When JoAnn Volker came to work at Gift of Life Transplant House in January 2019, she quickly became part of the Gift of Life “family”. As our database clerk, she made sure that information was correctly entered, donations were acknowledged and the database was always up to date. As time went on, JoAnn learned how to take on the duties of a fill-in receptionist. Her pleasant personality made it easy for guests and caregivers to connect with her.

We soon learned just how deep that connection to Gift of Life Transplant House was when Jo, as we like to call her, revealed that she was a kidney transplant recipient. In April 2007, Jo learned unexpectedly that she had kidney failure and just like that, JoAnn joined another family – the transplant community. Her daughter, Tami, tested to be her living donor and was a match.

The day of transplant is always a big day, but just a few hours before her surgery was scheduled, JoAnn learned that her daughter, Jenni, was in labor and about to give birth to a granddaughter. She and Tami greeted Jenni early that morning in August. At 6:50am, baby Haili was born and an hour later, Dr. Prieto and the transplant team had removed Tami’s kidney and were proceeding with the transplant for JoAnn. The transplant was a success and Tami’s kidney was producing!

Dr. Prieto arranged a special “tour” of the hospital, allowing Jenni and new baby Haili to visit Tami in her room and Grandma JoAnn in her room.

Through the years, Jo has worked hard to maintain her
health, monitoring her blood pressure, staying active, getting lots of fresh air and staying positive. 13 years after her transplant, JoAnn was working at Gift of Life when we all learned a new word: COVID. Gift of Life Transplant House worked diligently to protect our “family” – guests, caregivers, volunteers and staff and keep them safe. COVID was a particular threat to JoAnn, as to all of our immunocompromised guests and she was one of the staff we sent to work at home! Other high risk staff members who were not able to work remotely were sent home with full pay for a period of time as we navigated what COVID meant to all of us. JoAnn worked at home until she was able to receive her vaccinations and felt safe to return to the office.

In August of this year when JoAnn went in for her annual check-up, she also asked to have her antibodies tested and discovered, much to her dismay, she didn’t have any present. Many of our guests have experienced that same dismay and heightened concern about protecting themselves. We care deeply about every member of our “family”! Guests, caregivers, staff and volunteers are required to be fully masked at all times; no visitors are allowed in the buildings; and hand sanitizer is prevalent throughout.

JoAnn has now received her booster and is hopeful that her body has begun producing antibodies. She continues to wear a mask at all times, in the house or away from the house. JoAnn and her family do not go to any public venues, even if outside and they do not see relatives unless they are fully vaccinated.

These last two years we have been reminded yet again of a principal that our founder, Ed Pompeian, knew very well – the power of family! JoAnn’s story reminds us of that as well. It is the power of a strong, supportive family that instills hope, courage and resolve! It is the power of family that allows us to laugh even when we can’t stop the tears from flowing. And it is that bond of family that blesses us with immeasurable power.

You are part of this remarkable family! This ‘home away from home’ is an anchor, a safe harbor and a place where we are loved and where we can love.

---

GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE

Wish List

◊ Napkins
◊ Paper Towels
◊ Toilet Paper
◊ Facial Tissues
◊ $30 for a guest room night
◊ Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee
◊ Wrapped Candy
◊ Gift Cards to Wal-Mart, Target, or Hy-Vee
◊ Forever Postage Stamps
◊ Gallon Ziploc Bags
◊ Scrubbing Bubbles
◊ Soft Scrub
◊ Toilet Bowl Cleaner
◊ Tupperware
◊ Storage Containers
◊ New Commercial Vacuum Cleaners
◊ Hand Sanitizer
◊ Lysol Spray
◊ Disinfectant Wipes

Find our Amazon Wish List and links to items on our Website: www.gift-of-life.org/make-a-donation
Dear guests, staff, donors, and friends,

One of many lessons that we have learned during the pandemic is that we have much to be grateful for. These times have been among the most trying in recent history, especially for individuals within the transplant community. The significance and importance of our work at Gift of Life has never been greater.

At Gift of Life, we have many reasons to give thanks this fall.

