

SHARING THE

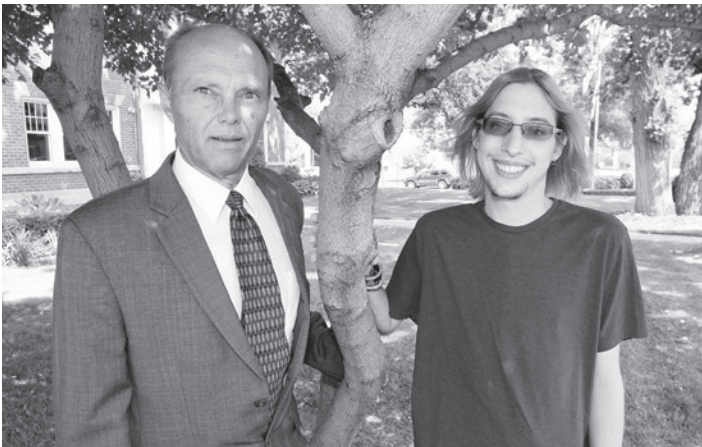


A NEWSLETTER OF GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE | VOLUME 12 | NO 2 | WINTER 2014

Celebration: Man Finally Can Breathe Easily

Paul Christian/ Posted, Friday, August 22, 2014 – Rochester Post Bulletin

GIFT OF LIFE
TRANSPLANT HOUSE
A HOME THAT HELPS
AND HEALS



Dr. Mark and Justin Lewis

Five weeks ago, Justin Lewis had as much of a chance of walking on the moon as he did paddling a canoe. In fact, he could barely walk across the room without assistance. But since then, everything has changed. On Saturday afternoon, he will run the Mayo Clinic Healthy Human Race 5k. "I can't believe it either," he said. "I've been looking forward to this day for what seems like forever."

Lewis was born with cystic fibrosis, which is an inherited disease that causes thick, sticky mucus to form in the lungs. It blocks the airways and causes lung damage, making it extremely hard to breathe. But in the early morning hours of July 15, Lewis' life changed. That's when he received new lungs, undergoing a successful transplant. The smile you saw on his face earlier this week went from ear-to-ear when he talked about his new lease on life. He never backed down, either; on the positive scale of 1-to-10, he was an 11.

"When they took me off the ventilator (two days after his surgery) and when I could 'breathe' for the first time on my own, that was the best feeling ever," he said. A new lung will do that. On Saturday, he will line up to do a 5k, just like hundreds of others, although he will be the only one testing out a new pair of lungs. Lewis will be running alongside his two brothers (Keith and Adam), father (Isaiah) and Dr. Mark Wylam, a Mayo pulmonologist and his longtime physician.

His mother, Monica, and girlfriend, Trista Hager, will be watching as well. "Knowing what Justin represents and the opportunity to show people what is possible, that excites me," Wylam said. "You ask if I will get chills when we're ready to cross the finish line, and I say yes because of the hope he brings to everybody who is fighting like Justin. "But you must be dedicated to a healthy lifestyle in order to achieve what Justin has achieved."

Lewis, 25, who is from Kasson, was born with cystic fibrosis. The last couple of years have been really rough. In 2012, he was hospitalized seven times in order to fight off lung infections. Those stays lasted three to four weeks at a time. Last year, he was in the hospital six times. Same thing, up to a month at a time. He had to have eight breathing (20 minutes each) and three to four lung treatments (30 minutes each) every day. Every night, he had to wear an oxygen mask. For the last two years, Lewis was on the transplant list, since July 24, 2012, to be exact. "We had to stay within an hour of Rochester, so we couldn't go anywhere," Lewis said, "and, of course, had to have a cellphone which could get good reception."

Continued on page 2

And he could never go to a place without electricity. Finally, the call came. “That night, my dad was making a spaghetti dinner at his house and Trista answered the phone, and at first couldn’t decide where it was coming from. We found out it was from Mayo Clinic and were out of the house in five minutes.”

After seven days in the hospital, Lewis was moved to the Gift of Transplant House, where he will rehab until sometime in October. Wylam said Lewis is up to the task of running a 5k even though it has been less than five weeks after the transplant. Lewis said his only goal is to finish. “To put it in context, Justin has already been doing three miles on the treadmill as part of his pulmonary rehab,” Wylam said. “This race is only part of that rehab.” Youth and a high fitness level are on Lewis’ side. “He was dedicated to keeping as fit as he could,” said Wylam, “otherwise, I’m afraid, something like this could have been a losing battle. But we knew the opportunity was there.”

