A NEWSLETTER OF GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE
FALL/WINTER 2025

Offering Hope & Healing
Gift of Life TRANSPLANT HOUSE
Rochester, MN

SHARING THE *gift*

gift of life



Gift of Life Transplant House Comes Full Circle: Orginial Home Reopens as a Pediatric Transplant House

A familiar house to Gift of Life has started a new chapter in Rochester, Minnesota. The original Gift of Life Transplant House at 624 W. Center Street has been transformed into the new Gift of Life Pediatric Transplant House. This house originally welcomed transplant patients and their caregivers during their journeys in 1984. Now, over 40 years later, it is once again ready to welcome transplant patients and their families with pediatric transplant patients in mind.

When Ed Pompeian opened the first Gift of Life Transplant House, his mission was simple: provide affordable housing to transplant patients and their caregivers in a home-like environment. The original house had only eight bedrooms, which filled quickly. To meet the demand, Ed and his mother, Helen, opened their own homes to transplant patients in need. Within a few years, the convent at St. John's Catholic Church was leased to provide more rooms. The need for affordable accommodations in Rochester continued to grow. The Judd house, now known as the Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home, was purchased and remodeled. By 2000, the home had 48 guest rooms. In 2009, a second house was opened across the street. With the addition of the 36 guest rooms at the Anne and Henry Zarrow Home, Gift of Life Transplant House became the largest transplant house in the country with 84 rooms. The need continues to exceed the space available, particularly for families navigating the pediatric transplant journey together. For this reason, the original house has been remodeled to serve as a dedicated Pediatric Transplant House.

Keeping families together during the pediatric transplant process was a driving motivator in the creation of the Gift of Life Pediatric House. Gift of Life has always been able to host pediatric guests, but not in the way the Pediatric House can. Stephanie Donovan, Executive Director, says, "This house is so special because they're



PEDIATRIC TRANSPLANT HOUSE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



ORIGINAL GIFT OF LIFE HOUSE LIVING ROOM



OUTSIDE OF PEDIATRIC TRANSPLANT HOUSE



TOY ROOM

going to be able to have their parents and a sibling stay with them." The house was designed as a family unit, able to accommodate three families at a time with a maximum occupancy of 10. Both parents and a sibling can stay with the child going through the transplant process, not just one caregiver. This support, along with the support of other families in the house, can help ease some of the uncertainty of the transplant journey.

Since its beginnings, Gift of Life has been a community-based space. Guests dine together, watch TV together, gather together. This allows people to share stories, experiences, hope, and love with other guests. This special connection makes it easy for the people around them to turn into family — not just for guests, but for anyone involved with Gift of Life.

Talking about the early days of Gift of Life, Nick Pompeian shared, "Gift of Life truly became an extension of our family. I think that's what Dad really wanted."

The community aspect was extremely important to our founder, Ed Pompeian. In his book *The Gift of Life*, Ed writes, "Part of what helps make the house successful is the support and encouragement that caregivers and patients provide to each other. Encouraging others promotes your own healing process."

Gift of Life has seen a need for a dedicated Pediatric House in the Rochester community for years. Nick Pompeian shared this has been something the Gift of Life board has been thinking about since he became involved 14 years ago. The Gift of Life Pediatric Transplant House is the first pediatric transplant house in the state of Minnesota. Families now have a safe, clean, and supportive environment to stay in, all while staying affordable at $30 a night with a one-time cleaning fee of $40.

Gift of Life hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on August 13, 2025. Community members were welcome to attend with tours following the ceremony, giving us a chance to share the space with the community.

"Seeing the community there and the support we have was overwhelmingly humbling," said Nick. "It makes you feel like anything is possible. I'm sure that's how Dad felt when they opened the original house."

The transformation of the house would not have been possible without the donors, volunteers, and community members who gave their time, resources, and energy. Every gift has helped the Pediatric House truly feel like a home away from home, from monetary donations that funded massive renovations, to donated furniture that now fills the rooms, to toys and books for families to enjoy. All of us at Gift of Life are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported this project and helped make this dream a reality.

Letter from Our Vice President & Secretary

Tom Torkelson



Dear Gift of Life community,

My name is Tom Torkelson. I'm the VP Commercial Banking RM at Associated Bank in Rochester, MN. I've been volunteering and serving as a board member for the past 4 years at Gift of Life. I currently serve as the Secretary and Vice President of the board. I also serve on several subcommittees, including the Finance and Executive committees.



