A NEWSLETTER OF GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE

# SHARING THE gift

FALL/WINTER 2024

gift of life

GIFT OF LIFE
TRANSPLANT HOUSE

A HOME THAT HELPS
AND HEALS



## The Power of a Name

*By Mary Wilder*

I have always disliked my name! It means "sea of bitterness", "sorrow" or "rebelliousness". I never felt as though the name came even close to describing me! When I was born, my mother and father disagreed on what they should name me, so my first name is my mother's and my middle name is my father's. Mary Lee – ugh! Yet the sweetest sound I hear every day is when one of our guests or caregivers calls out "Mary!" when they return to the house!

Nurilign Haileyesus has a name that many of us would shy away from trying to pronounce, but he is proud of it! His first name is pronounced "nur-e(long e)-lean" and his last name is pronounced "Haley" (like the comet) and "ezeus" without an emphasis on the z. In 2011, he and his wife, Amelework (a-mel-a-work) came to the United States from Ethiopia. To immigrate from Ethiopia, individuals may participate in the Diversity Visa program, which allows 55,000 visas to be available in an annual lottery. For many years, Amelework and Nurilign had applied but in 2011 they "won" the lottery along with two uncles, and they were able to come to the United States.

It wasn't difficult to transition to life in the United States. They had relatives who had already settled in Minnesota, and

they found a lot of help from their family. They were without work for 3-4 months after arriving and then Nurilign was able to find a job as a taxi driver. They arrived in Minnesota in March, having never seen snow. Surprisingly, they weren't as bothered by the cold as one might think – Nurilign says that Ethiopia also has four seasons – winter is very hot and dry and summer is rainy and quite cold. Fall and spring are transitions between those seasons, just as it is here. The seasons are reversed in Ethiopia from the US – their summer is our winter!



NURILIGN AND AMELEWORK SITTING ON THE FRONT PORCH

In 2016, Nurilign and Amelework were able to return to Ethiopia to visit family and it was during that trip that Nurilign noticed a difference in his health. Often, they would need to walk 30 minutes or so to get from one village to another and he noticed that he was "very, very tired" after just 30 minutes of walking. He had never had problems walking before, and he thought he was just feeling a bit worn out.

When they returned to the US, Nurilign developed pneumonia. He was treated for that and thought he was on the mend. But on Christmas Eve 2016, he began feeling very tired again, and as he was shoveling, he noticed he was sweating profusely. He and Amelework went to urgent care but there was no evidence that the pneumonia had returned. The doctor ordered some blood work and discovered that his hemoglobin was very low and urged Nurilign to go by ambulance to the hospital. At the time, Amelework did not drive, so Nurilign drove both of them to the hospital himself. He was admitted and during the course of treatment, was visited by an oncologist. A bone marrow biopsy revealed he had myelodysplastic syndrome, a form of blood cancer.

He made the decision to come to Mayo Clinic and on July 18, 2024, he received a bone marrow transplant. October 29, 2024, will be his last appointment at Mayo Clinic and determination will be made if he can return home. Since they live closer to Rochester than many, they may be able to go back and forth. Amelework now has her driver's license and is working part-time at United Hospital.

Nurilign and Amelework have 2 young children who are staying with relatives during their time here. Amelework reports they are doing OK but miss their mom and dad very much. "It is not easy to be a caregiver", she says. "I am away from my children, and it is difficult to see someone you love in pain and struggling to get better."

The name Haileyesus means "power of Jesus" and is deeply rooted in Ethiopian culture and language. It is a powerful symbol of faith and identity among Ethiopians. It continues to be a cherished and respected name, representing a legacy of strength. And so it is with Nirilign. He can often be seen walking and regaining his energy. He always has a ready smile. Amelework is often in the kitchen, and she is always ready for a quick chat. They have become cherished members of the Gift of Life family and comment on how much they have enjoyed staying here. He and Amelework are members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and have a strong faith. As Amelework puts it, "God is God all the time."

Nurilign and Amelework have carved their names on our hearts and reminded us of the power of a name!

**"They have become cherished members of the Gift of Life family..."**




# Gift of Life Pediatric Transplant House Progresses Slowly

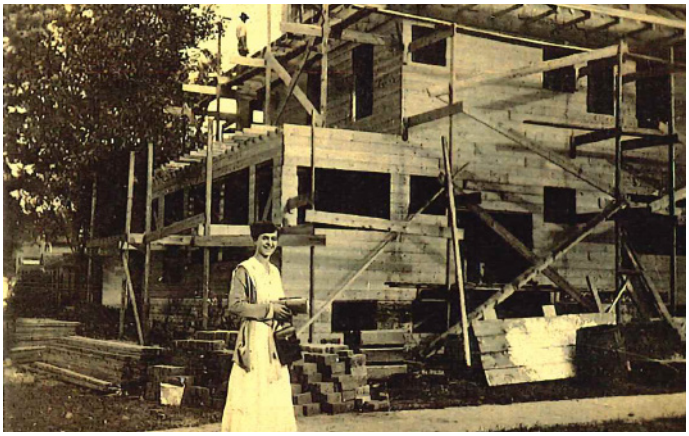
For any of you who have renovated a kitchen, bathroom or home, you understand that progress doesn't always happen as planned. That has been the case with our pediatric house!

In the midst of that frustration, however, as I was going through old papers from Sister Margeen, I discovered a letter written to her by the grandson of the original owner of the house and wanted to share it with you.

