

2024 IMPACT REPORT

# INSPIRED BY *life*



Mid-America  
TRANSPLANT

1974 **50** 2024  
Mid-America  
TRANSPLANT

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

In 2024 Mid-America Transplant marked its 50th anniversary of leading the mission to save lives through organ and tissue donation. Thanks to the inspiring and selfless decisions of donor heroes and their families, 317 organ donors and 2,632 tissue donors provided 891 lifesaving organs for transplant and gave more than 197,000 individuals improved quality of life through tissue transplants.



Over the years, our innovation has soared, allowing us to enhance the quality of life of even more people on the waiting list. By enabling families to opt for donation upon a declaration of circulatory death (DCD)—when the heart stops beating, rather than only upon brain death—we have significantly expanded the pool of potential organ donors. Today, DCD donors represent half of all organ donors at Mid-America Transplant. Additionally, the implementation of normothermic regional perfusion (NRP), which circulates blood through organs before recovery, has markedly enhanced both the quantity and quality of livers and kidneys available for transplant.

Mid-America Transplant marked other noteworthy milestones in 2024. We welcomed the 500th transplant recipient at our Family House and hosted 129 residents—along with their families and caregivers—with an average stay of 56 days. In addition, we facilitated a successful liver transplant from a 98-year-old man, making him the oldest organ donor in U.S. history.

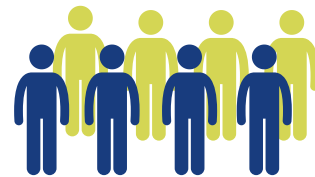
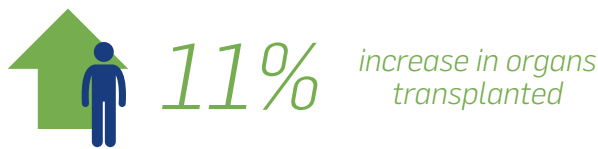
These milestones were only made possible by the dedication of our staff, partners, and the generous families who support our mission. We will continue to lead the charge in saving lives through excellence in organ and tissue donation Until No One Is Waiting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

OUR WORK LIVES ON

# MARKING MILESTONES

Through the generosity of donors and their families, organ and tissue donation in our region saved and healed thousands of lives.

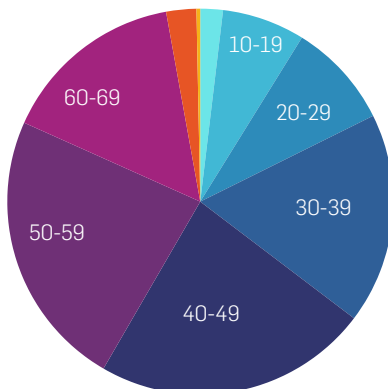


## ORGANS TRANSPLANTED



## ORGAN DONORS BY AGE

0-9    70-79    90-99





1974

2024

# Mid-America TRANSPLANT

**STEADFAST IN OUR MISSION**

## *Celebrating 50 Years*

As we reflect on our 50th year of service, we are grateful for the trust that donors and their families place in us to steward their gifts to those waiting for a lifesaving and life-healing transplant.

We are also grateful for the continued commitment of our staff in advancing Mid-America Transplant's vision of a world where organs and tissues are always available to those in need.

In our pursuit of excellence, Mid-America Transplant earned the Baldrige Award for our continuous improvement efforts in both 2015 and 2021. This commitment to improvement led to many record-breaking years for organ and tissue donation.

Through our mission, Mid-America Transplant strives to transform organ and tissue donation, save thousands of patients on the waitlist, and elicit a ripple effect on countless families and communities.

