Becky and Fred McGuire have lived a life of adventure – from farming, to groundskeeping, to Alaska and finally to Rochester, MN. Their story is one of courage, tears, faith and triumph, but we’re getting ahead of ourselves.

Becky and Fred were married in September, 1974 and farmed for 8 years. With a growing family of 3 daughters and one on the way, Becky and Fred moved to town, and began a lawn business. Shortly after Christmas that same year, Fred became the janitor for the local school. Life was good for the little family but a life-long dream of living in Alaska opened up for them and they seized the opportunity.

It was while in Alaska that Becky first heard that her liver counts were concerning to her doctors. She was to return in three weeks to have them checked but found herself hospitalized with blood loss due to her failing liver. She heard for the first time – “You will need a transplant”. Since there were no medical facilities doing transplants at the time in Alaska, Becky and Fred made the decision to move back to Minnesota and lived with dear friends until the family could get established.

Those were days of frequent doctor appointments, trips to the ER, phone calls from her now grown daughters asking if she had remembered to take her medications and waiting. The wait for a deceased liver donor can be up to a year, but Becky knew that to receive her gift of life, someone would have to lose theirs. She had heard of a living liver donor program at Mayo Clinic, but soon learned that Mayo Clinic was very hesitant to perform one. Her liver counts had to be critically low and throughout her wait, her numbers had been maintaining.

During this time, three of her daughters were tested to see if they could be her donor and none of them were the perfect match.
About this time, Becky’s number dropped to critical levels and she and Fred moved in with her daughter Tiffeny and her husband. Even though the grandchildren were young, they realized that grandma needed to rest and often played quietly. The pain Becky experienced was becoming more intense and every day she was feeling more and more fatigued, sick and forgetful. She knew she would soon need a miracle.

Their daughter Jennifer had signed up to go to Kenya as part of a short-term mission trip and while there, she shared her mom’s situation and asked for prayer. A young woman named Kimberly listened intently and the next morning approached Jennifer. Unbelievably, she said that she believed she was the one who was supposed to be Becky’s donor. True to her word, when the group returned to the States, Kimberly called Mayo Clinic to inquire about becoming a living liver donor. She persisted in asking if she could be tested and she was accepted to be evaluated. The results showed she was the perfect match for Becky, but Mayo Clinic was insistent on one more requirement. She would need to meet Becky! Amazingly, Becky and Kimberly had never met and Mayo Clinic wanted to be certain there wasn’t going to be an exchange of money or gifts in return for the liver. They were soon assured that there was no impropriety and the transplant was scheduled for April 8, 2011.

That was nine years ago and throughout the years, Becky, Fred and her family have supported Gift of Life Transplant House by bringing loads of wish list items and even preparing a meal for our guests! Perhaps the most unique way in which they have supported Gift of Life Transplant House was through Fred’s work at ServiceMaster. Fred provides training to insurance agents and due to COVID, had to resort to virtual trainings. As part of the training, Fred tells the story of Becky and Gift of Life Transplant House and then he asks his classes if they would consider donating the training fee to Gift of Life Transplant House. Those donations totaled $1,845!

Becky recently shared her story at a church in their community and she ended her story by reminding us that hearing just one note on the piano may be nice, but it takes many notes to make a melody! Becky’s life has been a mixture of many notes, combinations of major and minor chords, forming a melody that is sincere, faith-filled and beautiful!
Since March, 2020 our motto has been Together We Can. With the cooperation of our guests, caregivers, staff and volunteers, we remain confident that we can:

- Keep Gift of Life Transplant House open
- Alleviate stress and anxiety of guests and caregivers
- Stop Coronavirus at the front doors
- Continue to employ our staff

But you may be wondering how COVID has impacted our daily routines and our events.

**DAILY CLEANING ROUTINES**

Our cleaning and sanitation standards have always been exceptional, but with COVID, we added on the hour disinfecting of all the high touch areas in the house.

**GUEST EXPECTATIONS**

Guests, caregivers, staff and volunteers are required to wear masks throughout the house. The only exceptions are when a meal is being enjoyed or a guest and caregiver are in their guest room.

**EVENTS IN 2020**

In July, we held our 36th Annual Golf Tournament, but with thoughtful precautions taken to safeguard our attendees. Staggered tee times kept teams separated; masks and hand sanitizers were provided for each golfer; a partition in the golf carts separated individual golfers and a meal served by the Country Club staff outside as golfers finished kept the group to no more than 25 at a time, and only 4 to a table.

The weather was outstanding and it was a great day!

An outdoor event was not possible for either our Culinary Showdown or our Gala, so we chose alternatives.

Our Culinary Showdown featured a special event for our Corporate Partners. They received a Private Virtual Chef Class with Pasquale of Pasquale’s Pizzeria in Rochester that could be watched as well as all the fixings for one of his outstanding pizzas!

And our Gala theme Thank You For Not Coming featured a Virtual Gala that included host James Rabe of KROC, the musical talents of Kimberly Collins, Gary and Kelsi Stacken and our Mennonite singers as well as testimonial videos of our guests!