"My grandfather designed the house at 624 W. Center St. They were displaced from their home on Franklin Street, located where the west door of the Kahler Hotel is now when the Kahler Corporation acquired the properties on that block.

One of the great features was the sun porch across the front of the house. It was filled with plants and white wicker furniture with colorful cushions. Between it and the living room were a set of double windows, allowing the light to come in.

The year was 1917 and my mother, Mary, who was 18, and her brother Ambrose, who was 21, were still living at home. In the next year he went to war and was killed in the Argon Forest of France. One other brother, William, built a home just behind this house facing 7th Ave.



"624" HOUSE BEING BUILT IN 1917

The house had 5 bedrooms on the second floor. The third floor was finished off as one huge open room as a future game room for Ambrose.

The house was among the first with a "rodent proof" and moisture proof basement. My grandfather was a stern German and very particular about details. More than one load of lumber was returned to the Dodge lumber company because there were defects in the wood. He would not tolerate any knots or other wood imperfections, regardless of where in the house it would be used. The roof was imported tile and guaranteed for the life of the house. The last time I drove by the house, the roof looked to be in fine condition. The finished woodwork was called "fumed oak" and is truly beautiful.

My mother was married in that house on June 2, 1920, and she and my father built their home at 1301 W. Center St. My mother, Mary, died at Madonna Towers in the fall of 1991. She and my grandparents would be very proud of the dignity the house retains after so many years.
The yard was edged by a hedge and filled with

flowers. The side yard separated from the house next door by a row of 6 lilac bushes. There were 3 apple trees in the yard. The front steps were framed with wild ferns and hydrangeas which bloomed across the front of the house."

After Jacob passed away, his widow rented various rooms in the house to schoolteachers, then to nurses coming to Mayo Clinic for further training and finally in the last 6 years to fellows doing their residencies at the Clinic. She managed the house herself until she was 85 and in 1948, sold the house. The house was subsequently sold to the Diocese of Winona to house 24 of the teaching nuns at Lourdes High School, which was right across the street. After the new convent was built, the house was sold to Sheriff Cunningham and his wife.

The challenges we are experiencing are consistent with a house built in 1917.



Pictured L – R – Sherman Molde, Red Stoohs, Judd Reifsnyder, Bob Browning; Seated – Sheriff Jerry Cunningham

•We discovered a small bit of structural damage that required help from a structural engineer and has been repaired.
•The waterproof basement unfortunately sprang a few leaks! We excavated around the entire foundation, added waterproofing and a new look for the exposed foundation.
•As we were excavating, we discovered that the side entrance foundation was completely inadequate. The structural engineer was contacted again and since we did not know the condition of a cement slab underneath, the decision was made to dismantle the entry way, retaining the roof and rebuilding it.
The good news:

•Plumbing is completed.
•Electrical is completed.
•Drywalling has begun!
•Floors may be refinished in December.
If this schedule continues, we are hopeful that the house will be opened in early spring, completely furnished and ready to accept the first pediatric families!

As the end of his letter to Sister Margeen, Don wrote a blessing, and I hope we will read it at the Grand Opening of this house:

"May all who come to this house know that it was constructed with great care, lived in with abiding love, and vacated reluctantly after being a family home and a refuge for many years to many people."

What a legacy for the Gift of Life Pediatric Transplant House!







# Max the Match on Give to the Max Day

**November 21, 2024**

**The week before Thanksgiving each year, GiveMN hosts a day-long fundraising event, designed to place a focus of thankfulness on the many non-profits operating in the State of Minnesota.**

**Gift of Life Transplant House participates each year, but this year, DBS Group, a design build construction company in Rochester, is launching its own campaign to coincide with Give to the Max Day.**

**I met Jeff Anneke, the Vice President of Business Development at DBS Group when I first came to Rochester. Jeff came over and toured our Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home and was so moved by the mission of the house, the DBS Group have been wonderful friends ever since, supporting us in a number of ways!**

**Max the Match is the concept of the DBS Group and Jeff. They are including 2 other nonprofits in the campaign – Paws and Claws and Boys and Girls Club. The first part of the campaign is the match – DBS Group will match up to $3,000 of all donations received on Give to the Max Day. The second part of the campaign is to measure the organization having the most engaged donors – meaning the organization having the most individuals participating in Give to the Max Day will receive another $3,000!!**

**I had the privilege of interviewing Jeff to learn more about what prompted this generous campaign. You can watch that interview by scanning the QR code here:**

TO SCAN QR CODE: Open phone's camera app, hover over the QR code, and follow the link that appears on your screen.

Mark your calendars for this special day! Watch Facebook and Instagram for reminders. To participate on November 21st, go to www.givemn.org/organization/Gift-Of-Life-8

# You Did It!

While we didn't have quite 4,000 ribbons on our porches, because of you and your generosity, September Tribute Month 2024 raised the second largest amount of funds ever! There were bows everywhere on our railings! What is so meaningful is that we know that each bow represents a story of love, courage and hope. This newsletter tells the story of the impact of your generosity, 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 4,200 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

**Anderson, Winnie**
*Becky Neal's Donor*

**Audette, Richard**
*Beverly Audette*

**Axelsen, Patrica**
*Don Truman*

**Babb, Paula**
*Curtis W. Babb*

**Barlow, Michelle**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Batten, Christine L.**
*Bruce A. Batten*

**Bauer, David & Luann**
*Anne Dalstad*

**Baumler, Floyd**
*Joyce Baumler*

**Bech, Marty & Judy Rowe**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Becicka, Meredith**
*Milo Curtiss*

**Beck, Larry & Carol**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Benson, Lois**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Bernier, David & Tammy**
*Mary Denise Wells*