Wylam came to Mayo in 1998, and through his career, has participated in more than 500 lung transplants.

Nationwide, about only 2,000 transplants are done per year. Mayo’s peak number was 24; this year, it has performed 14. “We want to see that number climb,” Wylam said, “but the biggest obstacle is having enough donors. Maybe Justin’s story will encourage others to sign a donation card. It changes lives.”

Lewis said someday he would like to meet the family that donated the lungs. After all, he said, one family’s sacrifice saved another man’s life. “I’m determined to make them proud of me,” said Lewis, who has studied accounting and will pursue that field. “I can never thank them enough, and I’ll show them what I can do. I’m a big dreamer. I plan to live life to its fullest.”

And Lewis’s dreams don’t stop at the 5k. He also wants to canoe the Mississippi River along with his girlfriend, starting from the primary source and paddling all the way through the state. He wants to skydive, and he wants to complete a triathlon with his two brothers and father at his side. “The triathlon is in Nevis, Minn. I’ve always watched them do that race, but could only cheer from the side-line,” he said.

New in 2015 – Morning Blood Draw Service at Gift of Life Transplant House

By Lori Ewoldt

Blood draws are a frequent and necessary activity for transplant patients. The New Year will bring a new service that should make this process more convenient for Gift of Life guests. Starting in early 2015, Mayo Clinic staff will be on site each morning to complete blood draws that have been ordered for guests staying at Gift of Life Transplant House. Blood samples taken will be couriered to the appropriate Mayo Lab for processing. The intent of the service is to enhance the transplant patient’s experience by making a frequently used health care activity more accessible.

A three week pilot of providing blood draws at Gift of Life was done in 2013. Feedback from the guests utilizing the pilot service was exceedingly positive and the service also had a favorable impact to the workflow on the

hospital based outpatient BMT practice. Since the pilot, extensive work has been done to assure that a permanent service could be structured in a manner that would meet the numerous regulatory, accreditation and billing requirements from various state and federal agencies.

This innovative concept is the result of an ongoing collaboration between leadership of Gift of Life Transplant House and the William J. von Liebig Center for Transplantation and Clinical Regeneration. The service will be available to all guests staying at Gift of Life Transplant House. In order to accommodate the service, minor remodeling will occur at each house, resulting in space that will be dedicated to providing the service. Additional details will be shared with GOL guests as definitive dates are known.

President and Executive Director's Letter

By Mark Litzow and Ginger Holmes

"You've got to be careful if you don't know where you're going 'cause you might not get there!"

~ Yogi Berra

Yogi Berra was right. If Gift of Life Transplant House doesn't have goals and a focus, we will never be able to accomplish what we are trying to achieve. As you read the newsletter you will be amazed at the goals that are being achieved by our guests who have become part of our family. Just one of the many examples is Justin Lewis, a former guest at Gift of Life Transplant House, who has many dreams, one of which was to run a 5K. One month after a double lung transplant, he ran the Mayo Clinic Healthy Human 5K Race. Be sure to read his story in the newsletter by Paul Christian.

Gift of Life Transplant House and Mayo Clinic have been on a collaborative journey, and we continue to see this collaboration evolve in positive ways. It is going to become not just a journey but a reality. It has always been the mission of Gift of Life Transplant House to make the care

for our guests and caregivers more comfortable and convenient.

Launching a new service, in collaboration with Mayo Clinic, to provide blood draw labs at both houses is a goal we have worked to achieve for some time. We are happy to announce the program is approved and will be in operation by early next year as an outpatient lab for early morning blood draws. Lori Ewoldt's article explains it very well.

Gift of Life Transplant House Board of Directors and Staff are always on a journey with and for you, working on goals and achievements, to have our home be your home while you are on your transplant journey. We will always be here to support you through your journey.

We wish you a happy, safe and peaceful Holiday and look forward to all of our new journeys in 2015.



