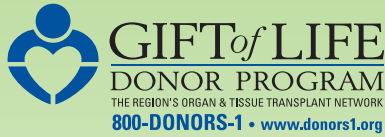


GIFT of LIFE NEWS



A publication of *Gift of Life Donor Program*, the region's organ and tissue transplant network, serving the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

Home has so much meaning during the holidays, particularly this year, when so many people have lost their homes and much more.

In lieu of our usual holiday card, we are contributing to efforts to support our donation and transplantation colleagues in areas devastated by recent events, and posting an e-card instead.

Please view our e-card at donors1.org/holiday.

Our mission is to ensure that as many transplant patients as possible get to spend this holiday, and many holidays, home with their loved ones, through the gift of donation. We support donor families and transplant patients in their journey with counseling,



care and education, and provide many with a home away from home at our Family House.

We thank you for your support and wish you the "Gift of Home," this holiday season and throughout the year.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO Pediatric Organ and Tissue Transplant Recipients

The Jessica Beth Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Program has named three pediatric organ transplant recipients, and one pediatric cornea recipient, as this year's winners of its higher education scholarships.

The \$2,500 scholarships, created in memory of heart transplant recipient Jessica Beth Schwartz, are funded through the Transplant Foundation, the charitable foundation which supports the mission of *Gift of Life Donor Program*.

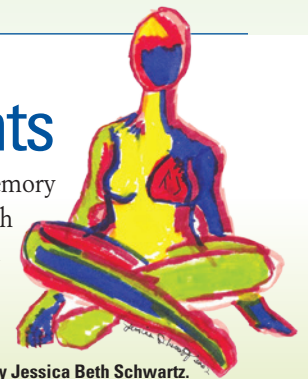


Illustration by Jessica Beth Schwartz.

Jessica Beth Schwartz was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect just a few days after she was born, and by the time she was 14, her heart and body began to slow down. She was able to experience eight and a half additional years of life because she received a gift of life from a generous donor.

"Each one of these young scholarship recipients has a deep awareness and appreciation for the life-changing gift that they received from their organ or tissue donor," said Jessie's mother and scholarship

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A Donate Life Organization

co-founder, Janice Schwartz-Donahue. "They have all fought courageous battles in their young lives, and all have gone on to make a positive mark on this world. We are so pleased to support them in pursuing their advanced education."

Funds for the scholarships are raised primarily through Jessie's Day Give the Gift of Scholarship, the Jessica Schwartz Scholarship's fundraising event, hosted by Jessica's mother and sister. A total of

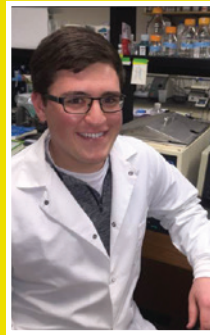
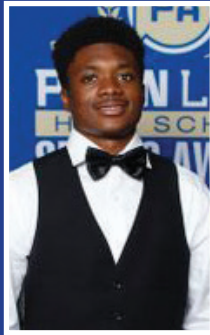
49 students have been awarded scholarships since the program was founded in 2003. The 15th Annual Jessie's Day fundraising event was held October 22, at the Independence Seaport Museum.

To be eligible for the Jessica Beth Schwartz Memorial Scholarship, students must be under the age of 25, seniors in high school, or be enrolled in a two- or four-year college, university, trade or technical school. **For more information, visit www.jessiesday.org.**

2017-2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Joseph Kelleh Mansaray, Camp Hill, PA

Two years ago, Joseph, an athlete, was diagnosed with Cardiomyopathy. He received his heart transplant in February 2016 during his junior year of high school, and was back playing soccer by August of his senior year. Joseph says, "After that whole experience my outlook for many things has changed, I cherish life a lot more and I learned to not take anything for granted, and that organ donation can really save a person's life, and I am very grateful for my organ donor." Joseph has advocated for donation in media interviews and is featured in a *Gift of Life* video. He is now a freshman at Millersville University, Millersville, PA.



Nicholas Michael DiIenno, Wilmington, DE

At age 16, Nick was diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease known as Keratoconus. He underwent a successful full corneal transplant in early 2017 that improved his vision tremendously. He is currently studying Biological Sciences at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE. Despite his demanding schedule, he always finds time to volunteer in his community. He is very aware of the need to motivate others to become organ and tissue donors. "I am truly blessed to receive this gift of sight," Nick says.

Rachel Erin O'Brien, Middletown, NJ

Rachel was diagnosed with Biliary Atresia when she was just eleven days old. She had to wait on the transplant list for more than a year before receiving a life-saving liver transplant in 2000, at the age of 20 months. She is now a freshman at Penn State, Abington, PA, and intends on majoring in Rehabilitation and Human Services. She says, "I share my story whenever possible to ensure people understand that lives are saved by organ donors and to support families dealing with transplant. If potential donors can see me healthy and active, I hope it inspires them to want to make a difference when they can."