**Berning, Karen M. & Bruce W. Yeager**
*Gail Bakeberg*

**Biegert, Lisa**
*Craig Biegert*

**Bieringer, Jan**
*John E. Bieringer Jr.*

**Bilek, Pat & Family**
*Robert Tolman*

**Binder, Pamella & Chuck**
*Dr. Stephen Textor*

**Boyer, Christine**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Brown, Lori**
*Eugene (Gene) Brown*

**Brown, Rayma**
*Howard Brown*

**Brunnette, Lisa**
*Thomas Goossen*

**Burchett, Cindy**
*Jack Erbele*

**Burke, Dave & Michelle**
*Mary Brent*

**Butschi, Kathleen H.**
*Kenneth Russell*

**Carlson, Pam**
*Bob Carlson*

**Chappell-Engelhardt Family**
*Daryl & Rita Engelhardt*

**Christenson, Jo & Jerry**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Cofell, Elaine**
*Neil B. Cofell*

**Conrad, Jenny**
*Rex Idlewine*

**Cornelius, Leo**
*Mary Ellen Cornelius*

**Cottrell, Cathy**
*Brian Cottrell*

**Curtis, Joe & Lisa**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Dahlquist, Linda**
*Richard Dahlquist*

**Dalstad, Ken**
*Anne Dalstad*

**Deshler, Amy**
*Sr. Margeen Hoffmann*

**Dickey, Loretta M.**
*Effie Kimp*

**Dietz, Charlene**
*Chuck Elberg*

**Dockter, Pat**
*Jessica Hulm - My Daughter*

**Donato, Mary Margaret**
*Louis Donato*

**Donze, Michael & Catherine**
*Travis Donze*

**Dorner, Ronald J.**
*Vicky A. Dorner*

**Droessler, Tom**
*Andy Droessler*

**Ducharme, Sandra Schultz**
*Gelene Schultz Rohr*

**Dunn, Sonja & Meridith**
*Wendy Sather*

**Easterhaus, Eldrid & Carol**
*Don Malson*

**Eggebraaten, Kimberly**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Elthon, Dwight**
*Brenda I Elthon*

**Enge, Pat**
*Allen Enge*

**Erickson, Roger**
*Henry Anderson, recepient*
*John Carter*
*Phil Strom*

**Erickson, Roger & Sandy Hart**
*Sarah Kaplan*



**Evans, Mark & Michele**
*In memory to all that have given life.*

**Ewoldt, Lori & Scott Eitel**
*Loren & Pauline Ewoldt*

**Falkenstein, Jane**
*Eugene (Gene) Falkenstein*

**Faux, Janean**
*Konner Dale Faux*

**Felsenthal, Leah**
*Gilbert J. Mamer*

**Fichera, Beverly**
*Joan Fichera*

**Fisher, Bonnie L.**
*Charles L. Fisher*

**Frandson, Kris**
*Kurt Olson*

**Gentry, Eric & Ruth Ann Striegel**
*Don Malson*

**Geroux, Lois I.**
*Rick Geroux*

**Gilje, Paul**
*Anne Dalstad*

**Gilliatt, Jackie & Gary**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Glaesman, Rochelle**
*Jack Erbele, Lehr, ND*

**Glenna, Vickie**
*Bernadine Syverson - Care Giver*

**Grounds Jack & Jill**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Gugulis, Kathy**
*Ruth Kellogg*

**Hafner, Michael**
*Bob Tolman*

**Hahn, Gary R.**
*Randi Merfeld*

**Haley, Debra**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Halstrom, Gina**
*Sandra Sexton - Kidney Transplant Recipient*

**Hanson, Freya & John**
*Sharon Buffington*

**Hanson, Tanya**
*Gary Melin*

**Halverson, Wayne & Sandra**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Hardesty, Sandi**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Hartz, Phyllis & Jeff**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Harmon, Jane**
*Anne Dalstad*