First, thank you to our incredible staff and volunteers whose dedication and resolve continue to ensure our guests remain safe and healthy during the ongoing pandemic. Although the House has intermittently experienced staffing shortages, our staff and volunteers have gone above and beyond to adapt to the changing needs of the House and our guests. Our staff and volunteers are the key to upholding the House’s mission to provide high quality, affordable accommodations for transplant patients and their caregivers in a supportive, home-like environment. We are thankful for their unwavering determination.

Second, thank you to our guests, donors, and friends. Gift of Life continued to experience an outpouring of support through the success of the 37th Annual Gift of Life Golf Tournament, the 1st Annual Gift of Life Car Show, the Gift of Life 5K run/walk hosted by TerraLoco, and Tribute Month which honored transplant donors and recipients throughout September.

Third, thank you to our organ and tissue donors, donor families, and transplant recipients. As you can see from the many tributes and memorials listed, Tribute Month at Gift of Life was a wonderful opportunity to give thanks and recognition to those who gave or received a second chance at life. Each memorial and tribute listed is a testimony of respect, admiration, and appreciation. If it weren't for these recognized individuals, life-saving transplantation could not and would not exist. Now THIS is a beautiful reason to give thanks!

As my father would often say, “We are blessed!” He was right. Gift of Life is blessed by all of you who believe in and support our mission.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for your ongoing support of Gift of Life. May you find joy in each day and remember to give thanks!

Respectfully,
Adrienne Pompeian
Board President
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 assists in continuing to provide “a home that helps and heals” to more than 4,100 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

Adams, Sharon
Mary Adams

Aerts, Christine
Amy, my donor

Alfred, Kathy
Kelly Mauss

Allen, Carol E.
Jan Lewis

Anderson, Alan
Deborah Anderson

Anderson, Tiffany and Micah
Patricia Anderson

Annis, Rod and Gayle
Steve Smith

ARROWHEAD BUILDERS SUPPLY
Dollins, Tom and Kathy
Thomas A. Dollins, IV (Sport)

Audette, Richard
Beverly Audette

Austin, Colleen
Lon Austin

Axelsen, Patricia
Don Truman

Babb, Craig and Corine
Curtis Babb

Babb, Paula
Curtis Babb

Bandas, Sharon
Donor, Tony

Baumler, Floyd
Joyce Baumler

Beadle, Ginny
Roger D. Beadle

Belter, Wesley
Judy Belter

Beuthin, Janet
Kenneth Beuthin

Biegert, Lisa
Craig Biegert

Binek, Sharon
Paul Binek

Biondolillo, Carlo
Mignogna Cosima

Bottolfson, Wayne
Mary Benson

Bower, Jody and Tom
Kaitlyn Griffin

Brunnette, Lisa
Thomas Goosen, my 1st husband

Burke, Michelle and Dave
Mary Brent

Bush, Carol
Kenneth Bush

Bushman, Peter and Jayne
Our grandson, Derek Bushman and father, Joe Drennan

Carlson, Darwin
Dianne Carlson, My wife

Carver, Richard and Donna
Alexander Julian Contreras-Rogers

Cornelius, Leo
Mary Ellen Cornelius

Cornell, Ann
Tara Townsend

Dale, Dr. Lowell and Janice
Edward Pompeian

Dallas, Gregory
Christina Dallas

Dennison, Scott and Colleen
Dan Whalen

Diaz, Melissa
My late husband, Sgt. Ricardo E. Diaz - US Army

Donato, Mary Margaret
Lou Donato

Droessler, Thomas
Andy Droessler

Duemmel, Stacey
Mary Anne Adams

Erickson, Roger
Henry C. Anderson

Erpelding, Thomas
Connie Erpelding

Evans, Colleen
Sonny Alsene

Evenson, Ron
Marjorie and Floyd Evenson

Ewoldt, Lori and Scott Eitel
Bonnie Kopriva - stem cell recipient 2012

Fawole, Dr. Tajudeen and Abejide
My donor

Finstuen, Scott
Brenda Elthon

Fisher, Bonnie
Charles L. Fisher - heart transplant 7/17/2012

Foertsch, Wayne
Arnold Foertsch

Gangness, Ron and Arlene
Shirley Gangness

George, Dana and Eleni
Edward Pompeian

Gomez, Eddie
Barbara Ann Medlin

Granquist, Elaine
Robert F. Granquist

Haagenson, Tess
Elva Haagenson

Hamlin, Bill and Katherine
Al Krech

Haugen, Eugene
Dorothy Haugen

Heise, Ronald and Joanne
My liver donor, July 2005

Hendry, Jonathan and Judy
Dan Whalen

Herfindal, Orin and Peggy Ryan
Linda K. Vilmo

Hickman, Michael and Sharon
Katie Hickman

Hoech, Gary
Peter Christian Hoech

Hoffert, Kenneth
Ardycce Hoffert
“It’s hard to forget someone who gave you so much to remember.”