Upcoming Events Winter - Spring 2015:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| March 12 | Chefs Challenge
Watch our webpage and Facebook page for more information |
| May 31 | 6th Annual Gift of Life Transplant House 5K Run/Walk
9:00a.m. Start time, 705 Second Street SW |
| June | 3rd Annual Trails 4 Transplant Ride
Watch our webpage and Facebook page for more information |
| June 27th | Mayo Annual Transplant Picnic
11:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. Soldiers Memorial Field |
| June 29 | 31st Annual Gift of Life Benefit Golf Tournament
Rochester Golf and Country Club |

For more information on these events, please visit our website www.gift-of-life.org

Volunteer Spotlight – *“It is the highlight of my week.”*



That is the response when I asked **Phyllis Buettner** what she liked about Gift of Life Transplant House. Phyllis has been volunteering twice a week for 3 years at Gift of Life.

Phyllis retired 3 years ago, as a nurse, from Mayo Clinic. That is when she started her journey to find where she wanted to spend her volunteer

time. Gift of Life Transplant House is the recipient of her journey. Phyllis believes the mission of Gift of Life Transplant House is so valuable and finds the House to be so friendly.

Phyllis is married to Skip, also retired from Mayo Clinic. They have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Her disappointment is that they live so far away and she can't play enough with them. They make many trips to Denver and they are in the process of looking for a new car. She loves to sew, especially for their grandchildren.

When there are special events at Gift of Life Transplant House, and we need volunteer help, Phyllis is the first to volunteer. There is nothing more enjoyable than seeing Phyllis' wonderful smile when she walks into Gift of Life Transplant House.

Thank you Phyllis for all of your help. We are so honored that you chose Gift of Life Transplant House on your volunteer journey.

Spotlights Goodbye and Hello

A New Adventure New adventures are always something that can be exciting and scary at the same time. We say good-bye to Laura Forsch, who was our Resident Night and Weekend Manager at our 705 House. Laura has started her new adventure. She has moved to Wisconsin, working in the Madison School District. We wish Laura well in her new endeavors.

A Career Change – It is always hard to say good-bye to a friend. We had to say good-bye to Tanya Jordan who was our Bookkeeper and Business Office Assistant. Tanya was recruited away from us to become the Business Office Manager for the Grand Meadow Health Care Center. It is 10 minutes from her home compared to a 25 minute drive to Rochester. And with a teenage son, it is nice to be closer to home. Tanya does stop in often and say hello, when she comes to Rochester.

We Wish Kelly Well – Kelly Varner, our part-time housekeeper was able to find a full time job, so we had to say good-bye. We will miss Kelly. She is a very hard worker.



Hello to Tami – It is with joy we say hello to **Tami Konakowitz**, our new Bookkeeper and Business Office Assistant. Tami joined the Gift of Life Transplant House Family in early October. Tami previously was the manager of SalonCentric in Rochester. She is married to Mark and they have one “four legged child” named Birdie. Tami loves to bake, watch

movies and spend time with friends. Her best friend is her husband Mark and “I spend a lot of time with him”. When asked about Gift of Life Transplant House she said, “When I interviewed for the position, the one thing I wanted to bring to the House is a smile to someone who was having a gloomy day”. Tami certainly has done that. Please stop by the office and see the big smile that warms the heart every day.

30 Years – 30 Quilts? Gifts of Love

By Jean Carlton

On December 1st, my husband and I pulled up to Gift of Life Transplant House in a car full of beautiful hand-crafted bed quilts, from twin to queen size. The culmination of an eight month project, this delivery came at the end of a full year celebrating GOL's 30 years of providing affordable housing for transplant patients.

Our personal connection to the house began in 2012 when Dale had a kidney transplant. That's where the 'giving' truly started. Our long-time friend, Sharon James, gave one of her kidneys so he could live. We stayed in the house for three weeks. Handmade quilts in our room lent a comforting touch to our time away from home under stressful circumstances. As a quilter myself, that meant a lot to me.

When we returned for his one year check-up, I saw the quilts in our room were quite worn out. As I got into bed that night I thought, "I should make them a few new quilts".

The following week the Winter 2013 Gift of Life newsletter, **Sharing the gift**, arrived in our mailbox. It included a full page list of clever ways one could contribute to the celebration; all involving the number 30.

Flash! A light bulb went off! I knew I wanted to try to donate 30 quilts!

I quickly realized I would probably need some help. I know quilters are generous people yet I was hesitant to put anyone on the spot. Everyone has such busy lives. But in April, with encouragement from a few friends, I sent out an email explaining my idea to a few quilt groups. I invited anyone interested to participate by donating quilt tops, finished quilts, fabric, batting or quilting services. I told local quilt guilds and sewing groups about it. A neighbor got excited and shared the idea with her long-arm quilting group. The word spread. I posted a brief note on my Facebook page and my quilting blog.