Gift of Life Transplant House tugged at my heart 4-5 years ago and I decided to get involved. Helping people as they go through their transplant journey by offering an affordable home away from home atmosphere that helps and heals is a noble cause.



Over the past few years, I've helped not just on the board but have been actively involved in the GOL golf tournament, serving others at the annual transplant BBQ, cleaning up outside of the houses each fall, and even running a few 5K races to help raise money for GOL.

With the opening of our new Pediatric Transplant House and future expansion on the horizon, the future is bright for Gift of Life. By volunteering, I feel like I'm helping our community and especially transplant patients during their greatest time of need and comfort. Gift of Life Transplant House is a top notch non-profit and I'm proud to help and serve.



Tom Torkelson

Rod Anderson Memorial Award

The Rod Anderson Memorial Award honors the legacy of board member Rod Anderson, who passed away in 2017. The award is presented to an individual who emodies selflessness, humility, and kindness, just like Rod did every day.



Jim Degnim

Jim recieved this award in recognition of his longtime dedication to Gift of Life Transplant House. Every Friday afternoon, he volunteers by leading tours for potential guests. Jim is more than just a tour guide. He offers a supportive presence to guests, listening to them with compassion and always being sincere. His kindness, reliability, and attention to detail are valued by both guests and staff.

How long have you been volunteering at Gift of Life Transplant House?

"Since 2012. The late George Smith recruited me when he was on the board."

What is your favorite memory from your time volunteering here?

"There isn't one memory, but many, and it's all the interesting and gracious people I have met while giving tours."

Why do you find volunteering so important?

"I think it's very rewarding to be involved with an organization that provides such a wonderful resource to people when they really need it."

New Staff

Ann Holst



Pediatric Transplant House Manager

Kathy Stiehl



Housekeeper

Margaret Grove



PR Marketing Coordinator

Pebbles to Paintings



BETTY WITH ONE OF HER MANY ROCK PAINTINGS OUTSIDE GIFT OF LIFE



A long wait on the transplant waiting list can be scary, and that's why Betty Tomes has embraced her creative side while waiting for her husband, Terry, to receive a heart transplant. The Tomes' have been waiting four years for Terry to receive a heart transplant and have spent the last 6 months waiting at Gift of Life Transplant House. During this time, Betty has turned to art to bring her joy and comfort.

Creativity has always been part of Betty's life. From designing logos and signs as a graphic designer to scrapbooking and crafting homemade greeting cards at home, art has been her career and hobby for years. Her passion for art was reignited when her grandson was born, painting the furniture and the walls for his nursery. Today, an unconventional canvas has captured her attention: rocks.

Betty started her rock painting hobby by painting cacti and placing them in flowerpots. She gave them to family and friends as gifts. She then moved on to painting animals, starting with dogs and cats, then horses and mules. Betty has even been a part of beautiful memorials, being asked to paint pictures of pets that have passed on to keep their memory alive. Her latest interest is 3D rock art, and when she's back at home in Arizona, she uses a Dremel tool to etch designs into the rocks.

Betty lights up when she talks about the joy her art brings to others. She finds enjoyment in seeing people leaning over, peering at the rocks with a smile. If a guest mentions a favorite, she encourages them to take it. During her stay at Gift of Life, she has painted over 200 rocks and was recently asked to create a few pieces for the Pediatric Transplant House.

For Betty, painting is more than just a creative outlet. It's a way to relieve stress and pass the time.

"I like it because it makes people happy and makes time go by fast for me," she said. "I could sit and paint for hours."

Guests, caregivers, and staff members have all approached Betty asking about the rocks, always leading to a longer conversation and the chance to get to know someone new. Some of these people have even joined her in painting, creating a shared space that brings people together.

Betty's talent goes beyond the rocks she paints. She brings people together and fills the entrances to Gift of Life Transplant House with joy, color, and hope. We are truly fortunate to share in her gift.