**17,000+**

ORGAN RECIPIENTS

have received a second chance at life

**2.9 MILLION**

TISSUE RECIPIENTS

received improved quality of life

**500+**

FAMILIES WELCOMED

to our Family House

**\$6.9 MILLION**

IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

funded by our Foundation

**45,000**

DONOR HEROES

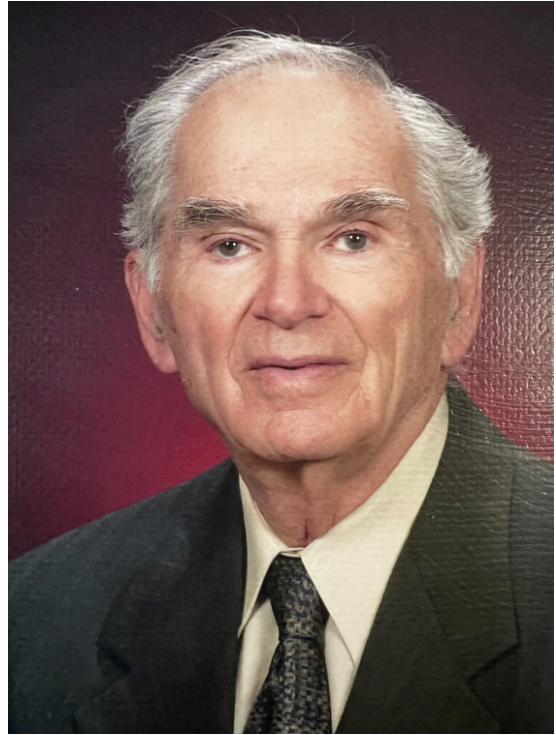
saved and healed lives over 50 years

## A FINAL ACT OF SERVICE

# *Honoring a Legacy*

After a long life of heroic service to his country and community, Mr. Orville Duane Allen and his family made one final act of service—choosing organ donation. At 98 years old, Mr. Allen became the oldest organ donor ever in the United States through his gift of a liver.

“Our dad was beloved by his family, his students, and the soldiers he led because he was such a caring man who brought out the best in others,” said Linda Mitchelle, Mr. Allen’s daughter.



A lifelong resident of southeast Missouri, Mr. Allen was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. He served for 27 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and devoted nearly four decades to teaching vocational agriculture to generations of high school students.

Thanks to his family’s decision to donate, Mr. Allen’s liver saved the life of a 72-year-old woman following a successful transplant in May 2024. It is an honor and privilege to be part of his legacy.



## ***National Donate Life Month***

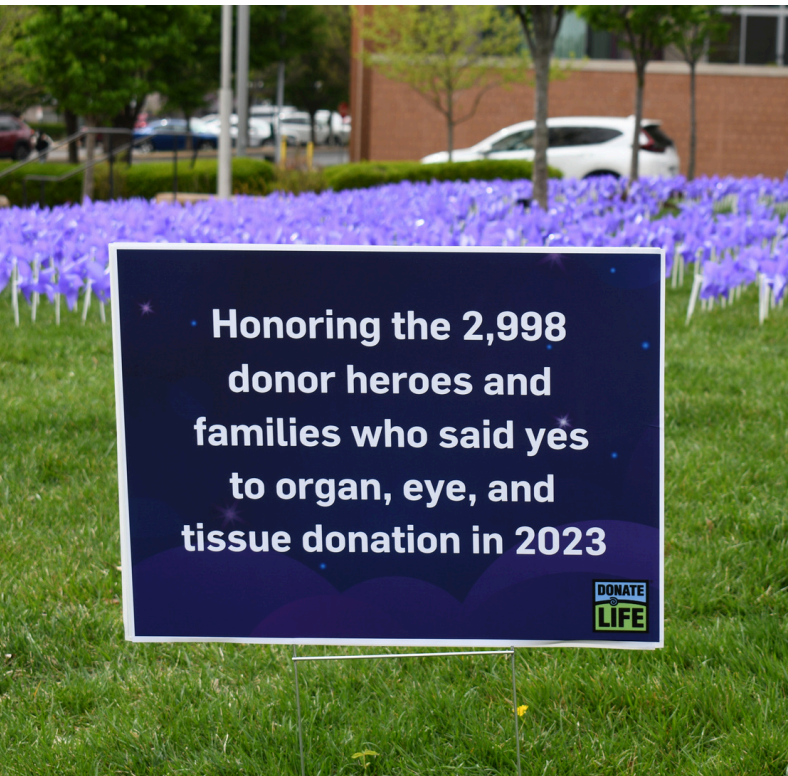
Our staff recognized April as National Donate Life Month (NDLM) with a kick-off ceremony at our location in St. Louis.

Purple pinwheels adorned the lawn surrounding the Donor Memorial, each representing the 2,998 donor heroes and families who said yes to organ, eye, and tissue donation in 2023.

Staff gathered across multiple shifts to honor these heroes. The display remained in place for the first week of NDLM and was visited by many donor families and recipients as well as local passersby.

Through the support of our community, volunteers, staff, and partners, April was filled with many remarkable moments of celebration and remembrance.