**Hensler, Nancy**
*Michael Lanasa*

**Hesselman, Holly**
*Jon A. Fredricksen*

**Hetland, Daniel & Alana**
*Gil Mamer*

**Hickman, Michael**
*Michael & Sharon Hickman*

**Hills, Carol**
*Jared Hills*

**Hoech, Gary**
*Peter Christian Hoech*

**Hoffert, Kenneth**
*Ardyce Hoffeert*

**Home Federal Savings Bank & Barbara Butts Williams**
*John McKay Willams*

**Holzer, Tess**
*Dave Holzer & Sharon Martin*

**Horgen, Grace**
*Charles Selander*

**Hosman, Gloria**
*Jerald Hosman*

**Hubacek, Michael**
*Rita Hubacek - my wife*

**Huff, Carol & Mike**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Hulstein, Shirley**
*Wayne Hulstein*

**Isobe, Amy**
*John Isobe*
*Marge Richardson*

**Jacobson, Therese & Craig**
*Sue Sands*

**Jam, Mark & Kimberly**
*Greg Lawton*

**Jarvi, Thomas**
*Gilbert Mamer*

**Johnson, Sandi**
*Kay Schmidt*

**Kile, Beverly**
*John Lutzka*

**Klahr, Inga**
*Garrett Klahr*

**Kluckman, Delores**
*Virgil Binfet*

**Knabe, Susan**
*Russ Rains*

**Knott, Irene**
*Paul Machart*

**Kocharian, Armen**
*Ed Pompeian*

# SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

## MEMORIALS CONTINUED

**Koperski, Judy & Rich**
*Steven Siegle - son*

**Lacher, Mary**
*Gerald Lacher*

**Ladin, Karl & Lynn**
*Joyce Baumler*

**Langworthy, Doug & Vicki**
*DeElda Williams*

**Larson, William & Marilyn**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Latterell, Dale**
*Steve Isaacson*

**Lawler, John**
*James Lerberg, Kidney Recipient*

**Lee, Mary Ann**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Lee, Rick & Jean**
*Edward Pompeian*

**Lee, Russell**
*LeRoy Lee*

**Lent, Carole & Robert**
*Marcia Ann (Clemetsen) Nelson*

**Lepp, MW & RM**
*Jack Erbele*

**Liechty, Curtis & Rachel**
*Anne Dalstad*

**Lien, Scott**
*Christine Ann Lien*

**Lovaas, Timm**
*Gail Lovaas*

**Loven, Marlys**
*My husband - Sheldon Loven*

**Lund, Kim & Eric**
*Steve Shank*

**Magnuson, Kenneth**
*Sherry Beckman*
*Shirley Magnuson*
*Nancy Nietz*

**Maier, Michael**
*Frank Maier*

**Maranda, Mike**
*Troy Matus*

**Marcinkus, Roberta & Michael**
*Carole Marcinkus*

**Martini, Joe**
*My two donors,*
*Scott - July 15, 1994*
*Shawn - February 2, 2005*

**Mathison, Allan & Paula**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Maul, Wanda L.**
*William R. Maul*

**Mazur, Amy**
*Kathy Barrett*

**McDaniel, John C.**
*Carol J. McDaniel*

**McIntire, Jim & Sandy**
*Erika K. Stirneman*

**Mell, Susan & John**
*John Walsh*

**Melville, Sandy**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Messelt, Em**
*Ron Messelt*

**Metz, Leo**
*Connie Metz*

**Milbocker, Nancy**
*Jerome (Jerry) Coger*

**Miller, Jeff & Deb**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Miller, JoAnn**
*Robert "Bob" F. Tolman*

**Milner, Sue**
*Louie Schacherer (my dad)*

**Molstad, Maradith**
*Judith L. Sloan*

**Morin, Brenda**
*Clifford Bad Moccasin - my brother, kidney transplant*

**Moxon, Richard & Jean**
*Greg Moxon*

**Muller, Brad**
*Ruth Muller*

**Nagel, Brady**
*Jack Erbele*

**Olson, Kevin**
*David J. Lien*

**Olthoff, Diane**
*Rich Olthoff*

**Overbeck, Theresa**
*Duane Overbeck*

**Parker, Brenda**
*Chuck Parker*

**Parta, Janet**
*Mike Parta*

**Patrick, John & Wanda**
*Brian John Patrick*

**Polinski, JoAnn & The Birthday Babes**
*Ardus Schwartz*

**Polsfut, Shannon & Elaine**
*Nancy Moen*

**Pompeian, Jayne**
*Ed Pompeian*
*Helen Pompeian*

**Pompeian, Rochelle, Nick, Nadia, & Lydia**
*Ed Pompeian*

**Porter, Family**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Rabb, Sarah**
*Dick Rabb & Jan Lewis*

**Raboin, Shady**
*Gail Craycroft*

**Rau, Elizabeth**
*Thomas Rau*

**Reed, Greg & Char**
*Robert Freeman*

**Renner, Ethel**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Ringhofer, Sharon**
*Ronald Ringhofer*

**Rivinius, Ron & Marian**
*Jack Erbele*

**Roise, John**
*Susan Roise*

**Rowbal, Robert**
*Ann Marie Rowbal*

**Rustad, Candi & Ross**
*Ed Pompeian*

**Rysavy, Kathy & Craig**
*Jack Erbele*

**Saba, Bill**
*Danette Saba*

**Schacherer, Shirley**
*Louie Schacherer #98*

**Schell, Anne**
*Paul R. Schell*

**Schultz, Steve & Nita**
*Anne Dalsted*

**Sherman, Margaret (Peg)**
*Dr. Stephen Textor*
*Arlene Wenzel*

**Smars, Miriam**
*Dr. Peter Smars*

**Smith, Ken & Pam**
*Marion Smith*

**Smith, Sally**
*Shelly Smith*

**Sobolewski, Jane**
*Ron Cline*

**Stamm, Nancy**
*Anne Dalstad*

**Steinbach, Susan**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Stephens, Paula**
*Sharon Martin*

**Stewart, Sally & Todd**
*Ronald S. Stewart*

**Taylor, Don**
*Beverly Taylor*

**Taylor, Lewis & Monica**
*Patrick Lynch*

**Thering, Curt**
*Sue Thering - Live Liver Transplant #3 - Year 2000*

**Thesing, Monica**
*Colette Mary Thesing*

**Tjerstad, Mary**
*David Tjerstad*

**Tranberg, Judi**
*David Tranberg*

**Ubben, Kathryn**
*Estate of Stan Ubben*

**Van Maaren, Robert**
*Lynn Van Maaren*
*Jan Lewis*

**Vickers, Stacy & Travis**
*Robert Tolman*

**Vogt, Steven & Carla Myhre-Vogt**
*Anne Dalstad*

**Wallin, John & Evie**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Weathers, Mary & Weathers Giving Back**
*Thomas Weathers*