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

Adams, Douglas & Stephanie
Kevin J. Moret

Alfred, Kathy
Kelly Mauss

Anderson, Betty
Randel Anderson, liver recipient

Anderson, Linda P.
Larry L. Anderson

Audette, Richard A.
Beverly Audette

Austin, Susan
Don Lambrecht

Axelsen, Patricia
Don Truman

Babb, Paula G.
Curtis W. Babb

Bagby, Kathleen M. & Christopher B.
Tom Hill

Bandas, Sharon
Tony, my donor

Barnett, Steven M. & Bonnie
Tom Hill

Barry, Cindy & Doug
Robert F. Rowland

Batten, Christine L.
Bruce Allen Batten

Baumler, Floyd
Joyce Baumler

Becicka, Meredith
Milo Curtiss

Belter, Wesley R.
Judy Belter, lung transplant 6/27/2015, passed 7/24/2020

Bernabei, Lisa
Jane Weberski

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

Biegert, Lisa
Craig Biegert

Bill, Kathy, Kristi, Tine Kim, Boehm, & Amling
Jane Weberski, a beautiful soul

Black, Sharon & Don K.
Tom Hill

Blonigen, Arlene E.
Mike Meldrum

Boike, Kristine
Vicki Gustafson Hotchkiss

Brames, Herman & Karen
Sister Margeen
Sister Jane

Broderick, Pamela
Dennis Broderick, my dear husband

Bush, Carol
Kenneth Bush

Butschi, Kathleen
Kenneth Russell

Carey, Katherine
Danny Carey

Carlson, Pam
Bob Carlson, stem cell transplant recipient 7/2012, passed 1/2022

Carr, Lea
Katie Pfeffer

Churchwell, Susan
Eli Churchwell, passed away 4/2/2025

Clapp, Allison
Mary Romon

Cornelius, Leo P.
Mary Ellen Cornelius, wife

Cosio, Mary Jo
Aitor Prieto Urkijo

Crnobrna, Ron
Kathy Crnobrna

Dallas, Gregory
Christina Dallas

Data, Diane
Jane Weberski

Daufenbach, Michael & Amy
Kevin J. Moret

David, Sheila
John Davis

Degnim, Jim & Amy
Paul Degnim Jr.