Before I knew it I was getting quilts and tops whenever I went to guild meetings. Long-arm machine quilters offered to do some quilting. Others wanted to help with binding. Non-quilting friends got involved. Some sent vintage quilts from their personal collections. Others sent money to help pay for batting.

Some of the participants I knew. Others were total strangers. Vivian, in Iowa, sent me three beautiful quilts after reading my blog! Most of the quilts were made in Minnesota but a total of eight states are represented from California to



Florida; from Idaho to Arizona. Over forty individuals were involved.

I made six quilts myself while I managed the project which just kept growing. I worked on donated tops, sometimes enlarging them by adding borders, making backings and bindings, keeping records of the donors and taking photos. I created a label identifying each quilt as part of the "30 Years – 30 Quilts" project. I added the maker or donor information and sewed them to the back corner of each quilt. I delivered and picked up quilts from machine quilters. Growing stacks of completed quilts piled up along one wall in my dining room. My goal had been to donate 30 quilts, but with the enthusiasm and generosity of many others, the project had grown to a total of 69 quilts!

They say all quilts have a story. Often we don't know the story but these particular quilts are all part of the story of the joy of giving. Many people were not just willing to help; they were eager to do so. It makes all of us happy knowing these quilts will make a difference to those away from home at a difficult time.

The joy of giving which started with our friend, Sharon, continued with the making and giving of the quilts.

September Tributes

Recipient listed in bold and *Benefactor* listed in italic. We thank everyone who took part in this special tribute opportunity and apologize for any names we have missed.

Memorials

Calvin V Baehr <i>Cheryl Baehr</i>	Katie Hickman <i>Michael & Shaaron Hickman</i>	Allen E. Miller <i>Linda Miller</i>
Christopher Benz <i>John and Kay Sagen</i>	Sr. Margeen Hoffmann <i>Sr. Rogene Fox*</i>	Nancy Moen <i>Shanon & Elaine Polsfut</i>
Deloris Berns <i>Willard Berns</i>	Sr. Margeen Hoffmann <i>Lenny and Eileen McNab*</i>	Donald Monk Sr <i>Mary Monk</i>
Alfred Boccafola <i>April Boccafola</i>	Sr. Margeen Hoffmann <i>Ann E Heinzler*</i>	Michael Moormann <i>Alice King Moormann</i>
Vernon Boone <i>Ruth Boone</i>	Dan Holmes <i>Ginger and David Holmes</i>	Thomas O'Kane <i>Joan Okane</i>
Richard Boorom <i>Mary Jane Boorom</i>	Ardys Humphrey <i>Wayne and Maureen Hanson</i>	John (Jack) Owen <i>Sarah Rabb</i>
Mary Brent <i>Michelle Burke</i>	Patricia Isolini <i>Bruno Isolini</i>	Jerry W. Phillips <i>Judith Phillips</i>
Carol Coggins <i>Shirley Hulstein</i>	Shelley Jangula <i>Dennis and Shelley Jangula</i>	Ronald Ringhofer <i>Sharon Ringhofer</i>
Ann Dobbins <i>John Dobbins</i>	Eldon C. Joens <i>Ron and Sandi Leapley</i>	Scott and Shawn (Donors) <i>Joseph and Tina Martini</i>
Nancy Early <i>James Early</i>	Jean Johnson Wineland <i>Howard B Johnson</i>	Wesley A. Schroeder <i>Kathe S Schroeder</i>
Allen D. Enge <i>Miriam A. Enge</i>	Fay Kanzelman <i>Roger Erickson</i>	Steve Siegle <i>Judd and Jeanne Watson</i>
Mark Fearing <i>Bill and Vicki Blincoe</i>	Katie Keogh <i>Frank Keogh</i>	Marian Smith <i>Kenneth and Pam Smith</i>
Jay K Flury <i>Nancy Flury</i>	Elsie & Richard Kerber <i>Robert and Rita Kerber</i>	Neale Sowers <i>Ann E Heinzler</i>
Sr. Jane Frances <i>Miriam A. Enge*</i>	Kidney Donors <i>Russ Wold</i>	W. Mike Sterling <i>Jyoti Chadda</i>
Sr. Jane Frances <i>Ann E Heinzler*</i>	Ronald Kuschel <i>Mary A Wyffels</i>	Dale H. Willhite <i>Linda and Mark Willhite</i>
Sr. Jane Frances <i>Lenny and Eileen McNab*</i>	Mary Lile <i>Bill Lile</i>	John McKay Williams, DDS <i>Barbara Butts Williams</i>
Glenn Hansen <i>Ione Barron</i>	James K. Long <i>Carole Lynne</i>	Jodi Van Bendegom Garavaglia <i>John and Jane Greller</i>
Tom Hart <i>Sandy Hart</i>	Frank Maier <i>Michael Maier</i>	William D Voss <i>Shirley Voss</i>
Lorraina Herrick <i>Roger Erickson</i>	Carole Marcinkus <i>Michael Marcinkus</i>	