One event that was deeply missed this year was the GOL 5k Walk & Run. This event has been planned and run by former guest AJ Patrick and more recently by members of the Rochester community. However, this year, due to COVID, we weren’t able to host the event!

**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE?**

While we can’t predict where COVID will take us in the coming year, we are certain that Gift of Life Transplant House will continue to provide high quality, affordable accommodations for transplant patients and their caregivers in a supportive, home-like environment.

Your support during this difficult time has given us the energy and courage to continue moving forward and we are so grateful!

Thank You.
SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

The names to follow have shared the legacy of hope and renewed life. Tributes not only honor donors, recipients, and loved ones, but assist in continuing to provide “a home that helps and heals” to more than 4,400 guests and caregivers each year.

The recipient is listed in italic and benefactor is listed in bold. We are thankful for everyone who took part in this special tribute opportunity.

MEMORIALS

Alfred, Kathy
   Kelly Mauss
Allen, Carol and Okie
   Jan Lewis
Altenburg, Andrew
   Jenny
Anderson, Betty
   Randel Anderson, liver recipient on 10/12/2003
Anderson, Larry and Linda
   Mike Liebl
Anderson, Leslie
   Edna Ackerson
Antonson, Delores
   My husband, Don Antonson, a patient at Mayo 6/2010
Audette, Richard
   Beverly Audette
Babb, Paula
   Curtis W. Babb
Backstrom, Michael
   Jean Anne Backstrom
Bakeberg, Robbie
   Gail Bakeberg
Belter, Wesley
   Judy Belter
Bennett, Carol
   Daryl Bennett
Biegert, Lisa
   Craig Biegert
Blonigen, Roman and Arlene
   Mike Meldrum
Bower, Jody and Tom
   Ed Pompeian, Kaitlyn Griffin
Braithwaite, Tacey
   Tom Braithwaite
Brandvik, Nancy
   Michael Brandvik
Broker, Ervin
   Sandy Broker
Byers, Keith and Connie
   Virgil Binfet
Callahan, Jane
   Mark Callahan
Cates, Kathleen
   James E. Biler
Clement, Nancy
   Kaitlyn Griffin
Conine, Stacy
   My late wife, Amee Jo Conine and her Cleveland Clinic Cardiologist, Dr. David Taylor. He was her hero!
Cordes, Paula
   Rick Cordes
Cornelius, Leo
   Mary Ellen Cornelius
Cosio, Dr. Fernando and Mary Jo
   Kathy Koch
Crnobrna, Ronald and Kathryn
   Sr. Margeen
Cromley, BriAnna
   Don Truman
Dallas, Gregory
   Christina Dallas
Dillon, Paul and Jane
   Ed Pompeian
Dockter, Pat and Bill Wood
   Jessica Hulm
Droessler, Tom and Mary
   Andy Droessler
Early, James
   Nancy Early
Edmonds, Richard and Jackie
   Paul Tine
Elkie, Linda
   Leo Elkie
Erickson, Roger
   Henry C. Anderson
Erpelding, Thomas
   Connie Erpelding
Erwin, Carl and Jaquelyn
   Donna Iverson
Falkenstein, Eugene and Jane
   Eric Lepien
Feist, Miriam
   Robert M. Feist
Fisher, Bonnie
   Charles L. Fisher
Flury, Nancy
   Jay K. Flury
Forrer, Joe and Cindy
   Cole Forrer, Dr. Mohsin Hakim
Forster, JoAnn and Chuck
   Reon Swart, heart donor for JoAnn in 2006; Jim Forster, brother-in-law and bone marrow transplant recipient
Friendt, Steve and Ella Jo
   Mike Gengler
Gaffey, Thomas and Lynne
   Ed Pompeian
Gangness, Ron
   Shirley Gangness
George, Dana
   Ed Pompeian
Geroux, Lois
   Rick Geroux
Glodoski, Larry and Mary
   Brian Titus Cotrell
Gran, Lowell and Carol
   Linda Vilmo
Granquist, Elaine
   Robert F. Granquist
Gulley, DeDee
   Billie Roberts
Hardwig, Margaret
   James Hense
Harnisch, Douglas and Roberta
   Jeff Maddock
Haugstad, Thomas and Debra
   Ed Pompeian
Heinzler, Ann
   Neale Sowers, Sr. Jane Gregoire, Sr. Margeen Hoffmann
Heise, Ronald and Joanne
   Unknown liver donor of 15 years ago
“It’s hard to forget someone who gave you so much to remember.”

Hess, Barbara
Garry L. Hess

Hjelm, Greg
Debbie Hjelm

Hoffert, Ken
Ardyce C. Hoffert

Hosman, Gloria
Jerald Hosman

Hyde, Peter and Valerie
Donor Jarret

Isaacson, Katherine
Steven Isaacson

Jacobson, Therese
Sue Sands

Jenkins, Marcia and Douglas
All donors who sacrificed so much!