Delaitsch, Maren M. & Alan B.
Mark Maisio

Derheim, Michael
Mary Romon

Dickey, Dan & Loretta
Effie Kimp

Dieken, Dennis & Sharon
Kevin J. Moret

Dietz, John
Susan Anne Meldrum

Donze, Mike & Cathy
Travis Donze, Travis' House

Dotson, Dianna
Kevin Dotson

Dudek, Lori A. & Mark A.
Jane Weberski

Duffy, Joesph & Patricia
Tom Botten

Eerhardt, David & Mary
Mary Romon

Emmack, Susan K.
Tom Hill

Enge, Miriam
Allen D. Enge

Erickson, Roger A.
Henry Anderson, recipient
Margaret Perkins

Evans, Mark & Michele
To all that have donated life

Evenson, Ron
Marjorie & Floyd Evenson

Fisher, Bonnie L.
Charles L. Fisher

Forehand, Carole
Richard Forehand, BMT 10/9/97

Forseen, LaRue & Ruth
Scott Anderson

Fritsch, Nancy K.
Mary Romon

Funke, Kurt A. & Peggy A.
Tom Hill

Giager, Michael
Linda Giager

Gjertsen, Patty
Robin Gjertsen

Glenna, Vickie
Bernadine Syverson

Gunderson, Gloria
Craig VanHorn

Hahn, Gary R.
Randi Merfeld

Handrich, Thomas & Alice
Mary Romon

Hangartner, Mary
Vickie Hotchkiss

Helgeson, Paul & Pamela
Corin Helgeson-Selman,
our daughter and Lily's mother

Hendrickson, Danny & Lisa
Melissa Hendrickson Roberts

Herman, Rick & Kay
Todd Schuster

Herrmann, Patrick J.
Jane Weberski

Hesselman, James & Holly
Jon Fredrickson

Hickman, Jim
Joy Hickman
Katie Hickman

Hickman, Mike & Sharon
Katie Hickman

Hill, D.M. & L.J,
Tom Hill

Hill, Lou Ann
Tom Hill

Hoech, Gary
Peter Christian Hoech

Hoffert, Ken
Ardyce Hoffert

Hoffner, Karen
Suzanne Traaseth

Hoinacki-Rens, Diane
G. Jack Hoinacki

Hosman, Gloria
Jerald Hosman

House, Ann
Tom Botten

Howe, Kathryn
Vickie Hotchkiss

Hughes, Gertrude (Trudy)
David B. Judd, father
E. Starr Judd, grandfather

Hulstein, Shirley
Jay Dekkar

Idzorek, Edward
Julie Idzorek

Isobe, Amy
John Isobe
Marge Richardson

Jagiella, Katherine & Thomas
Jane Weberski

Jam, Kimberly & Mark
Wm. Greg Lawton

Jelinek, Wayne
Mervin Wohler

Jennings, Ronald R.
Joan M. Jennings

JoAnn Polinski & Birthday Babe's
Ardus Schwartz

Johnson, Deborah
Merl Johnson

Johnson, Dick & Brenda
Timothy Hill

Johnson, Mary Kay
Tom Botten

Johnson, Sandy
John Johnson

Kaufman, Chris & Cindy
Kevin J. Moret

Keller, Peter & Mary
Sonja Briski

Kiefer, Alan
Kevin J. Moret

Kiffmeyer, Elaine
Wendelin Kiffmeyer

Kile, Beverly
John Lutzka

King, Alicia & Sheldon
Mary Romon

Klahr, Inga
Garrett Klahr

Knabe, Susan
Russ Rains

Koenig, Denise
Mary Romon

Kreinbring, Ron
Mary Longmont, kidney recipient

Kroning, Cindy
Wayne Courtney

Kroning, Terry & Cindy
Dennis Schumacher

Kuehl, Nancy
Linda McBride

Kusek, Susan & John
Jane Weberski

Ladin, Karl & Lynn