Maximillian V. Policelli, Nazareth, PA

Max was born with Biliary Atresia and had multiple surgeries prior to his liver transplant in 1999 at age one. Max finds time to give back to his community, and he credits the Boy Scouts, where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, for leading him to a life of service. Max is a sophomore at Penn State Behrend, in Erie, PA where he is majoring in Plastics Engineering Technology. He says, "I believe that receiving a transplant has helped me be more compassionate and understanding of others and their daily struggles. I enjoy being able to serve others and volunteer to make the world a better place to live, no matter how much time we have on earth."

Gift of Life Supports Those in Recovery

Gift of Life Donor Program joined thousands of individuals, families, local and state legislators, government leaders, and treatment providers at the PRO-ACT Recovery Walk in Philadelphia on September 23.

PRO-ACT is an initiative of The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania that works to promote recovery and reduce the stigma of drug and alcohol addiction. The 27,000 walkers, led by an honor guard, included 342 individuals representing more than 6,000 years of recovery. Reducing the stigma of addiction is achieved through education, advocacy and presenting evidence that recovery is possible. *Gift of Life's* participation in the event supported PRO-ACT's mission while educating our community about donation. Joining *Gift of Life* staff at the event was volunteer Eileen Grugan, whose son Charles saved three lives through donation when he died of an overdose. His story can be viewed at www.donors1.org/about-us/ndlm/charleshap.



ABOVE: *Gift of Life* volunteers Eileen Grugan (L) with Francine Kates (R).

Life and Legacy CELEBRATIONS

Gift of Life's long tradition of honoring donors continued this fall with our annual donor remembrance ceremonies, now called Life and Legacy Celebrations.

More than 250 families attended our Life and Legacy Celebrations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware on five consecutive Sundays in October and November.

Each ceremony featured organ, cornea and tissue recipients sharing their personal story and gratitude. A donor family also spoke and a photo tribute included a picture of each donor. Staff and volunteers presented families with a donor medal, donor family pins, a yellow rose and a handmade wrap. Each event was preceded by a quilt pinning ceremony for donor families.

Families have called our ceremonies "absolutely healing, motivating, beautiful" and a "meaningful way to recognize the generosity of our loved ones."

Thank you to all of the families who attended and to our staff and many volunteers who helped.

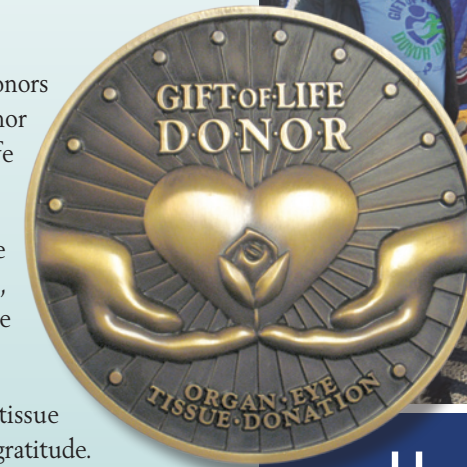
DONOR FAMILY COMMENTS:

"Beautiful way to remember our loved one and hear of how the gift of life has blessed others. Thank you!!"

"This is an absolutely healing, motivating, beautiful ceremony. I will treasure the medal and other gifts. Thank you for all you did to make this transformation easier."

"This was such a meaningful, honorable ceremony recognizing the generosity and integrity of our loved ones. Thank you."

"This ceremony was a gift and blessing to our family."



"Threads of Love" Donor Memorial Quilts (shown below) are fabricated with quilt squares made by donor families as a tribute to their loved ones and displayed proudly in the community.



Hospitals Honored for Commitment to Organ Donation



On November 3, *Gift of Life Donor Program* and the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) honored Abington Jefferson Health and Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience with the 2017 Gift of Life Award. This prestigious, annual award is given to hospitals with superior performance in organ donation that have either achieved a 75% organ donation conversion rate during the past year, or that have dramatically improved their performance compared to the previous year.

During the award period, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017, Abington Jefferson Health achieved a 90 percent conversion rate, with 19 organ donors from a potential of 21 organ donors. The hospital also received the award in 2009 and 2012. Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience achieved a 75 percent conversion rate, with 21 organ donors from a potential of 28 potential organ donors. In addition, Jefferson was recognized for its dramatic increase in its organ donation conversion rate over the prior year.

We congratulate our dedicated partners at Abington Jefferson Health and Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience on the compassionate care they provide to patients and families, and for their outstanding commitment to organ donation which gives others a second chance at life.

There are still nearly 5,400 men, women and children in this region who are awaiting a life-saving organ transplant. Unfortunately, there are not enough transplantable organs available, which results in an average of 20 people dying each day in the U.S. **You can help save more lives. Encourage everyone you know to register today at www.donors1.org. It takes only 30 seconds.**

GIFT OF LIFE TAKES GLOBAL STAGE on Donation

Gift of Life's expertise has not only saved thousands of lives in the United States, but is helping boost donation around the world.