*Below: Family Support Coordinator Alyse Campara donated a painting by her mother to the family room at St. Louis University Hospital. Her mother was not only a lung recipient but also a donor hero.*



## OUR PARTNERSHIPS

# *Dedicated to Our Community*



A new memorial honoring organ, eye, and tissue donors shines a light on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University.

During National Donate Life Month, we had the privilege of honoring donor heroes and their families through our partnership with Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO).

A new sculpture designed by artist Don Wiegand was dedicated on SEMO's River Campus Terraces to honor the selfless gifts of local organ, eye, and tissue donors. This sculpture aligns with other memorials in St. Louis and Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Approximately 200 family members, along with Mid-America Transplant and SEMO staff, attended the dedication.

In collaboration with SEMO Athletics, the annual Donate Life baseball and softball games raised awareness for the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation. The Redhawks wore green and blue in recognition of Donate Life Month, and first pitches were thrown by donor families and Mid-America Transplant staff.

We thank SEMO for their steadfast support and continued partnership.





EMILY  
Tissue Recipient

### Stories of Gratitude

In 2023, Emily suffered a severe fracture in her leg. With four young kids, including one-year-old twins, keeping up with her family from a wheelchair was suddenly very difficult. During the surgery to repair her leg, Emily received bone from a tissue donor.

At the time of her injury, Emily had been with Mid-America Transplant for 16 years. Although she had always supported donation, her experience gave her a profound new perspective on the critical importance of tissue donation and the life-changing impact one donor can have. Thanks to a generous donor, Emily's leg bone was able to properly heal.

"It's given me my life back," she said. "Because of the bone tissue that I received, I was able to relearn to walk with my toddlers. I can now do most things that I could before. It's just an amazing gift that my donor has given me."

Emily now feels more motivated in her work than she ever has before. "It's so important to register to become a donor through your license bureau or online. Just become a donor."



UNTIL NO ONE IS WAITING

# MARKING MILESTONES

*500 welcomes to our community of hope and healing*

The Mid-America Transplant Family House welcomed its 500th guest in November. Jay, a lung recipient from Springfield, Missouri, had fought lung issues for over 20 years by the time he received the call for transplant. Now, grateful for this gift from his donor, he looks forward to playing golf, going to the beach, and giving piggyback rides to his granddaughter for the first time in her life.

Our first Family House location welcomed 262 families between December 2013 and May 2022. Since opening the current location in June 2022, the new Family House has been home to more than 250 patients, bringing the total number of families served to over 500.



JAY  
Lung Recipient & Family House Resident,  
Pictured with his wife, Trish

IN  
2024



129

GUESTS  
SERVED



12

STATES  
SERVED



6,150

NIGHTS  
OCCUPIED

## EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

# Made for the Mission

### Local DMV Manager Earns National Recognition

Each year, Donate Life America partners with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) to honor the dedication of DMV staff across the country. Sanela Hall, Manager of the South Kingshighway DMV in St. Louis, was nominated for the prestigious Lifesaver Award by Dee Preston-Anderson, our Public Education and DMV Coordinator. This award recognizes a staff member who demonstrates exceptional commitment to the DMV's role in saving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation.

Sanela exemplifies this commitment by educating her team and DMV customers about the importance of organ and tissue donation. She ensures her staff understands the significance of asking customers the two-part registry question, celebrates Donate Life Month in her office, and provides brochures to



*Sanela Hall is presented with the Lifesaver Award. Pictured left to right: Robin Rehborg, North Dakota Department of Transportation; Dee Preston-Anderson; Sanela Hall; Ian Grossman, President and CEO, AAMVA*

customers seeking more information before making their decision.

Sanela's dedication earned her both the regional and national award! In October, Sanela and Dee attended the AAMVA Region 3 Conference in North Dakota to accept this well-deserved recognition.

Thank you, Sanela, for continuously advancing our mission through your outstanding DMV outreach efforts.



Hospital Services Specialist Lori Pace was appointed to the Missouri Organ Donation Advisory Committee in August. Through this committee, Lori will assist the Missouri Department of Health & Human Services and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in educating the public about the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation, as well as advising on key issues.

Lori brings a unique and invaluable perspective to the committee. More important than her role as a hospital services specialist in Springfield, Missouri, Lori is a donor mom. We are excited to see Lori honor her son Will's legacy by shaping donation policies and outreach efforts for our communities.