Holmes, Dr. David and Ginger  
Allen Watanabe, Bob Manly, Kevin Dotson, and Linda Vilmo

Horntvedt, Lester and Dianna  
David Spitzer

Huber, Eldon and Maxine  
Rhonda Huber

Hulstein, Shirley  
James Ahlers

Idlewine, Jenny  
Rex Idlewine

Ihinger, Margaret  
Robert F. Ihinger, Jr.

Isaacson, Katherine  
Steven Isaacson

Jacklitch, Pat  
John King

Jacobs, Dorothy  
Christopher P. Jacobs

Jacobson, Therese and Craig  
Ed Pompeian

Jelinek, Wayne and Denise Baldwin  
Marcella Twite

Jenkins, Dawn  
Dan Whalen

Jennings, Wayne  
Lynne Rae Jennings

Johnson, Bryan  
Kathy Allen

Keller, Sarah  
Ed Pompeian

Keller, Gary and Marlys  
Michelle Skaley

Keller, Richard and Beth  
Sonny Alsene

Kile, Beverly  
John Lutzka

Kilian, Michael J.  
Karlotta B. Kilian

Klahr, Inga  
Garrett Klahr

Klett, Nadeen  
Katie Hickman

Kocharian, Armen  
Ed Pompeian

Koperski, Judy and Rich  
Our son, Steven Siegle

Krantz, Robert  
Beverly Ann Taylor

Kulkay, Glen  
My donor

Kurhajetz, Joanne  
Judy Cooper

Ladin, Karl and Lynn  
Joyce Baumer

Lent, Bob and Carole  
Marcia A. Nelson

Levin, Brenda and Arnold  
Vincent John Montanti

Liebl, Dianne  
W. Michael Liebl

Liedl, Tracy  
Darryn Liedl

Link, Bill and Pam  
Robert Manly

Longley, Nance  
Mike Thibodeau

Loven, Marlys  
My husband, Sheldon

Lund, Kim and Eric  
Steve Shank

Maier, Michael  
Frank Maier

Marcinkus, Roberta and Michael  
Carole Marcinkus

Margalith, Eli  
Ayal Margalith

Marjamaa, Otto  
Veronica Marjamaa

Martini, Joe and Tina  
Donors - Scott (1994), Shawn (2005)

Mayer, Darlene  
John H. Mayer

McDaniel, John C.  
Carol Jean McDaniel

Milbocker, Nancy  
Jerry Coger

Milner, Sue  
My dad, Louie Schacherer

Mitra Family Foundation  
Bani Mittra

Moxon, Richard and Jean  
Greg Moxon

Murphy, Michael  
Curtis Evans

Natale, Peter J.  
Bernard “Barney” Natale

Naumann, Dennis  
Dianne L. Naumann

Nelson, Sheila N.  
Brenda Elthon

Nemitz, Peggy  
Delores Nemitz

Oksness, Sharon  
John Jimenez

Olson, Shawn  
Mike Schuety

O’Toole-Martins, Peggy  
Dan Whalen

Overbeck, Theresa  
Duane L. Overbeck

Owens, Bernie  
John M. Owens

Panther, Mary and Michael  
Daniel Reeder
SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