Joyce Baumler

Lair, Sara & Rod
Darryl Brumm

Lamp, Bobbi & Craig
Bob & Sandy Sexton

SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

MEMORIALS CONTINUED

Larson, Jeff & Sandy
Eugene & Annie Putzier

Latham, Linda K.
Willard (Bill) J. Latham

Leopold, Tharan & Lillquist, Ruth
Lou Ann Leopold

Leuneberg, Jennifer
Sue Meldrum

Leventhal, Margaret
Richard Leventhal

Libbey, Chris
Lorraine C. Libbey

Lien, Donna
Christine Lien

Lien, Scott
Christine Ann Lien, my wife

Lindbloom, John
Vickie Jean Hotchkiss

Link, Pam
Bob Manly

Loven, Marlys
Sheldon Loven, husband

Lund, Kim & Eric
Steve Shank

Lust, Frederick & Linda
Mary Romon

Madson, Timothy & Susan
Kevin J. Moret

Maier, Michael
Frank Maier

Manly, Jan
Robert Manly

Martalock-Wensel, Lynn
Jeffrey (Jeff) Martalock

Martin, Michael & Sandra
Duane Kuschel

May, Mary
Jane Weberski

Mayer, Darlene
John H. Mayer, 2000 heart

Mazur, Amy
Kathy Barrett

McNally, Nancy & Jack
Jane Weberski

Meberg, Claudia
David J. Meberg

Messelt, Em
Ron Messelt

Metz, Leo
Connie Metz

Miller, Linda
Allen Miller

Milner, Sue
Louie Schacherer, my dad

Molitor, Patricia
Ed Pompeian

Moten, Jennifer, The Moten & Whitney Family
Kirk A. Moten

Moxon, Jean & Richard
Greg Moxon

Mulet, Stacey
Mark Edwin Maisio

Nelson, L. Brian
Marcia A. Nelson

Nelson, Shirley
Dr. Denton Nelson

Olson, Patricia
Jim Olson, kidney transplant in 2004

Overbeck, Theresa L.
Duane L. Overbeck

Parker, Brenda
Chuck Parker, one of the three amigos

Parta, Janet
Mike Parta

Pastuszak, Lori & York, Tiffany
Eugene Brown

Perez, Luis
Jane Weberski

Peterson, Jennifer & Trevor
Susan Meldrum

Plante, Joni
Katie Pfeffer

Polsfut, Shanon & Elaine
Nancy Moen

Pompeian, Adrienne
Ed Pompeian

Pompeian, Jayne
Edward Pompeian
Helen Pompeian
Aitor Prieto Urkijo

Pompeian, Nicholas
Ed Pompeian

Postier, Beth & John
Mary Romon

Prince, Fred C.
Tom Hill

Prokup, Michele
Jane Weberski

Rabb, Sarah
Dick Rabb
Jan Lewis

Raboin, Shady
Gail Craycroft

Rau, Betty
Thomas Rau

Ray, Shirley
Gerald Ray

Redelsperger, Cynthia
Jane A. Weberski

Robb, Tracy & Carrie
Kevin J. Moret

Roberts, John
Jane Weberski

Roby, Wilbur
Lora Roby

Romon, Raymond
Mary Romon

Ross, Shane
Mary Romon

Rowbal, Robert & Stacy
Anne Rowbal, our loving mother

Rucker, Helen & Richard
Wm. Greg Lawton

Saba, Bill
Renette Saba

Schacherer, Shirley
Louie Schacherer

Schaffer, JoAnn
Richard R. Schaffer



Schroeder, Kathe
Wesley Schroeder

Schultz, Sheila & Verhulst, Larry
Elizabeth Luckman

Severud, James & Michelle
Tom Botten

Shaw, Joel
My donor for gving me my new kidney (JOY)