Tributes

Marvin Allison

Justin and Jan Lewis

Henry Anderson

Roger Erickson

Tammy Barthels-Kidney Donor

Paula Stephens

Sara Borgschatz, recipient

Rita Hawkins

Robin Brosseau

Justin and Jan Lewis

Alvin Carter

Justin and Jan Lewis

Eli Churchwell

Eli and Susan Churchwell

Mike Dames

Robert and Beth Dames

Barry Depot

Justin and Jan Lewis

Kevin Dotson

Justin and Jan Lewis

Pat Gehrke

Justin and Jan Lewis

Mike Graham

Justin and Jan Lewis

Wayne R. Gunderson

Shirley Gunderson

Louis Haak, donor

Louis and Bette Jayne Haak

Raja Haddad

Justin and Jan Lewis

Suzanne Miner Haak, recipient

Louis and Bette Jayne Haak

James Jeffery

Brenda Whitney

Sonja Johnson

Justin and Jan Lewis

Monica Kennedy

Justin and Jan Lewis

Elsie & Richard Kerber

Robert and Rita Kerber

Linda and Jerry Kuhlman

Rodger & Karen Larson

Dennis Lamers

Justin and Jan Lewis

Lori Lange

Roger Erickson

Jan Lewis

Robert Van Marren

Pat McCullough

Justin and Jan Lewis

Kim Meyer

Justin and Jan Lewis

Rebecca Manner

Justin and Jan Lewis

John Neeb

Justin and Jan Lewis

Carol Peterson, Caregiver

Paula Stephens

Ed and Aaron Pompeian

Nick Pompeian

Ami Rosen

Justin and Jan Lewis

Cheryl Schulte, Kidney donor

Wayne and Maureen Hanson

Marlene Smidowicz

Ken Smidowicz

Duane R. Sowada

Dennis R Sowada

Mike Steele

Justin and Jan Lewis

Mary Stockdell

Justin and Jan Lewis

Randy Striefel

Justin and Jan Lewis

Annessa Swinnigson

Justin and Jan Lewis

Tim Tatarek

Justin and Jan Lewis

Dorothy Tilton

William and Dorothy Tilton

David Tjersad

David and Mary Tjerstad

Hoan Tran

Justin and Jan Lewis

Tyler James Turcotte

Brenda A and James J Turcotte

Lynn Van Maaren

Robert Van Marren

Richard L Wahlberg

Beth and Daniel Hestetune

Kirk Watson

Justin and Jan Lewis

Lois Weeks

Justin and Jan Lewis

Rose Wilhelmi

Lorie & Jim Steffan

Lisa Williams

Ken and Elaine Williams

Roger Ybanez

Justin and Jan Lewis

Shannon Leach

Kelly Leach

Sandy Leonard

Justin & Jan Lewis

John Livengood

Justin & Jan Lewis

Dick Loeffler

Justin & Jan Lewis

James Majors

Justin & Jan Lewis

LeAnn Meservy

Justin & Jan Lewis

LeAnn Meservy

Charlotte Meservy

Pat Montplaisir

Justin & Jan Lewis

Sue Roice

Justin & Jan Lewis

Heather Rutledge

Wayne & Lynne Jennings

Tributes *(continued)*

Ginger Schwarz
Justin & Jan Lewis

Marlene Smidowicz
Ken Smidowicz

Neale Sowers
Ann E Heinzler

Greg Taylor
Justin & Jan Lewis

Dorothy Tilton
William & Dorothy Tilton

Tyler James Turcotte
Brenda A & James J Turcotte

Lynn Van Maaren
Robert Van Marren
Justin & Jan Lewis

Linda Vilmo
Lorraine Fox

Charles Vinyard
Justin & Jan Lewis

Robert V. Wenzel
Robert & Dorothy Wenzel

Sister Margeen
Ann E Heinzler

Richard
Beth & Daniel Hestetune

My father
Bryan Miller

Additional September Tribute Gifts

Paul Baits

Jerome and Bernice Bisek

Mavis Brunsvold

John "Monty" Brine

Kenneth and Carol Bush

Christine and Frederick Dossett

Larry E and Barbara M Hawkins

John W and Sharon G Fenlon

Patricia H and Cedric B Haynes

Dr and Mrs Gerald R Holcomb

Jason and Jessica Hollenbeck

Hilding "Joe" Johansson

Karl Keller

A. Bart and Mary Loving Howe

Thomas M. McFarland

Peter and Jean Million

James Murray

John and Sharon Oksness

Jane Page

Junnette Tayko Refugia

Douglas and Julie Sheriff

Bernette Sieg