Johnson, Bryan
Kathy Allen

Johnson, Duayne and Nancy
Joshua Wold, heart donor 2013

Johnson, Kristin
Leslie Peter Johnson

Jones, Cheryl
Kevin Dotson, Don Truman

Jopp, Annette
Jay McCoy

Kehrli, Karen
Wayne R. Kehrli

Keller, Sarah
Ed Pompeian

Kile, Beverly and Jeff
John Lutzka

Kilpatrick, Dr. Michael and Diana
Ed Pompeian

Klahr, Inga
Garrett Klahr

Kocharian, Armen and Marine Davtian
Ed Pompeian

Koperski, Judith and Richard
Our son, Steven Siegle

Kraus, James
Sue Ellen Kraus

Kroning, Terry and Cindy
Nadeem Baig

Kurhajetz, Joanne
Judy Cooper

Ladin, Karl and Lynn
Joyce Baumler

Lair, Rodney and Sara
Daryl Brumm

Lassic, Jalynn
Dr. Jimmie, Linda Sherman Lassic

Latterell, Dale and Sharon
Steven Isaacson

Lehman, Kim
Bill Lehman

Lewis, Justin
Ed Pompeian

Link, William and Pamela
Robert Manly

Loven, Marlys
My husband, Sheldon

Lund, Kim and Eric
Steve Shank

Lynne, Marlene
Kay Lindsey

Mack-Milbocker, Nancy
Jerome (Jerry) Coger

Margalith, Eli and Michal
Ayal Margalith

Martin, Jr., Fred and Sharon
Father, Fred Martin Sr.

Martini, Joseph and Tina

Mayer, Darlene
John H. Mayer

McKinney, Leigh and Greg Belshe
Larry Bernhardt

McLaughlin, Nancy
Steve Smith

Mell, Susan and Jack
John Walsh

Menk, Charles and Delores
Sr. Margeen Hoffmann

Meservy, James and LeAnn
Dick Rabb, Jan Lewis

Meyer, Frances
Unknown liver donor

Michels, Joyce and Larry
Alfred R. Boccafola

Miller, Linda
Allen Miller

Miller, Ryan and Kristin
Doug Matzek

Miller, Ron and Jean
Gail Bakeberg

Milner, Sue
Dad, Louie Schacherer

Monk, Mary Ann
Donald Monk

Moormann, Alice
Michael Moormann

Morin, Brenda
Clifford Bad Moccasin (brother), kidney transplant, 1997

Moxon, Richard G. and Jean
Greg Moxon

Murphy, Michael and Emily
Curtis Evans

Nath, Karl and Karen
Ed Pompeian

Nauss, Mark and Lesa
Kary Alfred Kleinschrodt

Nelson, L. Brian
Marcia A. Nelson
SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

MEMORIALS

Nicholl, Suzanne  
Brian Cottrell

Nicklawsky, Emilie and Michael  
Jack and Bernadine Wiersma

Nuorala, Ken  
Jeremy Nuorala

Olson, Joyce  
Milford Olson

Olson, Carrie Ann  
Larry Olson

Osborne, Duane  
LeAnne Osborne

Overbeck, Theresa  
Duane L. Overbeck

Panther, Mary and Michael  
Dan Reeder

Paschke, Eleanor  
Wesley Paschke

Pearlman, Michael and Eileen  
Sandi Pearlman

Pearson, Byron and Dorene  
Linda Vilmo

Peterson, Geraldine  
David E. Peterson, kidney recipient 2008

Peterson, Steven  
Cathy Peterson

Phillips, Sherry  
Paul Tine, my husband

Plantenberg, Marlene  
Mike Plantenberg

Polfsut, Shanon and Elaine  
Nancy Moen

Pompeian, Aaron and Helen  
Father and PaPa Ed Pompeian

Pompeian, Nick and Rochelle  
Ed Pompeian

Rabb, Sarah  
Dick Rabb and Jan Lewis

Raboin, Jeffrey and Sharon  
Gail Craycroft

Reller, Beth  
Cathy Barthel

Renner, Roger and Mary Jo  
Steve Wilczak

Rist, Fred  
Tanya Rist

Roth, Judy  
Lanny Roth

Rowbal, Robert R. and Stacy  
Ann Rowbal

Saba, William  
Renette Saba

Sagen, L. John and Kay  
Christopher Benz

Sarr, Robert and Jean  
James M. Bills

Schaffer, JoAnn  
Richard R. Schaffer

Schmidt, Steve and Kim  
Arlin Rosalie Schmidt

Schroeder, Kathe  
Wesley Schroeder

Schuhmacher, Kraig and Korla  
Pam Jesse

Severson, Helene  
Larry Severson

Shelton, J. Sheldon and Lydia  
Jeff Shelton

Shields, Robert and Marie  
Peg Shields - liver transplant

Shipton, Norma  
Cynthia Patterson Shipton

Smith, Kenneth and Pammy  
Marion Smith

Smith, Wendell and Mary  
Margaret Smith Askew

Svangstu, Bob and Diane  
Brian A. Svangstu

Svoboda, Steve and Julie  
Steve Brosnan

Taylor, Robin and Joe Lobl  
Joan Larson

Thering, Curtis  
Sue Thering

Thill, Bernard  
Donna Thill, Liela Thill

Thronstedt, David and Sara  
Lisa Thronstedt, our daughter

Tjerstad, Mary  
David Tjerstad

Tranberg, Judi  
David Tranberg

Truman, Laura  
Don Truman

Ubben, Kathryn  
Stan Ubben

Valente, Constance  
Geno Stuart Valente

Van Dyke, Karleen  
Henry C. Anderson

Van Maaren, Lynn and Robert  
Jan Lewis

Vieths, Doris  
Ronald Vieths

Vilmo, Greg  
Linda Vilmo

Volker, JoAnn and Richard  
Brother and sister-in-law, Russell and Becky Dunford; niece, Carol Dunford from multiple myeloma; our sons Jacob and Lucas Volker; Rich’s mother, Betty Volker

