

SHARING THE

FALL/WINTER 2020

gift
gift of life



GIFT OF LIFE
TRANSPLANT HOUSE
A HOME THAT HELPS
AND HEALS



Life Is A Beautiful Melody

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!



GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE WISH LIST



- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ♦ \$30 for a guest room night | ♦ Scrubbing Bubbles |
| ♦ Regular & Decaffeinated coffee | ♦ Soft Scrub |
| ♦ Wrapped Candy | ♦ Toilet bowl cleaner |
| ♦ Gift Cards to Wal-Mart, Target, or Hy-Vee | ♦ Tupperware |
| ♦ Forever postage stamps | ♦ Storage containers |
| ♦ Gallon Ziploc Bags | ♦ New Commercial Vacuum Cleaners |
| ♦ Napkins | ♦ Hand Sanitizer |
| ♦ Paper Towels | ♦ Lysol Spray |
| ♦ Facial Tissues | ♦ Disinfectant Wipes |
| ♦ Toilet Paper | |

Find our Amazon Wish List and links to items on our Website.

TOGETHER WE CAN

Navigating COVID-19 at Gift of Life Transplant House

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. Bliler

Clement, Nancy

Kaitlyn Griffin

Conine, Stacy

My late wife, Ameer 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) Cogger

Margalith, Eli and Michal

Ayal Margalith

Martin, Jr., Fred and Sharon

Father, Fred Martin Sr.

Martini, Joseph and Tina

Scott (1994), Shawn (2005)

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, Eleanore

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

Polsfut, 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

Thronsedt, David and Sara

Lisa Thronsedt, 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 Siegle

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*

TRIBUTES

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
*Al 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, Ione
*All recipients who are so blessed to
have the transplant house for
recuperation*

Evenson, David and Shirley
Martha Evenson 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
Dan 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

SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

TRIBUTES

Jeffries, Jane <i>Ricky Fulks</i>	Matson, Melvin and Suzanne <i>My kidney donor, Darren Matson</i>	Stripling, Craig and Carol <i>3 donors - Jeff Stripling, Jason Korn, and Katie Olson</i>
Johnson, Mark and Leslie <i>LuAnne Lemke</i>	McGlothlin, Bernice <i>Richard Greff</i>	Swenson, Dan and Bonnie <i>Dan Swenson</i>
Jopp, Annette <i>My 29-yr liver tx anniversary</i>	Meek, Patricia <i>My bone marrow donor, Jim Klunder and in honor of me.</i>	Taylor, John and Karen <i>John Taylor</i>
Kenworthy, Wendy <i>Lynnette Nash</i>	Meeks, Tom and Ann <i>Matt Heisler</i>	Thering, Curtis <i>Tammy Schefers, liver donor; Mayo staff; Gift of Life; the Life to Live Liver Transplant Pioneers</i>
Kessler, Tiffany and Kurt <i>Tiffany Kessler</i>	Minnich, Lois <i>Chris Murray, my donor</i>	Thurrow, Robert and Colleen <i>My daughter Melissa Lyle who donated her kidney to me</i>
Kilpatrick, Dr. Patrick and Diana <i>Adrienne Pompeian and family</i>	Monk, Mary Ann <i>Susan Monk as donor</i>	Tostenrud, Steven and Pauline <i>Teresa Hoff</i>
Knudson, Rebecca and Les <i>Noah Knudson</i>	Mraz, Sharon <i>Roger Mraz</i>	Tremmel, Anthony and Mary Jo <i>In appreciation for everyone at Gift of Life</i>
Koetter, Mike and Mary <i>Michael Koetter (recipient); Ralph Koetter (donor)</i>	Myers, Mary and Tim <i>Donor, Darlene Perkins</i>	Trosine, Karin <i>Gene Trosine</i>
Konetski, Mary <i>Susan E. Lam</i>	Nielsen, Dawn and Steve <i>Dawn M. Nielsen</i>	Van Dyke, Karleen <i>Lori Lynn Lange</i>
Krebsbach, Keith and Sherri <i>Amanda Krebsbach Vierling</i>	O'Keefe, Mike and Donna <i>Mike O'Keefe</i>	Vilmo, Greg <i>Allen Watanabe, Bennie Allen, Dianna Dotson, Ginger Holmes, Jayne Pompeian</i>
Kruse, Lynn and Ray <i>My son and donor, Steven McCluskey</i>	Olson, Carrie Ann <i>Annette Odlund, Larry Olson's daughter and kidney donor</i>	Wahlberg, Richard and Dana <i>My loving husband, Rick Wahlberg</i>
Lassiter, Amy <i>Daniel Hardy</i>	Ortega, Arthur and Kim Klepetka <i>Robert Ortega</i>	Weathers, Thomas and Mary <i>My wife and caregiver, Mary Weathers</i>
LeDuc, Jacob <i>Gary LeDuc</i>	Packard, Richard and Linda <i>Christine Packard Stevens</i>	Weishaupt, Delores <i>Don Schmidgall</i>
Lee, Jerry and Annette <i>Annette Lee</i>	Palko, Greg and Connie <i>The Mayo Stem Cell Transplant Team</i>	Wells, Roger and Carole <i>Daughter Emily Buck PKD donor & Sandy Toomey my donor</i>
Lewis, Justin <i>John & Christina Livengood, Sarah Rabb, Aaron Pompeian, Dan and Pat Cruser, Pat Monplaisir, 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</i>	Patrick, Dr. Herbert and Paula <i>Adam (AJ) Patrick</i>	Whitbeck, Ronald <i>Myself, Ronald E. Whitbeck. I was a guest in Jan 2013</i>
Ligon, Jack <i>Charles Ligon</i>	Pavlicek, Geraldine <i>My son, Dan who was recipient of a Liver Transplant</i>	White, Jana <i>Becky McGuire</i>
Liverman, Hillary <i>Daniel Hardy</i>	Peak, Frank and Renee <i>Greg Selley</i>	Williams, Ken and Elaine <i>Lisa Williams, donor of 9-yr anniversary kidney tx</i>
Logie, Al and Pam Chambers <i>Al Logie</i>	Peshut, Annie <i>All Who Stay At GOL</i>	Williams, Lisa <i>Ken and Elaine Williams</i>
Lohmeyer, Charles and Ellen <i>Wayne Lohmeyer</i>	Pompeian, Nick and Rochelle <i>Kidney Donor, Aaron Pompeian</i>	Wirth, Sue <i>Andrew Wirth</i>
Loven, Marlys <i>Sheldon's donor and brother, Doug</i>	Quam, James <i>Jean Kohut</i>	Young, Robert <i>Heart transplant 17 years out</i>
Lynn, Rachel <i>Heidi Nauman and Family</i>	Ridgeway, Lowell and Pamela <i>Kristen Oesterreich</i>	Zarnott, Wayne and Marilyn <i>Arlen Ostermann</i>
MacDonald, Jean <i>Mike Scheuerman</i>	Schroeder, Kathe <i>Wesley Schroeder's donors</i>	Zoller, Terry <i>Becky McGuire</i>
Marso, Bettie <i>LeAnn Caulfield, double transplant patient 1988</i>	Schultz, Sara <i>Ron and Chris Schultz</i>	
	Stewart, Ron and Sally <i>Ron Stewart</i>	
	Striefel, Randy and Karen <i>Randy Striefel</i>	

CONTRIBUTIONS

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



CREATIONS TO INSPIRE

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

House Happenings

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.



ADJUST YOUR TRAJECTORY

"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

" There's so many things you don't expect, like the relationships you build. I honestly think I'll befriends with them for the rest of our lives."

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 revels 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.



ROD ANDERSON MEMORIAL AWARD 2020

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!



Meet Otto & Veronica

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.



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Offering Hope & Healing

Gift of Life
TRANSPLANT HOUSE
Rochester, MN
Est. 1984



TRAILS4TRANSPLANTS

• GOES VIRTUAL •

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!



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.



2020



Tami making ribbons for our September Tributes.



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



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



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



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



Gift of Life Golf Tournament



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



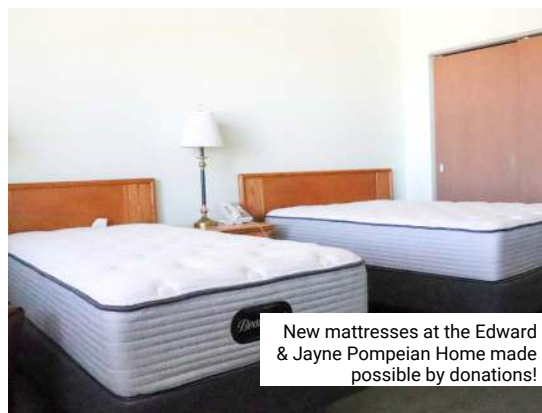
Gavin donating pop tabs during his annual appointments.



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



Past guests, Jamee and Ray donating supplies from our wish list.



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



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



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!



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www.linkedin.com/company/gift-of-life-transplant-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.



Support Our Mission

2020 CORPORATE PARTNERS

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SPECIALTY
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KRAUS-ANDERSON®

FRIEND



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