MEMORIALS

Paynter, Katherine
Father, Burton Paynter and his lung donor, Carissa

Peterson, Geraldine
David E. Peterson

Phillips, Sherry
Paul R. Time

Plantenberg, Marlene
Mike Plantenberg

Pompeian, Jayne
Edward Pompeian and his mother, Helen, his donor

Pompeian, Nick, Rochelle and Nadia
Edward Pompeian

Potter, Bonnie and Chuck
Denise Kinlaw

Primrose, Beth
Dean Primrose

Quinn, Heidi
Sharon Weible

Rabb, Sarah
Richard (Dick) Rabb and Jan Lewis

Raboin, Sharon
Gail Craycroft

Ray, Shirley
Gerald (Jerry) Ray

Reller, Elizabeth
David Zaiser

Roehrick, Gary
Verna Gleason

Russell, Dale
Benita Manahan Russell

Saba, William
Renette Saba

Sagen, L. John and Kay
Christopher Benz

Schacherer, Shirley
Louie Schacherer

Schaffer, JoAnn
Richard R. Schaffer

Schoenecker, Eileen
My brother, Melvin Rothstein

Schroeder, Kathe
Wesley Schroeder

Schuhmacher, Kraig and Korla
Pam Jesse

Schupbach, Joseph and Mary
Jennifer Marilyn Miller

Schwarz, Dana
Phil Schwarz

Skosey, Linda
George A. Skosey

Smith, Ken and Pam
Marion Smith

Smith, Sally
Stacie Sipe Smith

Smith, Wendall and Mary
Margaret Smith Askew

Sparz, David
Sandra Sparz

Spies, Kris and Randy
Dan Whalen

Spurrier, Jerome and Patricia
Zach Mitchell

Stokan, Mack and Sharon
Beverly A. Taylor

Stroebel, Aileen and Mark
Leticia Stroebel

Svangst, Bob and Diane
Brian Svangst

Svoboda, Steve and Julie
Steve Brosnan

Swenson, Brian and Koren
Our anonymous liver donor

Thering, Curt
Sue Thering

Thiessen, Virginia
Gloyd Wellman

Thompson, Ryan and Cynthia
Mary Ann Leingang

Thronsedt, David and Sara
Lisa Thronsedt, who would have turned 50 this November - RIP our darling daughter

Tjerstad, Mary
Dave Tjerstad

Tofflemire, Nancy
Erin Tofflemire

Tofte, Georgianne
Vi Kaisershot

Tranberg, Judi
David Tranberg

Twete, Castle
Verna Gleason

Van Maaren, Lynn and Robert (Sadly, Lynn passed 10/10/21)
Jan Lewis

Vander Steen, Johanna
George Vander Steen

Wasvick, Randy and Marian
Arnold Foertsch and Marcella Twite

Watson, Judd
Steve Siegle

Weible, Westley
Sharon Weible - heart transplant 2006

Weixel, Barbara
My mother, Jean Wulff

Westacott, Richard
Idella Westacott

White, Laura
Michael White

Wiers, Jill
Courtney Kidd

Wilder, Mary
My dad, James Jacobson and Ed Pompeian

Wuttke, Sara
Marcella Twite

Zarnott, Marilyn
Karen Ostermann

Zurn, Marianne
Daniel W. Duffy
Tributes:

Anderson, Gary  
James Gordon, donor
Balbinot, Jodi  
Mary Mikkola
Baldwin, Denise  
Wayne Jelinek
Becker, Susan  
Todd Becker
Benters, Kathleen  
Elden Benters
Biller, Marcia  
Tom Biller
Books, Bonnie  
David Books
Bouska, Gary and Sue  
Gary Bouska
Boysen, Mr. & Mrs. Charles  
Jerry Bosco - pancreas transplant 2015
Brosseau, Robin  
My heart donor, Tina Ensfad
Browne, John and Patricia  
Sue, my donor and her husband Lloyd
Burnett, Sharon  
Kristin Burnett (new heart/new life on 1-27-2017)
Busch, Charles  
Steve Thurk
Bushman, Peter and Jayne  
My kidney donor, Maureen Kelley
Carey, Dan  
Steve Tarara
Chen, Kaiyu  
My unknown donor
Christenson, Sally J.  
Sally Christenson - BMT, 1997; Peggy Hanafin- my sister and donor
Churchwell, Susan  
Eli Churchwell- has had kidney transplant since November 16, 2000
Coco, Eugenio and De  
Rebekah Breitkreutz
Conger, Chester  
Virginia Jacobson
Cosio, Mary Jo  
Fernando Cosio - Donor (BMT), Kathy Schwab - Donor (Kidney), Sandra Bell - Recipient (BMT)
Cummings, Tom  
Sharon Cummings
Dale B. Jensen Estate  
Mark R. Larsen, heart recipient
Desrozier, Bob  
Tracy Gallo
Donnay, Mark  
Melissa Guetzkov
Ducart, Denise  
Ami Segna Jones
Elsasser, Jan  
Charlene Dietz
Erickson, Roger  
Lori Lange, donor
Evans, Ione  
Mark
Fawole, Tajudeen and Abejide  
My donor's family
Galligan, Vivian  
Anonymous Donors
Gatzlaff, Jay and Diane  
Jerry Wade - donor; Wyatt Wade - recipient
Giager, Michael  
Linda Giager
Gilland, Tim and Cathy  
Wayne and Angie Gilland
Graf, Glen and Karen  
Cheryl Nienhuis, Glen's kidney donor
Groth, Marsha  
Bruce Kinlund - Donor for Jennifer Neu
Hadacek, Mark  
Sharla Ann Hadacek who was my living donor
Hammernik, Bob  
Jan Harbold
Hanes, John W.  
Linda Willhite
Hanson, Tanya and Chad  
Gary and Eileen Melin
Hartman's  
Doug Hartman
Herman, Richard and Kay  
Rick Herman
Herrmann, Sandra  
Dr. Priya Alexander
Humphries, Betty  
Christine Smith
Isaac, Bob and Joanne  
My husband, Bob
Jeffries, Jane  
Ricky Fulks
Kelchen, Travis  
Travis Kelchen
Knudson, Leslie  
My son, Noah's kidney transplant
Konetski, Mary  
Susan E. Lam
Kramer, Linda and Randy  
Randy Kramer
Kramer, Rachel  
Randy Kramer
Kruse, Lynn  
My son and donor Steven McCluskey
Kurzawinski, John and Mary Anne  
Kelly N. Gardner
Larson, Kathy  
Kathy Larson
Larson, Richard  
Sue Larson and all caregivers
Lee, Annette L.  
Jerry K. Lee - who donated a kidney to me
Lee, Russell  
Russell C. Lee
Loven, Marlys  
Doug Loven, Sheldon's brother and donor
Marso, Bettie  
LeAnn Caulfield
Martin, David and Sharon  
Deanna Sobeck for donation of her kidney to her mother, Sharon Martin in 1991
McGuire, Leeann  
Carrie McGuire

The following are edits for our 2020 Newsletter. Our deepest apologies.

Tributes:  Byers, Keith and Connie  
Carol Fairbanks
SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

TRIBUTES

Meek, Pat
Love my brother, Jim Klunder, for being my bone marrow donor

Meiser, Matt
Dawn Wagner (My donor, My angel, 10-18-18)

Merlo, Pietro, Rosa and Sandi
Anna Bonfiglio Miller - Our kidney donor

Meyer, Lowell
Great place to heal!

Monk, Mary Ann
Susan Monk Kjos

Monroe, Kathleen
Earl and Verna Lawrence

Motzko, Shannon
Gavin Motzko

Muellner, Harry and Joanie
Paula Muellner

Myers, Mary
Donor, Darlene Perkins

Nelson, Ed
Dr. Taner, Mayo Clinic, Transplantation doctor (mine 4/2017)

Packard, Linda and Richard
Christine Packard Stevens (liver 1997)

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

Paynter, Katherine
My father’s donor, Carissa’s, family

Peterson, Linda
My husband, David Peterson - survivor, stem cell transplant 2011

Pizano, Miguel
Mimi Pizano

Pompeian, Jayne
Aaron, Ed’s donor

Pompeian, Nick, Rochelle and Nadia
Aaron Pompeian

Rasmussen, Donald
My 2 stem cell transplants using my own cells

Rathmann, Larry and Linda
Linda Rathmann

Roehrick, Shelly D.
Gary Roehrick, stem cell transplant 2019

Rowbal, Bob
Alan Rowbal

Sack, Ronald
Pam Hastings

Sann, Kevin
Eric Sann

Schierer, Beverly
Lynn Crumpacker

Schrager-Cole, Reissa
My husband, Stephan G. Cole, MD

Schroeder, Kathe
The Donors

Schultz, Sara
Ron and Chris Schultz

Skeen, Joe
Catherine Zaryczny

Snyder, Lynne E.
Bruce J. Snyder and unknown donor

Spychalla, Eva
Theresa Zellgert

Stephens, Paula
Pastor Tammy Barthels and Carol Peterson

Stewart, Sally
Ron Stewart’s stay for stem cell transplant

Stripling, Craig and Carol
Craig Stripling (Kidney Recipient times 2!), Jeff Stripling - donor, Jason Korne - donor, Katie Olson - donor