Skluzacek, Lindsey
Mark Maisio

Smith, Ken & Pam
Marion Smith

Smith, Wendell & Mary
Margaret Smith Askew

Solheid, Keri & Dan
Vickie Jean Gustafson Hotchkiss

Stanton, Kim & Rachel
Mary Romon

Stock, Douglas & Karna
Kevin J. Moret

Stonner, Dean & Carol
Tom Hill

Tallon, Debbie
Christopher Robert Tallon

Taylor, Chuck
Jane Craven Weberski

Taylor, Don
Beverly Taylor

Teasley, Paul
Jerry Green

Tiernan, Carolyn Elliot
Bob Elliot

Tjerstad, Mary
David Tjerstad

Tollefsrud, Rachel
Aaron Tollefsrud

Tranberg, Judith
David J. Tranberg

Tremmel, Mary
Anthony Tremmel

Trnka, John & Patty
Mary Romon

Vorlicek, Tina
Larry Borowicz

Vorst, JoAnn
Dr. James Vorst

Vought, Carol
Ronnie Vought

Vreedenburgh, Elizabeth & Raymond
Janice Anderson

Warnick, Michael & Sara
Tom Hill

Warrant, Thomas & Lori
Kevin J. Moret

Waugh, Billie
Catherine Pfeffer

Waugh, John & Gracy
Katie Pfeffer

Weathers, Mary & Weathers Giving Back
Thomas C. Weathers

Weberski, David A. & Cynthia S.
Jane Weberski

Weberski, Michael P.
Jane Weberski

Weixel, Jim & Barbara
Jean Wulf

Wenzel, Dorothy J.
Robert V. Wenzel

Westphal, Myrtle
Bernard Westphal, heart #32 4/4/1992

Wheeler, Joy & James W.
Barbara C. Wheeler

Wilcoxon, Carrie, Megan, Madison, & Nathan
Paul Wilcoxon

Wilder, Mary
Ed Pompeian

Williams, Ted
DeElda Williams

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

Wilson, Deborah & Annie
Kevin J. Moret

Wineland, Philip
Jean Ann Wineland

Wood, Pat Dockter Hulm
Jessica Hulm, daughter

Worley, Deborah
Ronnie C. Worley

Wynne, Julie
Ellen Sunken

Zampa, Melody
Duane Burger

Zeigler-Glick, Lois C.
Shirley L. Schwab

SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

TRIBUTES

Apland, JoAnn
Douglas C. Apland

Arthurs, Josh & Ashlee
Cheryl Heady

Austin-Foote, Elke A.
Jeremy Joon Hee Austin

Balcueva, Mary Jane
Ernie Balcueva, 2 heart, 1 kidney

Banner, Catherine A.
My favorite dentist from a few years ago

Beissel, Marian
Darla Bingham
Lily Montgomery

Benters, Kathleen
Adam

Busch, Chuck
Steve Thurk

Cain, Corby
Patrick Cain

Case, Brenda
Jessica Hahn, donor

Chang, Margaret A.
Yi-Fa Chang

Coco, Eugenio & De
Mary Wilder

Cosio, Mary Jo
Kathy & Fernando

Darryl, James & Rosson, Jackie
Mark & Leslie Johnson

Distel, Janet
Theresa Distel

Donnay, Mark
Melissa Guetzkow

Donovan, Stephanie
Peter Keller

Dotz, Nancy
Kris Lamb

Erickson, Roger A.
Lori Lange, donor

Falkum, Craig
Craig & Nancy Falkum

Feltmann, Allan & Teresa
Steven Thurk, transplant patient
Cindy Froehling, donor

Flock, David C.
Jenny O'Neil

Fuerstneau, Sonia
Al Cooper, recipient
Jeremias Cooper, donor

Furlong, William
Brandon Furlong

Heikkila, Glenn & Lois
Glenn Heikkila

Hoffmann, Glenda K.
Erin Roiger, kidney donor

Holbach, P.J. & Laurie
Laurie Holbach

Holzer, Stephanie (Tess)
Dave Holzer
Dave Martin
Dody Sobeck
Tara Rossin
Tess Holzer
Sharon Martin
Paula Stephens
Sara Fabian
Rachael Pflughoeft
Tom Stephens
Paul Martin
Stacy Rossin

Husman, Dale
Jeanine Aspen

Isaac, Bob & Joanne
Bob Isaac

Kees, Mary
Erik Kees

Klaege, Bill & Teresa
Dalia Bagdonas Rocotello, Teresa's kidney donor

Kramer, Linda
Randy Kramer

Kruse, Lynn
Steven McCluskey, my son and donor

Kulkay, Glen
My donor

LaValley, Richard
Zack Crosby

Lewis, Justin
Carol Brott
Dan & Pat Cruser
Ed & Jayne Pompeian
Bob & Lynn VanMarren
Christina & John Livengood
Jim & LeAnn Meservy
Jyoti & Mike Chadda
Mavi Lee Henning
Okie & Carol Allen
Val Koehn

Lloyd, Ann
Bob Mamer, 1999 kidney transplant recipient

Loven, Marlys
Doug Loven, my husband's donor and brother

Mallare, Teresa & Ron
David Phillippi

Meek, Pat
Jim Klunder
Roxanne Meek

Meier, Kim
Samuel Meier

Morse, Ray & Sally
George (Ed) Nelson

Neall, Jeff & Sarah
Rodney Nett

Neis, Noah & Catherine
Dori Schneider

Nelson, Ed, Jr.
Mayo Clinic Liver Transplant Team

Nelson, Sheila
Korbin Johnson

Opitz, Tom & Barb
Mary Sieck, Barb's liver donor

Orth, Vel
Kim DeBlot

Pasceri, Cindi & Vincent
Chloe de Oliveria

Peak, Frank
Greg Selley

Piekarski, Gerald
All donors

Pompeian, Adrienne
Aaron Pompeian

Pompeian, Jayne
Aaron Pompeian

Pompeian, Nicholas
Aaron Pompeian

Preimesberger, Jean Stout
Tim Preimesberger

Ridgeway, Pam & Lowell
Kristin Oesterreich

Rietsema, Lynette & Ron
Lynette Rietsema, resident in November 2015

Rockendorf, Scott
Mary Ann Hein

Roehrick, Shelly
Gary Roehrick

Schmidt, Kevin
Corey Schmidt

Schmidt, Ramona
Tina Wangen, my kidney donor

Schroeder, Kathe
Suzanne Schroeder Paulson

Schulzetenberg, Sue & Joe
Deb Schulzetenberg

Schwartz, Tony & Charlene
Brenda Schwartz
Tim Foley
Patsy Kronrick

Selby, Mike & Jill
Jill Selby

Smidowicz, Kenneth
Marlene Smidowicz

Smith, Jay & Joyce
Joyce Smith

Smith, Michael & Barbara
Steven Thurk, kidney recipient in May 2021

Stenstrom, Stephen
Marjorie Stenstrom

Stephens, Paula
Carol Peterson
Deanna Sobeck
Sharon Martin
Dave Martin
Paul Martin
Dave Holzer
Tess Holzer

Sykora, Mary
Bobbie & Donald Parish
Sister Jane
Sister Colleen
Glenna & Richard Richel
Helen Pompeian
Astrid Acero
Ron Sykora
Sr. Margene