Nancy Strohmusch

Joann and James Weil

Andrew Westreich

John W Wiley

WISH LIST

New Couches



Laundry Baskets



New Commercial Vacuum Cleaners



\$30 for a guest room night

Paper towels

Paper Napkins

Forever postage stamps



Ziploc bags, assorted sizes

Liquid hand soap – large refill bottles

Liquid dish soap

Hand Sanitizer refills

Regular & decaffeinated coffee



Wrapped candy, especially chocolates



Scrubbing Bubbles

Soft Scrub – Lemon

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Gift of Life Transplant House 30th Anniversary Celebrations Coming to an End

By Roger Erickson

It's hard to believe that 2014 is coming to a close. As it does, the 30th Anniversary Committee is busy planning our closing event, the Holiday Tea. Our last event, like our kickoff event is internal for house guests, with a minor modification. We've done our best to track former board members and invite them back to say thanks for the leadership over the past 30 years.

Since we last shared an update, we've hosted a Community Ice Cream Social on the 705 House front lawn, with musical entertainment by Les Fields and the Turkey River All Stars. The weather cooperated and everyone visited over ice cream and lemonade. Thank you to Hy-Vee Barlow's for the ice cream.

On October 28, the 30th Anniversary Committee hosted an evening dinner at the 705 and 724 houses. Omar's Kitchen, from West Concord catered the meal. Guests enjoyed the night off from kitchen duty and no one went hungry. Omar and family continue to be GOL supporters.

November 7, our committee hosted a Gift of Life Transplant House Benefactor Recognition Dinner at the Historic Mayo Foundation House. Benefactors and the Board of Directors enjoyed the ambience of the house and dinner in Balfour

Hall. Benefactors had the opportunity to have their picture taken with Founder, Ed Pompeian and his wife Jayne. Later that evening, they left with their photo and a print of the 3 Gift of Life Transplant House's. Sister Collen gave the meal blessing, George Smith read the Mayor's Proclamation proclaiming 2014 the year of Gift of Life Transplant House, Ed and Jayne Pompeian shared a reflection of 30 years and Mark Litzow, our President, spoke of the future of Gift of Life Transplant House and Ginger Holmes, Executive Director, recognized our benefactors and gave a parting blessing.

Gift of Life Transplant House celebrated 30 years like no other. We recognize Presenting Sponsors, Ed and Jayne Pompeian, and Norman L. Gillette Jr. Charitable Trust Fund along with Supporting Sponsor, Weis Builders. Their generosity allowed for a yearlong celebration to showcase the vision Ed Pompeian had some 30 plus years ago.

Special thanks to the 30th Anniversary Committee Colleen Byron, OSF, George Smith, Jayne Pompeian and staff representatives Rita Hawkins and Ginger Holmes. I can't thank all of you enough for the ideas, meeting times and support to our goal-To Celebrate Gift of Life Transplant House's 30th Anniversary like no other. We did it. Happy 30th Anniversary Gift of Life Transplant House.

House Happenings

By Ron Kreinbring

The past year has been a busy year at the House. We have been able to accomplish many projects and updates at both Houses. None of this could have been done without the generous support of our benefactors.