Our staff joined a distinguished roster of experts at the 2017 Organ Donation Congress held by the International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement.

Our 15 presentations at the conference shared insights into the state-of-the-art training, hospital partnerships and clinical best practices that led *Gift of Life* and its community to be the national leader in organ donation.

More than 470 members from 47 countries attended the four-day conference in Geneva, Switzerland in September to discuss issues, ideas and innovations in donation. Countries with both developed and emerging donor programs took part.

Gift of Life President and CEO Howard M. Nathan chaired three sessions and was an invited speaker for two additional sessions including "How Controlled DCD Can Impact Organ Donation" and "Tissue Donation in the United States." Howard also presented an abstract titled "Twelve OPOs in the U.S., With a 65.1 Million Combined Population, Recovered More than 40 Deceased Donors PMP in 2016 – A Rate Higher than Spain."

Other presenters showcased *Gift of Life's* Donor Champion Learning Sessions, which helped increase hospital referrals by 113 percent and donors by 45 percent since 2005. *Gift of Life* holds 15 Donor Champion sessions each year. More than 1,400 critical care nurses, respiratory therapists and other hospital staff attend the sessions annually.



Other *Gift of Life* presentations at the Organ Donation Congress highlighted:

- **Gift of Life Institute's virtual classroom training program, which provides on-demand access and flexibility for tissue authorization professionals**
- **The Institute's innovative online role-play tool that increases the skill of OPO professionals in leading sensitive conversations about donation**
- **Gift of Life's experience and learnings regarding donor management protocols for anoxic deaths**
- **Gift of Life's training and work with medical professionals in understanding and explaining brain death**

In addition to Howard Nathan, *Gift of Life* staff who presented at the conference were Vice President of Clinical Services Richard Hasz, Director of Donation & Transplantation Analysis Sharon West, Associate General Counsel Steve Tornone, Gift of Life Institute Executive Director Theresa Daly, Hospital Services Manager Christopher Schimpf and Instructional Curriculum Designer Bob Nordon.

ABOVE L-R: Steve Tornone, Christopher Schimpf, Sharon West, Howard M. Nathan, Richard Hasz, Bob Nordon and Theresa Daly.

Dragonboat Team Raises Awareness

Recipients, living donors, donor family members and *Gift of Life* staff participated in the Annual Philadelphia International Dragonboat Festival in September to raise awareness for organ donation and transplantation. Congratulations to Team LifeSavers!



IN THE COMMUNITY

DE Donor Dash Delivers

Nearly 300 recipients, donor families, volunteers, hospital partners and supporters came out for the fourth annual Delaware Donor Dash at the scenic Nemours Estate in Wilmington on September 23.

More than \$40,000 was raised to support organ donation education and programming in Delaware, where about 500 residents are awaiting a life-saving transplant.

Brian Sklodowski and Jenifer Besten were the top male and female finishers among more than 150 runners who completed the 5K.

Gift of Life Donor Program joined with Christiana Care Health System, Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children and the Delaware Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Board to proudly sponsor the Delaware Donor Dash.



Community Health Centers Rise to the Challenge

Ten community health centers with more than 25 locations worked with *Gift of Life* to promote donation among patients and the community through the 2017 Caring, Hope and Commitment Challenge. The centers earned points for activities during the campaign, which ran March 17 to September 1.

Centers honored at an awards ceremony in October were:

GOLD River Valley Community Health Center
SouthEast Lancaster Health Services (pictured above)
Welsh Mountain Community Health Centers

SILVER Berks Community Health Centers
Sadler Community Health Center
Sayre Community Health Center

BRONZE Public Health Management Corporation

The Caring, Hope and Commitment Challenge is part of a statewide collaboration among *Gift of Life* and its western-Pennsylvania counterpart CORE (Center for Organ Recovery and Education) and the PA Association of Community Health Centers. Community health centers in Pennsylvania serve more than 800,000 people across 300 sites in underserved rural and urban areas.

The Caring, Hope and Commitment Challenge received national recognition in 2016 with a Donate Life America Pinnacle Award for advancing a culture where donation is embraced as a fundamental human responsibility.



50 YEARS OF HEART TRANSPLANTS

In *Gift of Life's* region, **113** patients are waiting for a heart transplant

6 hospitals perform heart transplants:

- A.I. duPont Hospital for Children
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
- Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- Temple University Hospital
- Thomas Jefferson University Hospital



1967 December 3 marks the 50th anniversary of the first heart transplant, which was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard in South Africa. The technique used by Dr. Barnard was developed by American researchers in the 1950s.

1968 First heart transplant in Pennsylvania done at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

1984 First heart transplants in *Gift of Life's* region at Hershey Medical Center in March and Temple University Hospital in June.

4,669 heart transplants coordinated by *Gift of Life* including **139** heart-lung transplants