Taylor, Regina G.
Gregory L. Taylor

Torpey, Dale
Tom Torpey

Tostenrud, Pauline & Steve
Teresa Hoff

Uphoff, Roger & Liz
Roger Uphoff, 4.5 year heart transplant

Vilmo, Gregory
The memories of 2012

Wells, Roger E.
Emily Buck
Sandy Toomey

Wietzke, Walter & Raija
Wren & Suvi

Wilder, Mary
Guests and caregivers

Williams, Ken & Elaine
Lisa Williams, 14 year kidney transplant anniversary on Sept. 13

Worrell, Dean
Debra Worrell

Wuebker, Merle J. & Cheryl A.
Merle J. Wuebker

Wyffels, Mary & Jim
Wendy Oftedahl, live liver donor

Zabel, Glen L.
Glen L. Zabel



Endowment Giving

At Gift of Life Transplant House, our mission is to provide high-quality, affordable accommodations in a supportive home-like environment for transplant patients and their caregivers. Endowment giving is a meaningful way to ensure this mission continues for generations. These gifts are invested, and the earnings provide lasting support for the House—helping cover maintenance, operations, and guest services year after year.

An endowment gift is more than a donation—it's a legacy of compassion that ensures every transplant patient and caregiver who walks through our doors has a safe, supportive place to call home during their journey.

If you would like to learn more about how endowment giving can make a lasting difference, please contact Stephanie Donovan, Executive Director, to explore the opportunities available.

SEPTEMBER TRIBUTES

CONTRIBUTIONS

Adams, Ronald & Sheryl
Allen, Mitch
Anderson, Ryan & Claudia
Andy's Liquor
Anonymous
Armstrong, Elizabeth Amy
Axtman, Mike & Sharon
Baker, Brendon & Lesa
Bamlet, Donna
Bantley, Jeremy & Sara
Barwise, Amelia
Beecher, Terry & Donna
Belniak, Daniel
Berka, Laroyia
Books, Bonnie
Borowicz, Wanda
Brekke, Bob & Karen
Brekke, Eric
Browne, John T.
Brunkhorst, Richard, Jr.
Byers, Marcy
Carly Mae's Bakery & Cafe
Carroll, Al & Linda
Carroll, Russell & Catherine
Cartwright, Dean
Chang, Hui Tzu, & Chen, Kaiyn
Cichon, Wendy & Gene
Cimijotti, Doc & Teresa
Cochran, William & Marcia
Coddington, Scott
Cogen, Judi
Cook, Benjamin
Cooper, Josh & Megan
Dawson, Derrick & Nichole
Deschamps, Margaret
Dolan, Cain
Dostal, Jeremy & Onwa
Dutton, Michael & Therese
Eide, Patsy
Else, Loren & DeeDee
Erwin, Jamie
Evans, Lynnea
Fonzi, James & Judi
Fraser, M. Cathy & Kyle D.
Frederixon, Dave & DeAnn
Freund, Bob & Ann
Gehrking, Trevor
Gehrking, Tyler
Gertz, Marcia
Gillio, Viva
Gorsha, Roger & Dianne
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Guge, Sandra
Hachami, Salar Al
Hart, Sandra
Haskic, Nermin & Zejfa
Hauck, Galen & Diane
Hauser, Scott & Laura
Hayes, Wyatt & Bien, Kim
Hentze, Gary
Hindal, Brian & Mary Jo
Hodgson, Kent & Ileen
Holley, Keith E.
Houle, Wendi
laderosa, Pasquale & Susan
Iversen, Eric C.
Jackson, John & Cheryl
Jensen, Kevin & Amy
Johanneck, David
Johnson, Luke & Lindsay
Johnson, Michael D.
Junge, Scott & Anna
Keller, Carla
Kimble, Brenda
Kleindienst, John
Kline, Tara
Klocke, Nancy
Kolz, Dan & Angie
Kotrba, Dennis
Kreinbring, Gene & Pat
Kukla, Aleksandra & Boguslaw
Kupfer, Mitch & Deb
Lee, Forrest & Mary
Lensing, Jerome & Jeri
Lensing, Nicholas
Lien, Jeff & Sue
Luedtke, Arthur
Lunde, Brent & Susan
Luther Park Place Motor Cars
Lyke, James & Erin
McIntire, Sandra & James
McLean, Mavis I.
Meath, Colin & Jennifer
Meeker, Nick
Meyer, Lowell
Moran, Debra
Moore, Amanda
Murphy Property Management
Murphy, Scott B.
Murtaugh, Michael
Nagel, Dave & Kristin
Nelson, Darlene
Nelson, Sheila N.
Nichols, Kevin
Nitcher, Rebecca
Olson Tree Services
O'Neil, Willie & Kathryn
Orlando, David
Otto, Allan
Pagenkopf, Bernard & Charlene
Pampered Chef
Perrotte, Lucy
Peterson, Kevin
Phillips, Frank S.