## A Legacy of Giving

With his active lifestyle and demanding job as a police officer, Rodney struggled to accept that his heart was failing. A few years after his initial diagnosis, he returned home after a long shift and woke up on the floor surrounded by paramedics. He was placed on the transplant list with only three months to live without a lifesaving gift.

The call for a transplant came in August 2020. Supported by friends, family, and coworkers, Rodney recovered quickly, and he cherishes the gift of life granted to him by his donor hero.

“But that wasn’t the hard part,” he says.

In 2023, Rodney received a call that his son had been in an accident and would not survive. Jaydon had been a strong supporter of organ and tissue donation since his father’s transplant and never went anywhere without his green Donate Life bracelet. Jaydon’s wishes were clear.

“When he took his last breath, I looked down and saw his green bracelet...and I knew what it meant to be an organ recipient. Somebody gave me life, and my son gave somebody else life. This bracelet means more to me than words can express.”

**JAYDON**  
Donor Hero



**RODNEY**  
Heart Recipient  
and Donor Dad

## OUR COMMUNITY

# *Celebrating Life*

Sunday, October 6 was a beautiful day for the Celebrate Life Run/Walk. This event brought the St. Louis Transplant Community together to honor donor families and living donors, celebrate new life with recipients, support those waiting for a lifesaving transplant, and inspire others to say yes to donation.

The annual event would not be possible without our dedicated staff, community partners, and the 1,400+ registered participants. It is our honor and privilege to hear their stories and celebrate those who have been impacted by organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation.

We look forward to welcoming the community and celebrating our donor heroes and recipients again in 2025!



UNITED IN COMMUNITY

# GOING FOR THE GOLD

*Team Mid-America Transplant United Competes in the Transplant Games of America*



2024



26

RECIPIENT  
COMPETITORS



7

DONOR  
FAMILIES



1

LIVING  
DONOR

Mid-America Transplant United is a vibrant team of donor families, living donors, transplant recipients, and individuals awaiting transplants. They work to create community, build awareness, and support those affected by donation and transplantation. The team also proudly represents our service area at the Transplant Games of America held every two years.

The Transplant Games serve as a powerful reminder of what our mission means to both donor families and recipients. Mid-America Transplant was honored to sponsor the 2024 Games in Birmingham, Alabama. It is our privilege to support the members of Team Mid-America Transplant United as they honor loved ones and celebrate the gift of life.



## OUR PARTNERSHIPS

# *SEMO Honors Donor Hero at Annual Soccer Game*

Together, we are uniting to save even more lives through the power of organ and tissue donation.

In partnership with Mid-America Transplant, Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) hosted the Meg Herndon Memorial Donate Life Game in September. This annual event honors former Redhawk Meg Herndon, who saved and healed 17 people when she became a donor hero in 2012.

During the game, Meg's mother presented a check to the Meg Herndon Scholarship Fund, and SEMO opened the event with a moment of silence in her memory.

After her passing, Meg's number 2 jersey was retired. Her legacy continues to inspire through SEMO's soccer program and the phrase she lived by: "Impossible Is Nothing."



*Above: SEMO soccer players wore blue and green jerseys to spread awareness for organ, eye, and tissue donation. Source: krcu.org*

*Left: The team gathers around Cindi Silvey, Meg's mother. Source: TikTok*

*Right: Donor hero Meg Herndon.*





## CANDLELIGHT MEMORIALS

# *Remembering Those Who Said Yes*

Candlelight Memorial ceremonies honor organ and tissue donors who have given the Gift of Life in the past year, with candles symbolizing the shared light of hope provided through their selfless acts of donation. Events like these support families as they navigate moments where grief and healing often intertwine. In 2024, we held Candlelight Memorial events in St. Louis, Springfield, and Cape Girardeau.

In St. Louis and Springfield, families adorned lighted trees with leaves displaying the names of their loved ones, and a photo slideshow highlighted each selfless individual who said yes to giving the gift of life. Families at the Springfield ceremony also had the opportunity to participate in a meaningful memory-making activity. In Cape Girardeau, garden banners featuring images of donor heroes adorned the lawn surrounding the new Donor Memorial on SEMO's River Campus Terraces.

- 70 Donors honored in St. Louis
- 25 Donors honored in Springfield
- 50 Donors honored in Cape Girardeau





UNTIL NO ONE IS WAITING™

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