**Webb, Nancy**
*Fred Fibeger*

**Weible, Wes**
*Sharon Weible*

**Weisenburger, Marc**
*Carolyn Weisenburger*

**Weiss, Joyce**
*Glenn Hardesty*

**Weixel, Barbara**
*Jean Wulf*

**Welding, Lynee'**
*Wade W. Welding*

**Westacott, Richard**
*Adella Westacott*

**Wilder, Mary**
*My dad and my sister*

**Willis, Rita**
*Harry G. Willis, Jr.*

**Worley, Deborah S.**
*Ronnie C. Worley*

**Young, Elisabeth**
*Robert Yao-Jou Young*

**Zeigler-Glick, Lois**
*Shirley L. Schwab*

**Zimmerman, Isaac**
*Jack Erbele*

## New Staff



**Steve Kuno**
Custodian



**Victoria Olivares**
Housekeeper



**Terri Peterson**
Housekeeper

**"The house becomes a home away from home for many. There is a great opportunity to build relationships, make friends, share medical stories and most of all know that you are not alone in the health adventure and or battle to regain or redeem your physical health."**

**-Gift of Life Guest**

# SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

## TRIBUTES

**Abels, Roger and Irene**
*Roger Abels*

**Addicks, Sarah**
*Adrienne Pompeian*

**Apland, JoAnn**
*Doug Apland - had liver transplant*

**Audette, Laura**
*Terry Lynch, my kidney donor*

**Balbinot, Jodi**
*Mary Mikkola, my kidney donor*

**Balcueva, Mary Jane & Family**
*Marriage of Maria & Allen Hruska*

**Bandas, Sharon**
*Sharon, Bandas, Kidney transplant recipient*

**Becker, Susan**
*Todd Becker*

**Benters, Kathleen**
*Elden Benters*

**Books, Bonnie**
*David Books*

**Brady, Dennis & Terri**
*Arnie Johnson - Recipient*
*Andy Cowell - Donor*

**Brom, Marie**
*Rosemary Heins*

**Brummitt, Laurie**
*Cindy Brademann*

**Busch, Chuck**
*Steve Thurk*

**Christenson, Sally**
*Peggy Hanafin, my donor*

**Churchwell, Susan**
*Eli Churchwell - kidney transplant 11/16/2000*

**Clark, Paul & Terri**
*Dr. Wilson Gonsalves*

**Coco, Eugenio & Dolores**
*Mary Wilder*

**Cosio, Mary Jo**
*Fernando Cosio & Kathy Schwab*

**Darryl, James & Jackie Rosson**
*Mark & Leslie Johnson*
*In honor of Gift of Life 40th anniversary*

**Davie, Tom & Mary**
*Dan Davie (Tom's brother)*
*Autonomous kidney donor*

**Desrosier, Bob**
*Tracy Desrosier*

**Dinusson, John & Suzanne**
*Adrienne Pompeian & Shahir Malek*

**Donnay, Mark**
*Melissa Donnay*

**Dotz, Nancy**
*Kris Lamb*

**Erickson, Roger**
*Lori Lange, donor*

**Flock, David**
*Jennifer O'Neil*

**Fonzi, James**
*Tibor Nemeth Jr.*
*Kidney donor*

**Fuerstneau, Sonia**
*Al Cooper - recipient*
*Jeremias Cooper - donor*
*July 2020*

**Furlong, William**
*Brandon Furlong*

**Gemechu, Amelework**
*Nurilign Haileyesus*

**Giager, Michael**
*Linda Giager*

**Gordon, Margie & Jerry**
*Alison Grossman*

**Guge, Sandra & Garald**
*Sandra Guge*

**Gurgel, Karl & Barbara**
*The kidney transplant doctors at Mayo.*

**Hammernik, Bob**
*Jan Harbold*

**Hayes, Sara**
*Karla Antony*

**Hills, Carol**
*Mary Peterson Bishop*

**Holbach, Laurie & PJ**
*Laurie Holbach*

**Huber, Eldon**
*Rhonda Huber*

**Husman, Dale & Bonnie**
*Jeanine Aspen*

**Isaac, Bob & Joanne**
*Bob Isaac*

**Johnson, Keith**
*Christine Johansen Stoner*

**Johnson, Sandi**
*Leslie Johnson*

**Kazhdan, Natalie**
*The Panchenko Family*

**Klaege, Bill**
*Teresa Klaege &*
*Dalia Bagdonas Rocotello*

**Knutson, Ronald**
*Greg Vilmo*

**Kramer, Linda**
*Randy Kramer*

**Krebsbach, Sherri**
*Amanda Rae Vierling*

**Kruse, Lynn**
*Steven MCluskey - my son and donor*

**Kulkay, Glen**
*My unknown donor. Forever grateful!*

**Kurka, Marsha**
*Valerie Swedlund, my kidney donor*

**Kurvers, Steve & Barb**
*Steven E. Kurvers*

**Lee, Rick & Jean**
*Aaron Pompeian*

**Lefief, Dennis**
*Angeline Lefief*

**Lewis, Justin**
*Bob & Lynn VanMaaren*
*Dick & Sarah Rabb*
*Ed & Jayne Pompeian*
*Carol & Oakie Allen*
*Lynn & Kim Mesery*