Powers, Cris & Roxanne
Powers, Joe R.
Powers, Kerry
Preradovic, Jo Ellen
Proper, Nathaniel & Jacquelyn
Pugsley, Toni
Purdy, Gail Rasmussen
Rain, Scott & Brenda
Reach, Theany
Reinhart, Cameron & Erin
Reith, Mark
Renner, Mary Jo
Reynolds, Eric & Erin
Riley, Terry
Rockendorf, Scott
Ruzicka, Jeff
Sager, Mike
Sanders, Richard & Beverly
Sass, Jacob & Abbey
Schaber, Tamara & Joseph
Scheuer, Mike & Carrie
Schmidgall, Donald
Schmidt, Dean & Marly
Schumacher, Ardis
Schwantz, Sandra R.
Sexton, Fred & Delphine
Smoler, Joyce
Spencer, Joe & Sharon
Stegman, Ora
Storsveen, Paul & Barb
Sund, Paul
Sweeney, Dan & Brenda
Swenson, David & Nancy
Sylvester, Joel
Szabo, Jennifer
Tabini, Claudia
Tapolow, Roselena
Tauer, Joel
Tauscher, Craig & Angela
Theuer, Joan M.
Thomforde, Andrew & Krystal
Thompson, Barry & Deanna
Trulson, Susan
Ubben, Kathryn J.
Van Dyke, Steven
Wagler, Kevin & Miriam
Waite, Deborah
Webber, Patty & Gray
Wiest, Kevin & Cynthia
Wiest, Mike
Zumbro Aerie Eagles #2228



House Happenings

COMPLETED

705 BOILERS:

We replaced the two boilers in the 705 House and replaced and updated the controls for them. We also updated heating valves and piping. This will make the 705 house much more efficient.

EXPANSION TANK:

We added an expansion tank to the 724-cooling tower loop. This improves our loop pressure allowing more efficient cooling during summer months.

ONGOING

724 BOILER:

We will be updating a boiler at the 724 House before winter and heating season.

ROOM REMODELS:

We continue with 705 room remodels.



SAVE THE DATE

July 20, 2026

42nd Annual Gift of Life Golf Tournament

Rochester Golf & Country Club

NEW NEXT YEAR

Putting for a Purpose

May 9, 2026
10 AM - 1 PM

Blue Lagoon Mini Golf



Follow us on social media for the latest event news and updates!

Give to the Max Day is a fundraising event hosted by GiveMN, that began as a one-time campaign in 2009 but grew into an annual tradition due to its success. Since then, over $355 million dollars has been donated to 14,000 Minnesota nonprofits and schools. This year's Give to the Max Day is on Thursday, November 20, 2025 with Early Giving starting on November 1. Help us reach our $5,000 goal for this year's Give to the Max campaign!

To support Gift of Life Transplant House this Give to the Max Day, visit the link below or scan the QR code.

www.givemn.org/organization/Gift-Of-Life-8

WAYS TO GIVE

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

AMAZON WISH LIST

TO SCAN QR CODE: Open your phone's camera app, aim the camera at the QR code, and tap the link that appears on your screen.

CONNECT WITH US

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Rochester, MN

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2025 Events

41st Annual Golf Tournament





















Pediatric Transplant House Ribbon Cutting















Transplant Picnic













BOOST'D & TerraLoco 5Ks

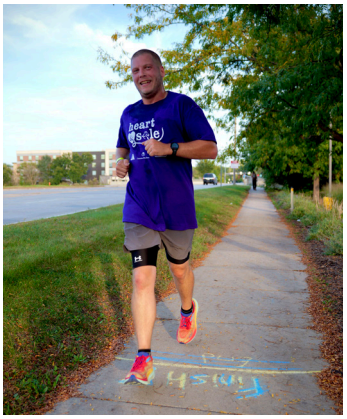












Fourth of July Picnic











Annual Gift of Life BBQ











Pompeian Lemonade Stand













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

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