Sweeney, Dan
Brenda Sweeney (heart recipient 2/16/19)

Taylor, Regina G.
Gregory L. Taylor

Toltzman, Stacy L.
Julie Nicole Braulick - my kidney donor

Tostenrud, Steven and Pauline
Teresa Tostenrud-Hoff

Uphoff, Liz
My husband, Roger Uphoff

Van Dyke, Karleen
Lori Lynn Lange’s kidney donation to Henry C. Anderson

Vilmo, Greg
“The Caregivers of 2012”

Wenzel, Robert and Dorothy
Robert Wenzel

Whited, Gerald and Annette
Kevin Klein, Gerry’s donor

Wilhelmi, Rose
I lived at Gift of Life House for 3 months in 2008. Thank you for being there!

Wiers, Jill
Samantha and Ryleigh Wiers

Williams, Lisa
Ken and Elaine Williams

Wyffels, Mary
Wendy Ofedahl-Moya

Zincke, Herman and Diane
Greta Zincke - granddaughter
CONTRIBUTIONS

Anderson, Linda and Larry
Anderson, Paul and Susan
Anderson, Scott
Austin-Foote, Elke A.
Bandas, Joseph and Marjorie
Batten, Bruce and Chris
Bisek, Jerome and Bernice
Blonigen, Roman and Arlene
Blusiewicz, LouAnn
Bowen, Carol
Brown, Bruce
Brunsvold, Mavis
Crews, Robert
Dames, Robert
Degnim, Jim and Amy
Demaree, Barbara
Derrick, Bill and Jeanne
Dollerschell, Amy
Dorin, Judith and Michael
Dye, Robert E.
Eagle, Debbie
Eckes, Joyce M.
Eggler, Mrs. Burnell
Evans, Mark
Finger, Allen
Fleet, Zeke and Mary
Forbeck, Ken and Nancy
Forster, Corita
Ghess, Gwen
Gits, Gwen
Grahovac, Ann
Groenewold, Jerry
Gymrek, Stan and Cindy
Hanson, Bonnie
Harder, Rick
Harris, Rich
Hart, Sandra
Hauck, Galen and Diane
Haugerud, Wayne and Eileen
Hauer, Laura
Heikkinen, Sharon and Jerry
Heins, Rosemary
Hobernicht, Peggy
Holzer, Dave and Tess
Iffland, Stacey
Ims, Linda and Dennis
Jackson, John and Cheryl
Johanneck, David
Johnson, Clayton
Johnson, Daniel
Johnson, Helga and Dennis
Kadoun, Paul
Kappers, Kimberly
Kepnes, Judy and Joel
King, David
Krom, Drs. Ruud and Jeannette
Kuhlman, Jerry and Linda
Kukla, Aleksandra
Lang, Bill
Langel, Jeff and Charlotte
Larson, Jeffrey and Deborah
LaValley, Richard
Lee, Betty
Lee, Mary
Levene, J. Scott and Robyn
Lewis, Justin
Lin, Bor-Chian
McFarland, Thomas M.
McIntire, Jim and Sandy
Moga, Fred and Tammy
Moon, Frank
Moran, Frank and Debra
Murphy, Scott
Murray, Jim and Helen
Musselman, Kristin
Nelson, Jerry
Odom Ernest
Oien, Jeffrey
Olsen, Warren
Owen, Marty
Pfaff, Duane
Phillips, Frank
Priestley Jacalyn
Randby, Patricia
Regan, Gary and Cheryl
Reynolds, Randy
Riley, Terry
Rogers - Hartl, Laurie
Rush, John Quinn
Sabin, Geraldine
Schaber, Tamara
Schmidt, Diane
Schulzettenberge, Deb
Sieg, Bernette
Silber, Mike and Sandy
Silcox, Janessa and Erik
Skolte, Joe and Linda
Smith, Richard and Elizabeth
Snyder, Kathleen
Sterioff, Dr. Sylvester and Yvonne
Stowe, Doris
Swenson, David and Nancy
Taylor, John and Karen
Thames, Col. John W. Jr. and Sandy
Townsend - Anderson, Richard and Diane
Tribby, Karen
Uphoff, Elizabeth
Verbick, Donald
Walch, Anne
Watters, Wayne and Alice Smith
White, Diane
Wittrock, Florian and Diane
Woods & Associates, Inc.
Xiong, Vang
We are ecstatic to welcome our intern Baili to Gift of Life Transplant House!