Watson, Judd and Jeanne  
Steve Siege

Weiss, Douglas and Nancy  
Douglas Matzek

Weixel, James and Barbara  
Jean Wulf

Wiebusch, Gloria  
My husband, J. Fredric Webusch, recipient of 2 liver transplants and who blessed our lives with another 27 years

Wilder, Mary  
My dad, Jim Jacobson

Willis, Rita  
My husband, Harry G. Willis, Jr.

Witzig, Dr. Thomas and Diane  
Raymond Jirele

Wolff, Kenneth and Delores  
Roger Moe

Wood, Darlene  
Dick Brown

Zampa, Melody  
Duane Burger

Zurcher, Max and Devra  
My heart donor, Patrick Zacher

ARROWHEAD BUILDERS SUPPLY  
Tom (Sport) Dollins IV - heart transplant 2001
Aamot, Rick and Bonnie
Logan Schonert

Allen, Carol and Okie
Carol Allen

Allen, Alexis
Daniel Hardy

Altenburg, Andrew
Megan Wannarka

Anonymous
Michael Potts, Susanne Roxbury

Arndorfer, Robert
Mayo Clinic Cancer Staff

Arnold, William and Joanne
Living non-directed kidney donor, Alicia Arnold; Sherry Johnson, unknown donor

Baker, Mary
Georgianna F. Gibbons

Balbinot, Jodi and Jeff
Mary Mikkola

Beadle, Roger and Ginny
Roger Beadle

Becker, Susan
Todd Becker

Bennett, Harvey and Julia
Nathan Wohlk

Benters, Elden and Kathleen
Elden Benters

Blessum, Jerry and Kathy
Jerry Blessum

Bottolfson, Wayne
Mary Benson

Brinker, Ray and Joan Jennings
Pasquale Iaderosa

Buffington, Sharon and Katherine Cross
Donor, Katherine Cross; caregiver, Mary Alice Richardson; donor, Nelson Porter; donor, Paulette Anderson

Byers, Keith and Connie
Noah Knudson

Carey, Dan and Kate
Steve Tarara

Carlson, Dianne and Darwin
My wife, Dianne Carlson

Christianson, Randall and Tami
Nancy Dockter

Churchwell, Eli and Susan
Eli’s kidney transplant 11/16/2000

Connors, Richard
Annette M. LeRoux

Conti, Fred and Rose
Mary Rose Conti

Cooper, Alvin
AI Cooper who received a kidney; his son, Jeremias Cooper, who donated his kidney on 7/14/20. Staying at GOL was so helpful for us during his recovery.

Coughlin, Pauline and Clair
Margaret Kleven

Desrosier, Robert
Tracy Gallo

DeVries, Robert and Peggy
Kathy Dykgraaf

Dietz, Charlene
The hardworking staff at GOL who always make my stay at GOL so enjoyable and treat me like one of the staff. I look forward to seeing you all in 6 months.

Dobberke, Joyce and Dennis
Gayla McGrail

Elsasser, Janet
Charlene Dietz

Evans, Mark and Michele
All who have given life

Evans, lone
All recipients who are so blessed to have the transplant house for recuperation

Everson, David and Shirley
Martha Everson Murray

Fatigati, Carmine and Maria
Caregivers Sharon and Art Carrizales

Friese, Jeff and Kammie
Jeff Friese

Gaffey, Thomas and Lynne
Dr. Sylvester Sterioff

Garbers, Duane and Brenda
Kristin Westad - Duane’s donor.
Happy Birthday 9/23

Gatzlaff, Jay and Diane
Wyatt Wade

Gilje, Paul and Judith
Jenny Dalstad

Gillespie, Robert and Beverly
Granddaughter, Ashlyn Nystuen

Gillio, Vickie
My donor and brother, Matthew Gillio

Gillio, Viva
My daughter, Vickie Gillio’s bone marrow transplant

Godsey, Valerie and James
My 11 yr anniversary of my transplant; my sister, Jill

Goff, Korlyn and Dave
Lisa Obermier

Gordon, Marjorie and Jerold M.
Our daughter, Alison Grossman, who appreciates everything you do to help her

Goudie, Bill and Joyce
Douglas Walz

Hanson, Tanya
Gary Melin

Hanson, Mary
Mary Dahlen

Harbold, Jan and Bob Hammernik
Dorene and Floyd Harbold

Hardesty, Glenn and Sandy
Glenn Hardesty

Hardwig, Patricia
Jane Hense

Hendrickson, Darlene
Don Shaw

Hengesh, Harry
Vickie Gillio

Holbach, Laurie and PJ
Laurie Holbach-stem cell transplant 2013

Huber, Eldon and Maxine
Rhonda Huber

Hughes, Rhonda and John
Michael Potts, Susanne Roxbury

Husman, Dale and Bonnie
Jeanine Aspen

Hyde, Peter and Valerie
Mother, Sue

The following were not included in our 2019 newsletter. Our deepest apologies.