At the 705 House, we replaced the patio for our new Reflection Patio, upgraded the landscaping and constructed a nice Pergola for our guests to enjoy our warm summers. Street improvements by the City of Rochester happened on First Street behind the 705 House, at which time we were able to tie into the storm sewer to improve site drainage. In the 1995 wing we were able to replace the dressers and night stands in 32 units. Painting has been done in many units on an on-going basis. For energy improvements, we continue efforts to replace old lamps with new LED lighting as well as change out various components of the heating system. It was important this year to continue our energy use improvements since rebates for the work will be significantly reduced next year from our local utility companies. With the age of this building, continued maintenance will be necessary. At the 724 House, we carried on with lighting updates in the common areas and the exterior. We also replaced lighting

in common areas for efficiency. We also replaced 42 toilets which needed to be upgraded for better operation. For both Houses, we did needed tree trimming, concrete walk replacement, and continued replacement of freezers and refrigerators. The staff looks continually at minor projects that seem to consistently need some attention.

Our plans for the coming year include several planned projects. We will replace the existing kitchen cabinets and counter tops in 705 House; also some of the plaster ceilings and walls will be repaired. After further study, the boiler system will be updated with new smart pump motors. The 1995 wing also requires a new roof to be installed. We also want to install a complete security system with cameras on the lots as well as common areas inside for guest security in both houses.

Our goal remains the same which is to provide a safe, clean, and home-like environment such that our guests feel comfortable and can focus on their care and the care of their fellow guests together with the care-givers. Thank you for all past and future support.

"Trails4Transplants" 2014

By Rita Hawkins



The results are in for the 2014 "Healing along the Custer Trail"! The 2014 Trails4Transplants organ, eye, and tissue donor awareness ride commenced June 1, 2014 from Fort Lincoln State Park in Mandan, ND and ended at the Little Bighorn Battlefield in Garryowen, MT on June 19th.

Thirteen riders rode the entire 444 mile distance with a support staff of 8. Over 90 other riders and 15 volunteers participated or rode portions of the journey. A total of 8,200 horseback miles were logged. My daughter, Alexys, and I logged 9 days and 169 miles with this amazing bunch who we now call our T4T Family. Ginger Holmes, Executive Director, and Steve Tarara, Operations Manager/Volunteer Coordinator at Gift of Life Transplant House, joined us for a couple days on the trail. On



September 10th, a check in the amount of \$30,444.00 was presented to Gift of Life Transplant House. The funds will be used to upgrade the kitchen cabinets and counter tops in the 705 house. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for information on the 2015 ride. *Hope to see you on the trail next year.*



31th ANNUAL GIFT OF LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2015

ROCHESTER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

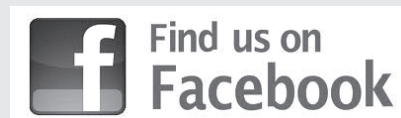
12:15 p.m. SHOTGUN TEE-OFF

FORMAT: FIVE-PERSON SCRAMBLE

- includes green fees, cart, locker room, golf hat, and awards ceremony



*Sign up to receive the Gift of Life newsletter
by email at www.gift-of-life.org*



*Follow the house happenings on our Facebook
page Gift of Life Transplant House*

Events



GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Gift of Life Transplant House is to provide transplant patients and their caregivers with high quality, affordable accommodations in a supportive, home-like environment.



GIFT OF LIFE, INC.
705 Second Street, Southwest
Rochester, Minnesota 55902

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Gift of Life
Transplant
House is
a proud
member of



HEALTHCARE HOSPITALITY NETWORK



Happy Holidays
from our house to yours

STAFF: Back Row: Tami, Debbie, Ginger, Rita, Brandy, Missy, Brittany
Front Row: Mark, Bob, Steve, Ladd, Cory, Dennis

GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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Vice President – Nick Pompeian
Past President – Cheryl Lavin-Meyer
Secretary – Sarah Edgerton
Treasurer – Charles Pagenhart
Founder – Edward Pompeian

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Roger Erickson, RN, CNP
Joe Forrer
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Ronald Kreinbring
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George Smith
David Talen

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Rita Hawkins
Facilities Manager
Ladd Baldus
House Manager/ Volunteer Coordinator
Steve Tarara
Business Office Assistant
Tami Konakowitz

Technology Coordinator/Receptionist
Mark Stadtherr

Resident Night Managers
Dennis Lamers

Facilities Groundskeepers
Bob Himmer, Cory Cody

Housekeepers
Brandy Conway, Missy Johnson

Receptionists
Debra Raduenz, Brittany Bones

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