**Lindgren, Judy**
*Susan Kjos*

**Loven, Marlys**
*My husband's brother & donor - Doug Loven*



**McKay, Rosie & Tom**
*Vicki Aegerter*

**Meek, Pat**
*Jim Klunder*
*Roxanne Meek*

**Merlo, Sandi**
*My donor - Anna Miller*

**Motzko, Shannon**
*Gavin Motzko*

**Myers, Mary**
*Darlene Perkins*

**Nelson, Nickoli & Darlene**
*Paul David Nelson & his sister Kristi Nystrom*

**O'Brien, Dave & Pam**
*Patrick D. O'Brien*

**Oschwald, Jennifer**
*Ann Oschwald*

**Packard, Richard & Linda**
*Christine Packard Stevens - Liver Transplant 1997*

**Peaks, Frank**
*Greg Selley*

**Pemberton, Elise**
*Adrienne Jayne Pompeian & Shahir Nehad Abdel-Malek on the special occasion of their marriage.*

**Peterson, Carol**
*Paula Stephens & Tammy Barthels - Kidney recipient and donor.*

**Pompeian, Jayne**
*Aaron Pompeian*

**Pompeian, Rochelle, Nick, Nadia, & Lydia**
*Aaron Pompeian*

**Preimesberger, Jean**
*Tim Preimesberger*

**Redig, Jane**
*Joe Wheelden*

**Ridgeway, Lowell & Pam**
*Kristen Oesterreich*

**Roellinger, Diane & Francis Jr.**
*Loved ones*

**Rustad, Candi & Ross**
*Shelly Anderson Lind*

**Sager, Michael & Pauline**
*Mike Sager*

**Sann, Kevin**
*Eric Sann*

**Schmidt, Mona**
*Tina Wangen - my kidney donor*

**Selby, Jill & Mike**
*Jill Selby - heart transplant*

**Sheehy, John**
*Theresa Sheehy - wife*
*1991 Bone marrow transplant*

**Sibson, Joyce**
*David Sibson*

**Silber, Taryn**
*Adrienne Pompeian & Shahir Malek*

**Smidowicz, Kenneth**
*Marlene B. Smidowicz*

**Stephens, Paula**
*Carol Peterson*
*Paul Martin*

**Swanson, Kate**
*Stephanie Miller - my living donor & favorite cousin.*

**Taylor, Lewis & Monica**
*Chris Henriksen*

**Torpey, Dale**
*Tom Torpey*

**Tostenrud, Pauline**
*Teresa Hoff*

**Uphoff, Elizabeth & Roger**
*Roger Uphoff*

**Vasichek, Daryl & Lola**
*Julianne Vasichek*

**Vilmo, Gregory**
*The caregivers of 2022*

**Vredeveld, Gerald & Karen**
*Brian Kannass*

**Weeks, John E.**
*Lois E. Weeks*

**Wells, Roger & Carole**
*Emily Buck & Sandy Toomey*

**Wilder, Mary**
*Gift of Life*

**Williams, Ken & Elaine**
*Lisa Williams*
*Ken's 13 year transplant anniversary on Sept. 13*

**Williams, Lisa**
*Ken & Elaine Williams*

**Williams, Ted**
*Linda S. Williams*

**Wiser, Gillian**
*Adrienne & Shahir*

**Worrell, Dean & Debra**
*Debra Worrell*

**Wuebker, Cheryl A.**
*Merle J. Wuebker*

**Wyffels, Mary**
*Wendy Oftedahl-Moya*

**Yonke, Thomas M.**
*Ryan Yonke - transplant donor*

**Ytterberg, Ellen**
*Shahir Malek & Adrienne Pompeian*

**Zabel, Glen**
*Glen Zabel*

**Zarnott, Wayne & Marilyn**
*Arlen Ostermann*

# SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Aerts, Chris
Anderson, Leslie
Anderson, Virginia
Anonymous
Austin-Foote, Elke A.
Banner, Catherine A.
Blonigen, R & Arlene
Brames, Herman J.
Brekke, Eric
Calvary Evangelical Free Church
Carroll, Russell & Catherine
Closway, Lynn
Courcy, Lori M
Courtney, Wayne & Julie
Crnobrna, Kathryn & Ronald
DeFeyter, Cynthia
Depot, Barry
Dingli, David & Mariella
Eilers, Ronald & Carole
Evenson, Ron
Farm, Dave & Judy
Forseen, LaRue & Ruth
Fraser, M. Cathy & Kyle
Gantenbein, Richard
Gels, James V.
Gertz, Dr. Morie
Gjertse, Patty
Golownia, Dennis & Cindy
Hanson, David
Hardesty, Sandi
Hart, Gary
Hentze, Gary & Gracia
Hernesman, Jim
Herrmann, Walt & Betty
Hinze, Richard & Laurie
Hobernicht, Peggy
Hole, Jeffrey & Jennifer
Ims, Linda
Jackson, John & Cheryl
Johnson, Dennis & Helga
Jundt, Megan
Kepnes, Joel S.
Klennert, Ken & Judy
Knudsen, Chuck
Kriesel-Koll, David & Pam
Kukla, Dr. Aleksandra & Boguslaw
Kunkel, Connie & Diane
Lall, Ramkarran
Larson, Jeff & Sandy
Lee, Forrest & Mary
Lininger, Grace
Luedtke, Arthur & Kathleen
Luther Holding Company
Lynne, Kenton & Marlene
Mathiewetz, Mary Lou
Mehrkens, Sue
Messerole, Tyler
Moon, Frank & Betty
Morse, Raymond
Mullen, Stephen
Mumme-Johnson, Lorri
Murphy, Scott B.
Murphy Property Management
Nelson, Sheila
Nelson, Travis
Nienhaus, Gerard
Oeltjen, Rosemary
Owens, Bernard
Pagenkopf, Bernard & Charlene
Park Place Motor Cars
Pfaff, Duane
Phillips, Frank S.
Piekarski, Gerald
Plantenberg, Marlene
Platt, Michael & Deb
Pugsley, Toni
Purdy, Gail
Pyfferoen, Mary
Quirk, Michael
Raines, William & Joyce
Reith, Mark
Rennings Flowers
Robertson, Teresa
Sailer, William & Deniece
Sanders, Richard & Beverly
Santelli, Vanda
Schaber, Tamara & Joseph
Schmidgall, Donald
Schweer, Bette
Sexton, Fred & Delphine
Stegman, Ora
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Stoker-Hadow, Joyce
Sturtevant, David & Jacque
Sweeney, Dan & Brenda
Swingdorf, Aaron & Jackie
Szabo, Jennier
Tauer, Joel
The Z Foundation
Thoe, Larry
Tiernan, Carolyn
Tollefsrud, Rachel