Tributes: Greg Vilmo
Heidi Leppala, Jan Manly, Ron Knutson, LaVon Whipple

Memorials: Sue Beres
Linda Vilmo
TRIBUTES

Jeffries, Jane
  Ricky Fulks

Johnson, Mark and Leslie
  LuAnne Lemke

Jopp, Annette
  My 29-yr liver tx anniversary

Kenworthy, Wendy
  Lynnette Nash

Kessler, Tiffany and Kurt
  Tiffany Kessler

Kilpatrick, Dr. Patrick and Diana
  Adrienne Pompeian and family

Knudson, Rebecca and Les
  Noah Knudson

Koetter, Mike and Mary
  Michael Koetter (recipient); Ralph Koetter (donor)

Konetski, Mary
  Susan E. Lam

Krebsbach, Keith and Sherri
  Amanda Krebsbach Vierling

Kruse, Lynn and Ray
  My son and donor, Steven McCluskey

Lassiter, Amy
  Daniel Hardy

LeDuc, Jacob
  Gary LeDuc

Lee, Jerry and Annette
  Annette Lee

Lewis, Justin
  John & Christina Livengood, Sarah Rabb, Aaron Pompeian, Dan and Pat Cruser, Pat Monplaiser, Ed and Jean Ordal, Gene and Connie Gwynn, Jim and LeAnn Meservy, John and Sue Roise, MeriLee Henning, Bob and Lynn VanMaaren, Okie and Carol Allen, Paul and Sandi Leonard

Ligon, Jack
  Charles Ligon

Liverman, Hillary
  Daniel Hardy

Logie, Al and Pam Chambers
  Al Logie

Lohmeyer, Charles and Ellen
  Wayne Lohmeyer

Loven, Marlys
  Sheldon’s donor and brother, Doug

Lynn, Rachel
  Heidi Nauman and Family

MacDonald, Jean
  Mike Scheuerman

Marso, Bettie
  LeAnn Caulfield, double transplant patient 1988

Matson, Melvin and Suzanne
  My kidney donor, Darren Matson

McGlothlin, Bernice
  Richard Greff

Meek, Patricia
  My bone marrow donor, Jim Klunder and in honor of me.

Meeks, Tom and Ann
  Matt Heisler

Minnich, Lois
  Chris Murray, my donor

Monk, Mary Ann
  Susan Monk as donor

Mraz, Sharon
  Roger Mraz

Myers, Mary and Tim
  Donor, Darlene Perkins

Nielsen, Dawn and Steve
  Dawn M. Nielsen

O’Keefe, Mike and Donna
  Mike O’Keefe

Olson, Carrie Ann
  Annette Odlund, Larry Olson’s daughter and kidney donor

Ortega, Arthur and Kim Klepetka
  Robert Ortega

Packard, Richard and Linda
  Christine Packard Stevens

Palko, Greg and Connie
  The Mayo Stem Cell Transplant Team

Patrick, Dr. Herbert and Paula
  Adam (AJ) Patrick

Pavlicek, Geraldine
  My son, Dan who was recipient of a Liver Transplant

Peak, Frank and Renee
  Greg Selley

Peshut, Annie
  All Who Stay At GOL

Pompeian, Nick and Rochelle
  Kidney Donor, Aaron Pompeian

Quam, James
  Jean Kohut

Ridgeway, Lowell and Pamela
  Kristen Osterreich

Schroeder, Kathe
  Wesley Schroeder’s donors

Schultz, Sara
  Ron and Chris Schultz

Stewart, Ron and Sally
  Ron Stewart

Striefel, Randy and Karen
  Randy Striefel

Stripling, Craig and Carol
  3 donors - Jeff Stripling, Jason Korns, and Katie Olson

Swenson, Dan and Bonnie
  Dan Swenson

Taylor, John and Karen
  John Taylor

Thering, Curtis
  Tammy Schefers, liver donor; Mayo staff; Gift of Life; the Life to Live Liver Transplant Pioneers

Thurow, Robert and Colleen
  My daughter Melissa Lyle who donated her kidney to me

Tostenrud, Steven and Pauline
  Teresa Hoff

Tremmel, Anthony and Mary Jo
  In appreciation for everyone at Gift of Life

Trosine, Karin
  Gene Trosine

Van Dyke, Karleen
  Lori Lynn Lange

Vilmo, Greg
  Allen Watanabe, Bennie Allen, Dianna Dotson, Ginger Holmes, Jayne Pompeian