For Baili’s fall semester as a senior at Luther College, she was required to spend a semester at an internship with an organization. They call this “The Rochester Semester”. While many of her classmates are at Mayo Clinic for their internship, Baili was the only student that was uniquely placed here at Gift of Life Transplant House.

Baili is a passionate musician who is majoring in Music with a minor in psychology. Her goal is to use her degree to bring joy and healing through music by working in the growing field of Music Therapy. While she is keeping her options open post graduation as she learns more about the non-profit world, she has been a wonderful addition to our team.

As an intern, she is rotating through each area of the house so she can learn the processes in place to keep Gift of Life Transplant House running efficiently. She is also learning the operations of a non-profit organization. Her first couple weeks were spent with housekeeping, to which she stated, "I've never felt more welcomed anywhere in my life."

After her time with our housekeepers, she was trained in with our receptionists and tour guides to fully grasp what makes Gift of Life Transplant House so special. She has really enjoyed her time thus far and is excited to continue working through the various areas of the house.

Her last few weeks will be spent doing music therapy for guests. She will have the opportunity to showcase her talents playing cello and piano.

Baili has quickly become a part of our Gift of Life Transplant Family and while we will be sad to see her leave, we are very excited to see all that she accomplishes. Her smile, charisma and kindness will certainly be missed!
You may not know Gary Hahn personally, but many of you have enjoyed the candy bars he supplies to the house! He donates the money he collects for these sweet treats back to Gift of Life.

Gary has an even stronger connection to Gift of Life Transplant House. In 2005, Gary had a pancreas transplant and stayed at Gift of Life Transplant House. He planted roses in honor of his transplant and this July, took a photo to share with us.

Roses are one of the oldest flowers known to man; their fragrance can be used in perfumes and they are edible! But what is most powerful is the meaning of the colors that Gary chose for his roses:

**Red means Love** – and there is no greater love than to give of oneself as his donor did.

**Pink symbolizes Gratitude** – and you have never met a more grateful person than Gary.

**White symbolizes a new beginning** – transplant marks the beginning of a new life.

**Yellow symbolizes friendship** – a quality that marks Gary and all of our guests at Gift of Life.

Thank you for sharing these beautiful photos with us, Gary!

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**HOUSE HAPPENINGS**

**FACILITIES**

Yard work became a little bit easier this summer with the donation of a **SIMPLICITY RIDING MOWER** from Hammell Equipment! We are so grateful for this donation!

Thank you to Altra Federal Credit Union and their **ALTRA GIVES BACK** program three volunteers spent the morning with us in October cutting back foliage and getting the grounds ready for fall and winter!

**NEW CARPETING** has been placed in the “Fireside Room” at 724! This carpet gives the whole room a fresh facelift!

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**OPERATIONS**

Our excitement over new mattresses at the 705 house was a bit short-lived when we learned that these mattresses did not hold up well. Thanks to **FURNITURE SUPERSTORE IN ROCHESTER**, the mattresses will be exchanged for better quality mattresses! We are so fortunate to have great support from our local vendors.

