one, as the other brothers have CMV, a dormant pneumonia virus. The process for a stem cell transplant began December 21, with a week of rigorous tests, chemotherapy, and radiation. On December 29, 2015, he received his Gift of Life and a new birthday. We called him DavEd for a few days.

We had visited Gift of Life Transplant House last summer. My first impression was that there were too many rules. It felt like dorm life back at college, and I wasn’t comfortable being around “sick” people. Having retired after 40 years as a teacher, we had finally moved into a lovely smaller home with my two dogs. My sons and their families live three houses down the street and I now have two beautiful grandsons. To leave them all and live in a small one room setting for three months was the complete antithesis of my vision.

After whining and soul searching, I knew Gift of Life Transplant House was the best option for us financially and supportively. Quickly we learned what a wonderful gift the Gift of Life Transplant House was for Dave and me. We have come to call it our home away from home. The loving, caring, and supportive caregivers, patients, and staff are like family. We share our journeys, our history, our fears, our joys, our hopes. We laugh, we cry, we hug, we joke, we tease, we whine, we even grumble about the people who sometimes leave their dirty dishes in the sink. Now I would not trade this part of our journey for the world and I am the first to admit I was completely wrong about the House. I will always be thankful to my Gift of Life family for helping us through the difficult times and for touching our lives.

I have embraced my love for the piano while here by occasionally playing at the House. Beatles music has been the request of some residents. Their applause encourages me. I also play the grand piano at the Charlton Building some Sunday mornings where it is quiet time for me to reflect. The hymns make my heart and soul soar as they do when I play for my church in Staples. Tears often result but the music fills my spirit. One Sunday morning, a gentleman and his wife approached me as I wept through a piece. The man bent down on one knee and prayed for Dave and me. His wife gave me a heartfelt hug and I knew God was looking down on us.

We are on Day 63. Dave is doing very well as his counts steadily rise. We were able to travel to our home in Staples, Minnesota for a long weekend. Attending our second grandson’s baptism and for Dave to finally spend a few days at home with our dogs, family, and friends was food for the soul. There may be some bumps in the road during his continued recovery but we are confident that we made the best decision to come to Mayo Clinic Rochester and Gift of Life Transplant House. This journey has been daunting, humbling, frightening, and forever life changing, but for the better. “Life is Good.”

PS: David and Sandy are now home and doing well. They will be back to visit soon.
Gift of Life Transplant House – (4) – A Home That Helps & Heals

A Kidney Transplant gave me a 2nd chance at life.
2015 BENEFACTORS
TO GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE

Gift of Life Transplant House is grateful to all of the benefactors that share our mission. Due to space limitations, the list below includes benefactors who have given cash gifts of $250 or more during 2015. If there is an omission or mistake, please contact Ginger Holmes, Executive Director. Thank you.

LEADERSHIP:
- Anne and Henry Zarrow Family Foundation

AMBASSADORS: $20,000 +
- Mardigian Foundation
- Mayo Foundation for Medical Education & Research
- Trails 4 Transplants

STEWARDS: $5,000 - $19,999
- Afaf Albahar
- Hanan Albahar
- Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
- Central Minnesota Community Foundation
- George M. Eisenberg Foundation
  For Charities
- Ginger and David Holmes
- IBM Employee Service Center
- Dr. Mark and Kris Litzow
- Martinmass Angus Ranch Charitable Trust
- Matt Heisler Fund
- Charles and Michelle Mullens
- Tim Rasmusson Foundation
- J. William and Helen Uhrig
- United Way of Olmsted County
- Weis Builders Inc.
- Dr. Thomas and Diane Witzig

FRIENDS: $1,000 - $2,499
- AHEPA Affordable Housing Management Company
- Bennie Clark, Allen
- Altra Federal Credit Union
- Hatem Amer
- Anderson Poultry Farm, Inc.
- Anonymous Donor
- Jerry and Sandra Asmussen
- Ione Baron
- BEYCOM Comm Business Solutions
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- Morning Pride Lions Club
- Network for Good
- New Hope Lutheran Church
- Nicholas Funds, Inc.
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- The Barbara Silver Levin Foundation, Inc.
- Bremer Bank
- Yi-Fa and Margaret Chang
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Harper Family Foundation
- Jeremiah Tennesen Memorial Foundation
- My Tribute Gift
- John and Bonnie Poterucha
- Rochester Area Foundation
- Nancy and Michael Schulson
- Seize the Day - Cure Blood Cancers
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As always, thank you for your support!

The Otto Bremer Foundation matched donations of the following benefactors made through GiveMN during the month of March 2015:

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Gift of Life Transplant House – ( 6 ) – A Home That Helps & Heals
GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE

2015 BY THE NUMBERS

46,500 GUESTS & CAREGIVERS served at Gift of Life Transplant House campus.

290 VOLUNTEERS working directly at Gift of Life Transplant House campus.

9,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS GIVEN graciously at Gift of Life Transplant House campus.

700 VOLUNTEERS assist in making and serving dinners for guests and caregivers.

AND AN ENDLESS NUMBER of community members who donate baked goods, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and a variety of holiday treats.

21 PANCREAS
10 LUNG
27 HEART
116 LIVER
221 KIDNEY
464 BONE MARROW/STEM CELL

TRANSPLANTS PERFORMED by Mayo Clinic Rochester in 2015.

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

revenues

Program 992,599
Donations 2,493,466
Fundraising 159,088
TOTAL REVENUE 3,645,153

expenses

Program 1,316,978
Management/General 209,895
Fundraising 69,547
TOTAL EXPENSE 1,596,420

combined

Revenue 3,645,153
Expense 1,596,420
NET INCOME 2,048,733

The financial overview is an unaudited statement of financial position for 2015.
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