Wahlberg, Richard and Dana
  My loving husband, Rick Wahlberg

Weathers, Thomas and Mary
  My wife and caregiver, Mary Weathers

Weishaupt, Delores
  Don Schmidgall

Wells, Roger and Carole
  Daughter Emily Buck PKD donor & Sandy Toomey my donor

Whitbeck, Ronald
  Myself, Ronald E. Whitbeck. I was a guest in Jan 2013

White, Jana
  Becky McGuire

Williams, Ken and Elaine
  Lisa Williams, donor of 9-yr anniversary kidney tx

Williams, Lisa
  Ken and Elaine Williams

Wirth, Sue
  Andrew Wirth

Young, Robert
  Heart transplant 17 years out

Zarnott, Wayne and Marilyn
  Arlen Ostermann

Zoller, Terry
  Becky McGuire

SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES
CONTRIBUTIONS

Anderson, James
Anderson, Lenora
Anderson, John S. and Mary Lea
Andrews, John and Mary Lynn
Anonymous Donors
Bartram, Jerry and Regina
Batten, Bruce and Christine
Bauzenberger, Barbara and Richard
Befort, Zonda
Bernstein, Rhona
Bisek, Jerome and Bernice
Books, David and Bonnie
Bostwick, Jonathan and Pamela
Brown, Margaret and Michael
Burrows, Darlene
Buzzell, Terry and Kathy
Carlson, Robert and Pamela
Carroll, Russell and Catherine
Clausen, Janelle and Mark
Coert, Rebecca
Conroy, Lindsay
Cope, John and Linda
Courcy, Lori
Davis, Christine and Pamela
Dehler, Robert and Joann
Dennis, Kathy and Charlie
Depot, Barry and Laurie
Dollerschell, Allen and Marcia
Dreher, Eugene and Heidi
Egglser, Burnell
Erickson, Beth and Kevin
Finger, Allen and Rita
Fleet, Merlyn and Mary
Frankhart, David and Patricia
Fraser, Kyle and M. Cathy
Freerking, Russell and Marie
Gassman, Philip and Brigitte
Goodsen, Kimberly
Griffin, Dave
Grimsrud, Roger and Olive
Gwiazdzienki, Dianna and Roger
Haggard, Donna
Hahn, Carol and Jess
Hansch, Dennis and Elizabeth
Harris, Richard
Herlich, Phil and Stephanie
Hesse, James and Colleen
Hobernicht, Peggy and Howard
Horst, Robert and Joan
Idzorek, Edward and Julie
Jennings, Wayne and Lynne
Johnson, Daniel
Johnson, Clayton and Yvonne
Kasenberg, Darlene and Tom
Kennel, Lois
Kent, Andrew and Susan
Kepnes, Judy and Joel
Koehn, Lynn and Vickie
Krom, Drs. Ruud and Jeannette
Kukla, Dr. Aleksandra and Boguslaw
Lang, Victoria and Greg
Larson, Jeff and Sandra
LaValley, Richard and Lyn
Lee, Betty
Lee, Forrest and Mary
Lees, James and Phyllis
Lerberg, Jim and Diane
Levene, J. Scott and Robyn
Liggett, Tracy
Marshall, Raymond and Jacquelyn
McFarland, Thomas
McIntire, Sandra and James
McKinnie, Andre
Meixner, Judith
Metzger, Morris and Tonya
Michels, Karen
Mindi, Timothy
Mindi, Julie
Moon, Frank and Betty
Moran, Debra and Frank
Mraz, Sharon
Nelson, Travis
Oien, Jeff
Olhausen, Dennis and LeAnn
Ordal, Ed and Jean
Pesta, Timothy and Patricia
Peterson, David and Linda
Peterson, Kevin
Pham, Truc and Hoa
Phillips, Frank
Rajtar, Leanne and Richard
Randby, Patricia
Rathmann, Larry and Linda
Regan, Gary and Cheryl
Regan, Adrian
Reynolds, Randy and Sheri
Rietsema, Lynette and Ron
Roehrick, Gary and Shelly
Rogers-Hartl, Laurie
Saba, Michael
Sanders, Richard and Beverly
Schmitt, Susan
Schmitz, Dolores
Schroedermeier, Glenda and Loren
Sciallis, Mary
Sieg, Bernette
Silcox, Janessa and Erik
Slarks, James
Smith, Brook and Jean
Smith, Richard E. and Elizabeth
Smith, Bob and Sue
Sparks, Thomas and Gerda
Strohbusch, Nancy and Mark
Stubbs, Frank and Tom Lee
Sweeney, Brenda and Dan
Swenson, David and Nancy
Therkilsen, Randy and Maureen
Viker, LeeAnne
Webber, Gray and Patricia
Win, Be
Winters, Mark and Judy
WOODS & ASSOCIATES INC.
Winne, Julie
Yaldo, Isam and Vivian
Zabel, Glen and Eileen
Lizete came to Gift of Life Transplant House with her mom in May of 2019. When she arrived at Gift of Life Transplant House, her mother noticed several painted rocks around the house and thought it’d be something fun for Lizete to do.

Lizete and her sister took turns staying overnight at the hospital with her mom. “It wasn’t until my mother got her new liver and was discharged to the Gift of Life that I began painting the rocks.” While staying at the Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home (705 House), she went to the craft room and found paint brushes and paint. The first rock was commemorative of her mom’s liver transplant day, May 5, 2019. She then began painting images she found online, soon creating a trail of rocks on the front porch.