Troyna, Erika
Vaillancourt, Sandy
Vandermark, Ellen & Richard
VanDyke, Steven
Verhulst, Larry & Sheila Schultz
Vilmo, Gregory
Wagler, Lonnie & Regina
Watson, Judd & Jeanne
Watson, Thomas
Weil, Allan & Mary E.
Wentz, Erin
Williams, Aileen
Wynne, Julie
Yessaian-Costa, Diane

# 32 Years and Counting

Herm and Karen Brames have the distinction of having stayed at nearly every facility Gift of Life has had in their 32 years since Herm's liver transplant. They were first introduced to Gift of Life Transplant House in October 1992 when they stayed at the "624" house – the original Gift of Life Transplant House. During that stay, Herm went through the pre-evaluation appointments to determine if he was eligible to for his liver transplant and he and Karen met Sr. Margeen for the first time. During that week, the weather turned cooler, and Karen remembers going to JC Penney's to purchase jackets for them.

They were able to go home over Christmas and returned on Super Bowl Sunday. Herm stayed at St. Johns Convent. Gift of Life had negotiated with St. Johns Church to rent a floor at the convent. Karen came up in February and she and Herm moved back to the "624" house. On March 3, 1993, Herm received his liver transplant.

Since then, they have made their home away from home at the Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home and the Anne and Henry Zarrow Home, returning nearly every year for follow-up appointments. While they live in Florida and could go to the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, they both firmly said, "Gift of Life is our "home" and they prefer coming to Rochester.

Herm continued as CFO at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, after his transplant until his retirement in 2003. Karen retired from teaching in 2005 and now with 8 grandchildren, they have the opportunity to spend more time with their family!

When asked what words they would have for guests staying at Gift of Life Transplant House right now, Herm shared:

**"Believe you can survive"**
**"Share your story"**

And Karen shared: "Pray a lot". Herm agreed that faith is an important factor in recovery.

And when asked what Karen would share with our caregivers, she said without hesitation:

**"Be patient"**





# The Rumors Are True!



Yes, it is true! I have announced my retirement for Spring 2025. Currently, the board has formed a Search Committee and graciously included me. The committee will accept resumes through the end of October, with anticipating that interviews will begin in November. A start date in January or February is likely and I will remain for one month to ensure a seamless transition with the new Executive Director.

This was not a decision I made quickly or lightly. As I have said to so many, this has been the most awe-inspiring and humbling position I have ever held. Awe-inspiring because I walk with giants every day – individual facing one of the most difficult challenges of their life yet navigating it with courage, grace and resilience and humbling because I am witness to the indomitable will to prevail!

As we move through this process, you will be included!

Mary

## Gift of Life to Unveil 40th Anniversary Documentary

**One of the responsibilities as Executive Director that weighs most heavily on me is ensuring that the vision of Ed Pompeian is never forgotten. Prior to his passing on July 6, 2019, Ed was a frequent visitor at both houses. Anytime he was greeted with the words – "It's good to see you, Ed" he would respond – "It's good to be seen."**

**In February we began work on a documentary that tells the story of Gift of Life Transplant House. We scoured through old archives, watched countless hours of old VHS tapes and with the skill of our videographer, we have created a 57-minute documentary – A Journey of Faith, A Legacy of Hope!**

**A private viewing will be held on December 10 (the actual anniversary of Gift of Life) and then be available for public viewing. But we wanted to give you all a sneak preview!**

TO SCAN QR CODE: Open phone's camera app, hover over the QR code, and follow the link that appears on your screen.

# Rochester is Growing

In June 2023, Mayo Clinic announced a multi-year strategic initiative that will focus on re-imaging Mayo Clinic's downtown Rochester campus. The project is called Bold. Forward. Unbound and is projected to be a $5 billion dollar commitment. The design team for this initiative is working closely with the City of Rochester to find solutions that will help with parking and will include a partnership with the planned LINK Rapid Transit line in Rochester.