**THANKSGIVING** at Gift of Life Transplant House has looked a bit different since COVID. Nonetheless, we will once again be providing a Thanksgiving meal for our guests and caregivers this year. The meals will be individually packaged to ensure safety and will include dessert!
I didn’t receive the “artisan” gene! My mother had it; my sister inherited it; but alas, I did not! That adds a special layer of delight when we have guests and caregivers that are skilled and incredibly creative artisans! From hand-crafted benches to hand-made quilts to paintings, carvings and sculptures, evidence of the creativity of our guests and caregivers can be seen at both houses! Roger Uphoff and his wife, Liz, are artisans! Roger is a heart transplant recipient and first showed us a small rock he had painted. It was beautifully done and during their next visit, Roger brought a number of rocks he had created and displayed on the East Deck at the Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home! But at their most recent visit in September, Roger brought us an angel sculpture he had made from horseshoes! Our lovely iron angel now sits on the mantle on the f replace at the Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home!
Where Love Lives
The many ways to show your support

From the moment you walk through the front door, you can tell – this is a place where love lives. It is evident when guests and caregivers greet one another at the end of a long day, listening intently to fears and triumphs. It is evident when a “seasoned” caregiver gently shows a new caregiver the ropes in the kitchen. And it was evident when guests and caregivers saw the blue and green ribbons that adorned the front porches during September! For guests staying at the house, those ribbons are a very real reminder that this is a place where love lives!

•• Ways Love Can Grow ••

Your support of our guests, caregivers and Gift of Life Transplant House can take many forms and we have listed a few here.

Cash/Check Donations
Many of you generously support Gift of Life Transplant House via cash or check.

Credit Card Donations
You may prefer to make your donation via our website by going to www.gift-of-life.org/make-a-donation.

Wish List Donations
Providing goods used frequently by guests and caregivers is another way to support us. Go to www.gift-of-life.org/make-a-donation, scroll to the bottom of the page and review our wish list.

AmazonSmile
If you use Amazon frequently for purchases, consider using AmazonSmile. Rather than going to Amazon.com, go to Smile.Amazon.com. Simply use your current login information. You will be given the opportunity to choose your charity! Choose Gift of Life, Inc! A portion of each purchase will be donated by Amazon directly to Gift of Life.

Facebook Fundraiser
Have a birthday or a special celebration coming up? Create a Facebook Fundraiser and ask friends and family to support Gift of Life in honor of your special day. Donations are sent to Gift of Life via Network for Good!

Gift of Stock
You may choose to donate appreciated shares of stock to Gift of Life. Please feel free to contact Mary Wilder, Executive Director, for more information. Her number is 507-951-0061.

IRA Gifts
If you are 70 ½ or older, you may make a qualified donation from your IRA. Contact your financial planner for more information.

Dedicate a Paver
A cobblestone paver is a wonderful way to commemorate a loved one or special day! Go to www.gift-of-life/tributes to download a tribute form.

For More Opportunities to Make Love Grow,
Visit www.gift-of-life.org
1ST ANNUAL GIFT OF LIFE CAR SHOW

Hover with your phone camera to watch a recap of our 2021 Car Show!

GIFT OF LIFE 5K

TerraLoco hosted our Gift of Life 5k and raised over $5,000 to purchase a commercial treadmill for both gyms!
Altra Federal CU Employees volunteering for Altra Gives Back Day.

A group of Nursing Externs hosting an Ice Cream Social for our guests.

Past guest, Linda Kramer, presenting a donation from AgCountry Farm Credit Services.

Walkers at the Timmy 5k carrying the Donate Life Flag.

Golf Ball ‘Cannon Launcher’ at our Gift of Life Golf Tournament

Volunteers at our Annual Golf Tournament.

Bruce (pictured) donating wish list items that he, his wife, Tina, and their community collected.

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

Golf Ball “Cannon Launcher” at our Gift of Life Golf Tournament

Past guest, Linda Kramer, presenting a donation from AgCountry Farm Credit Services.

A group of Nursing Externs hosting an Ice Cream Social for our guests.

Altra Federal CU Employees volunteering for Altra Gives Back Day.

Amy Strike with Winona Agency presenting a donation from Blue Cross Blue Shield.

The Tim Rasmusson Foundation presenting a check for $30,500!

Thank you to our Corporate Partners for making this year a success!

www.facebook.com/giftoflifetransplanthouse
@GiftOfLifeTransplantHouse #GiftOfLifeTransplantHouse
www.linkedin.com/company/giftof-lifetransplant-house/
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.

2021 CORPORATE PARTNERS

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Thank you to our additional partners for supporting us this year!

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Thank you to our additional partners for supporting us this year!