“My inspiration to make these rocks was my mother and I know they bring her so much happiness,” Lizete said. She created the rocks for people to enjoy, whether they find one they want to take or just enjoy them on the Gift of Life Transplant House grounds.

Lizete is in her final year of nursing school in El Paso, Texas after putting her school on pause in 2019. She will continue coming to Minnesota every summer to visit her mom and is so grateful she had a safe place to heal. “I am glad to call the Gift of Life house my home away from home when my mother has appointments. Everyone is very welcoming and the staff is amazing. The Gift of Life house gave me and my family so much comfort. I was scared and worried about my mother and just being at the house had such a warm and comforting feeling because I knew that everyone there was going through something similar and now I hope that anyone that walks to the Gift of Life can spot a painted rock and have it brighten their day.”

WELCOME NEW STAFF:

ASHLEY GRANT
Receptionist

NICOLA CAVANAGH
Receptionist

TRAVIS NIEMEIER
Night Supervisor

FACILITIES

NEW MATTRESSES have been delivered to our Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home, thanks to the Special Appeal from our 2019 Golf Tournament, a grant from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Fund and generous donations. The mattresses had last been replaced in 2015. The new mattresses have been appreciated by all – thank you for making this possible. MATTRESSES will be replaced next year at the Anne and Henry Zarrow Home.

A NEW RETAINING WALL at 705 will be built along 1st Street SW, again thanks to a generous donation!

A NEW ROOF and dormers were replaced at the Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home this summer, thanks to a generous donation from the Tisi Family Foundation. And a special thanks to API Supply, who donated the use of a lift truck for the entire project!

OPERATIONS

OUR MENNONITE VOLUNTEERS continue to cheerfully support the operations at both 705 and 724, cleaning, doing laundry and even entertaining us with their lovely harmonious music as they work.

OCCUPANCY at Gift of Life Transplant House has varied, rising to pre-COVID levels and dipping to just under 70%. Our commitment is to remain open no matter what our occupancy may be.
The Rod Anderson Award is presented at our Annual Golf Tournament to a volunteer who embodies a few of the characteristics of Rod, an avid supporter, board member and board president of Gift of Life Transplant House. These characteristics include, selflessness, humility and kindness.

This year, Julie Anderson, Rod’s wife, presented the award to Elke, who started volunteering with us in 2018. Since then, she has spent many hours volunteering as office support and is willing to help in anyway needed! Originally from Germany, Elke is an adventurous soul who has traveled to many places around the world.

Our gratitude for Elke cannot be put into words! It was an honor to present her with this award. Thank you for all you do. We don't know where we would be without you!

ROD ANDERSON MEMORIAL AWARD 2020

"I am now the caretaker of my organs. The way I show gratitude is by taking care of them,” Amanda, a double organ transplant recipient and guest of Gift of Life Transplant House shared recently.

A competitive athlete for most of her life, Amanda often felt fearless. When she went into kidney failure and her life was threatened after being diagnosed with double diabetes - a rare condition where she was diagnosed with both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, Amanda said it was the most terrifying, yet humbling, experience she had. With a life threatening diagnosis, it sparked a reminder that we are truly human - realizing how often we take for granted the thought that our bodies will be here forever.

Amanda had been a regular blood donor throughout high school and college and made sure she had “checked the box” to be identified as an organ donor. So, when she received her diagnosis, it was a shock to her, her friends and family. Her health rapidly declined, and in November of 2019, Amanda received a double organ transplant – a pancreas and kidney.

Anyone who has been part of a transplant journey understands the power of resiliency. After long days at the clinic, learning that going home is not an option, receiving a secondary diagnosis that stutters progress, Amanda says it is important to hang on to the words and the support that bring hope. For Amanda, those words were “You have to want this life; you have to choose life.”

Dual rejection was not something Amanda ever imagined she would have to go through, and not something she wanted to share, especially with fellow transplant recipients. So many emotions were running through her mind, fear and uncertainty being the most prominent. But her motto pushed her forward and she was determined to find her new trajectory.

Gift of Life Transplant House was the safe place she did not know she needed. Amanda shares, “We can be honest here - it’s okay to have good days and bad days. It’s a safe place to be vulnerable and be open.” She also reveals in the community and support that is undeniable at the house, “Your story is yours; it allows a connection as humans. Our stories are different, but the feelings are similar.” Patients can connect and comfort one another after difficult news, rejoice in good news and support each other through navigating all the unknowns that come with transplantation.

Amanda has met people from all walks of life with whom she never would have crossed paths; from dialysis with a chef, Chinese professor, veteran, and pastor to her “kidney sisters” - two ladies she bonded and connected with while staying at Gift of Life Transplant House over their shared experience. “If you don’t know what this world is like, you can’t even begin to imagine...There’s so many things you don’t expect, like the relationships you build. I honestly think I’ll be friends with them for the rest of our lives.”

Amanda was inspired to share her story to shed light on the side of transplantation that is more difficult to talk about. She hopes to encourage more compassion to all those working on the transplant team as patients navigate the many unknowns, inspire gratitude to those blessed with their gift of life and tasked as the caretaker of a new organ(s), and remind us that we have the ability to enrich and change the lives of everyone we encounter. She reminds us to choose life and adjust our trajectory to align with what we want our lives to look like amidst our new and often unexpected circumstances.