Gift of Life Transplant House has watched all of this unfold carefully, attending informational meetings as often as possible and continuing to ask questions. One of the parts of the initiative that will directly impact Gift of Life is the LINK Rapid Transit project. This is a 2.6-mile bus route along 2nd Street that will connect Mayo Civic Center, Mayo Clinic campuses and the Downtown Waterfront Southeast area.

The plan is for buses to operate 7 days a week. During the week buses will run from 5am to midnight; on the weekends buses will run from 8am to midnight. Service intervals will be every 5 minutes on weekdays from 6am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm and every 10 to 15 minutes at other times. The buses will be free to anyone who wishes to ride them.

The LINK Rapid Transit project will begin in January 2025. A bus stop and shelter will be placed in front of both 724 and 705. During construction, we will ensure that you are able to get to either house easily and the City of Rochester has assured us that your comfort is their chief concern! Picture shown will be similar to the bus stops in front of each house.



# House Happenings

### Front Doors at Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home

Steve has been working for the past few weeks to refinish the iconic front doors of the "north" house. The doors were featured in "Doors of Rochester" a framed art print created in 1998. Steve has taken great care to ensure that the doors maintain their beautiful color and finish.



### Window Replacement

One of the tenets of our mission is to provide high quality accommodations. This year that included replacing all the windows in the 1995 wing of the Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home. Thanks to Ryan Windows and Siding, the windows were installed in just three days with minimal inconvenience to our guests and caregivers. In addition, Ryan Windows and Siding is a wonderful supporter of Gift of Life and made sure that we received a substantial discount.



### Refurbishing Guest Rooms

Thanks to two generous donations, we are able to refurbish the guest rooms in the 1995 wing of the Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home. This includes fresh paint, updated lighting, new grab bars and new artwork. We hope to continue this in the 2000 wing next year.

# 2024 Events

## 40th Annual Golf Tournament
















CHAMPION OF LIFE JACKET TOURNAMENT WINNERS





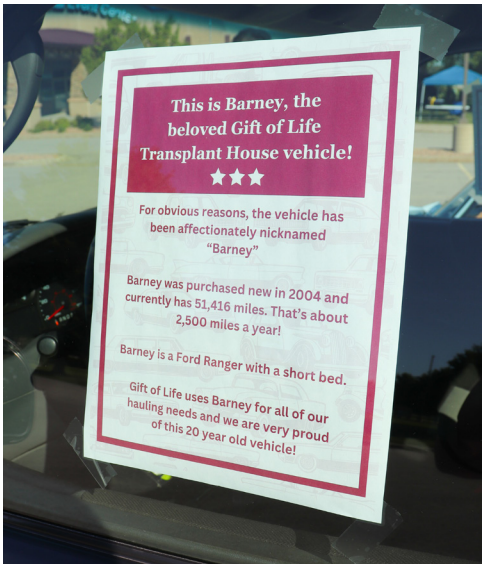
# 4th Annual Gift of Life Car Show


















# Annual Gift of Life BBQ











# Transplant Picnic











HENRY POMPEIAN AND HIS BROTHERS




HENRY POMPEIAN, HIS DAD (AARON POMPEIAN), AND HIS BROTHERS DONATING A CHECK TO GOL



TIM RASMUSSON FOUNDATION CHECK PRESENTATION



ASSOCIATED BANK REPRESENTATIVES DOING YARD WORK



TIM RASMUSSON FOUNDATION CHECK PRESENTATION

Gift of Life
TRANSPLANT HOUSE
*Rochester, MN*

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@GiftOfLifeTransplantHouse

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

## Gift of Life Transplant House Mission Statement

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

Gift of Life Inc.
705 Second Street, Southwest
Rochester, Minnesota 55902

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# 2024 CORPORATE PARTNERS

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Mayo Clinic Specialty Pharmacy

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Eagle Rock Bank

Reagan Outdoor Advertising

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Altra Federal Credit Union

CRW architecture + design group

Custom Retaining Walls and Landscaping, Inc.

DBS Group — Breaking New Ground in Construction.

Home Federal

ISG

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## ENRICHING

Eatery & Pub Charlie's est 1987

K A Kraus-Anderson

## Gift of Life Transplant House Board of Directors and Staff

**Executive Committee**

President - Cyle Erie
Vice President - Lori Ewoldt
Secretary
Treasurer - Jesse Buhl
Emeritus - Jayne Pompeian
Past President- Adrienne Pompeian

**Board Members**

Dr. Andrew Bentall
Dr. Tayyab Diwan
Ryan Hatton
Dr. Saad J. Kenderian
Michael Laude
Katie McKee
Dr. Thomas Schwab
Tom Torkelson

**Honorary Lifetime Board Members**

Mary Davie
Sylvester Sterioff, MD
Greg Warner

**Gift of Life Transplant House Staff**

*Executive Director*
Mary Wilder

*Facilities Manager*
Cody Schiek

*Operations Manager*
Pollie Goodman

*PR Marketing Coordinator*
Kayla Antony

*Administrative & Volunteer Coordinator*
Tami Konakowitz

*Receptionists*
Payge Merkel, Debbie Schindler

*705 House Night Manager:* Val Koehn

*Facilities Staff*
Wayman Docks, Steve Birdseye, Steve Kuno

*Housekeepers*
Mindy Hay, Kaylee Lewno, Victoria Olivares, Terri Peterson