"There's so many things you don't expect, like the relationships you build. I honestly think I'll be friends with them for the rest of our lives."
Veronica Marjamaa thought she was feeling fine when she headed to her annual physical in the first month of the year. However, her doctor came back with tests which revealed high calcium and instructed her to go straight to the Fargo Hospital. Upon meeting with a doctor at the Fargo Hospital, she learned that she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. She soon began chemotherapy at the cancer center, knowing she was in good hands. Her trusted doctor soon recommended Mayo Clinic for a stem cell treatment after 5 months of chemotherapy.

Veronica and her husband, Otto, heard about Gift of Life Transplant House when they first arrived at Mayo and met with their social worker. They decided Gift of Life was the place they wanted to stay. Veronica was the recipient of a Tandem Stem Cell Treatment which is two stem cell treatments 60 days apart. Her first stem cell transplant was on July 27 with her 2nd on September 28. She felt good after the first transplant. Although there were zero cancer cells remaining, the tandem would provide 75% more longevity to her remission.

After experiencing the first transplant, she gained confidence and comfort coming back to Mayo and Gift of Life Transplant House for the second time. She and Otto knew what the process was going to be like and had a good idea of how she would feel after the second transplant. They also knew the expectations of Gift of Life Transplant House, and looked forward to coming back to the comradery. Veronica appreciates the support during her recovery, “It’s been very nice here. I feel comfortable. It makes me feel more at home than a hospital or hotel especially with the guests & caregivers here.” She goes on to say “everyone is willing to share their ups and downs and tears and laughter.”

Otto has been Veronica’s rock during this time. They’ve been married for 47 years and have supported one another through everything. Prior to Veronica’s diagnosis, Otto had just recovered from his own cancer in 2019. As her caregiver, Otto says she has been an easy patient to care for.

While they’ve felt comfort at Gift of Life Transplant House during Veronica’s transplant journey, especially in the time of COVID-19, they are eager to get back to their home in Detroit Lakes and continue their preparations for the winter months. They keep each other in good spirits and are grateful for everyone they have met and supported during their stay.
I will admit when I first heard that T4T was going virtual, I thought – “Well, now that is the kind of horseback riding I can do!” But I soon learned that this committed and highly creative group had a bit more sophisticated plan in mind than my idea of a coin-operated pony in front of the grocery store!

Trails4Transplants is a long-distance, multiple-week long trail ride to raise awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation. T4T also raises donations for Gift of Life Transplant House. In 2019, the group celebrated the culmination of their goal of a 6-year ride, covering 2,000 miles with a party in Rochester, MN!

The 2020 ride was to have been held in Pine County, MN, but with the restrictions imposed because of COVID, the organizers decided to ask small groups of riders to document their rides. 5 groups of riders formed up from East Central Minnesota, Northwest Minnesota, Mandan, North Dakota, Duluth, Minnesota and St. Anthony, North Dakota, with names like: Green Scarf Bandits, North Woods Group, Hille Group, and East Central Outlaws!

And at the conclusion an impressive 2,663 horse miles (132 miles) had been ridden by 74 individuals and $25,000 was raised!

Here are some “thoughts from the trails”: “My life has been spared because someone chose to be a donor. Participating in Trails4Transplants is a way to honor my donor and help countless others who are still waiting for a life-saving transplant!” DH, T4T Rider, Volunteer, Grateful Liver Recipient and Former Gift of Life Transplant House guest

We are so honored to call T4T our friends and partners!

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**TRAILS4TRANSPLANTS**

• GOES VIRTUAL •

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**2021 Vision 4 All Ride**

**TOTAL LENGTH:** 109 Miles

**WHEN:** May 21-29, 2021

**WHERE:** St. Croix to Pine City, MN

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS: trails4transplants.org/the-ride
Rainbow over Gift of Life Transplant House and Mayo Clinic captured by a guest.

Sophie, Maddie, Abigail and Girl Scout leader, Heidi, donating boxes of cookies.

Tami making ribbons for our September Tributes.

Painted rocks behind the Anne & Henry Zarrow Home.

Sue and her mother Shirley came to bring $250 worth of donations in memory of Sue’s father.
Past guests, Jamee and Ray donating supplies from our wish list.

Members of our community have donated many masks for our guests.

Henry and Leo bring treats to remember our founder, Ed Pompeian, on his birthday.

Gavin donating pop tabs during his annual appointments.

New mattresses at the Edward & Jayne Pompeian Home made possible by donations!

Members of the Zumbro Lutheran Confirmation group spreading positivity with sidewalk chalk.

Founders of Thesis Brewery presenting a check from their 'For the Good & Thirsty' Campaign.

Our facilities manager, Ladd, giving a gift of appreciation to API Supply.

Angie and Eric donating supplies on Valentine’s Day.

Terry and Rose donating supplies.

Gift of Life Golf Tournament

*Not all pictures were taken during the time of COVID-19.

Thank you to our Corporate Partners for making this year a success!
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 Transplant House is a proud member of the Healthcare Hospitality Network.

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