

# GIFT OF LIFE NEWS



**GIFT of LIFE**  
DONOR PROGRAM  
THE REGION'S ORGAN & TISSUE TRANSPLANT NETWORK  
800-DONORS-1 • www.donors1.org

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.

## CELEBRATE GIFT OF LIFE WEEKEND APRIL 13-15!

This memorable weekend, held during National Donate Life Month, will be filled with events to support organ and tissue donation. Hotel packages available. Visit [GiftofLifeWEEKEND.org](http://GiftofLifeWEEKEND.org).



# DASH

**Sunday, April 15**  
23RD ANNUAL  
**DONOR DASH**  
Philadelphia Museum of Art

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# DANCE & DINE

**Friday, April 13**  
**THE Party**  
The Bellevue Hotel  
Hosted by Donors Are Heroes  
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**Saturday, April 14**  
**PRE-RACE PACKET  
PICK-UP PICNIC**  
Gift of Life Family House  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Friday, April 13**  
**NATIONAL BLUE & GREEN DAY**  
Celebrate Blue & Green as part of National Donate Life Month

- Organize a "Blue & Green Day" at your workplace or local school
- Encourage family, friends and co-workers to wear blue and green to promote donation
- Take lots of photos and share them on social media with #BlueGreenDay and tag donors1



A Donate Life Organization



**GIFT of LIFE**  
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800-DONORS-1 • www.donors1.org  
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Philadelphia, PA 19123-4101

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# Top DASH Team Celebrates Donor's Legacy

The legacy of Charles Grugan grows with each Donor Dash – and his sister invites you to join in this special day overflowing with energy.

“It’s contagious in the sense that you just have to be a part of it. Just be prepared to be completely overwhelmed with emotion,” said Carolyn Grugan Noll.

Noll is captain of Charles’s Legacy, the top fundraising team in the 2017 Donor Dash. She has seen her family’s team grow from 30 members to more than 200 over the past six years. The team honors Charles’s legacy of saving three lives through organ donation after he died of an overdose at age 33 in 2011. The Grugan family is passionate about promoting donation as well as raising awareness of the opioid epidemic and addiction. The Dash is their day to celebrate Charles’s life.

On Sunday, April 15, the Grugans and their growing team will meet again in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art for the 23rd annual Donor Dash.

“You get there and the whole place is alive,” said Noll. “Runners are warming up, music is pounding, teams are gathering for photos. It’s a day when you connect to people and feel like you are giving back to humanity.”



Charles Grugan, pictured here, saved three lives through organ donation, and his legacy continues to grow. One of the many ways that his family celebrates Charles’s life is through the Dash. In the last six years, the Grugans have grown their Dash team, named Charles’s Legacy, from 30 to more than 200 people – last year raising more funds than any other team at the annual event.



**Sunday, April 15**  
Philadelphia Museum of Art

### EVENTS

- 10K Run begins.....7:10 a.m.
- 5K Run begins.....7:20 a.m.
- Kids Fun Run begins.....7:45 a.m.
- 3K Walk begins .....8:30 a.m.

On-site registration opens 6 a.m. at Eakins Oval  
in front of the museum

REGISTRATION: \$30 until April 10 / \$35 at the event

Register today at [donordash.org](http://donordash.org)

To volunteer at the Dash, contact  
Rashida Brooks at [rbrooks@donors1.org](mailto:rbrooks@donors1.org) or 215-557-8090 x1137

# NATION'S LEADER FOR 10TH YEAR

## Breaks Two National Records for Organ Donation in 2017

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the donors and donor families in our region, *Gift of Life Donor Program* is the nation’s leading organ procurement organization (OPO) for the 10th consecutive year.

In 2017, *Gift of Life* broke two national records for organ donation. Our region led the nation with the successful coordination of life-saving organs from 565 donors, which resulted in 1,546 organs transplanted – the most organ donors and transplants of any OPO in the U.S. in one year. Our annual donation rate continues to rank among the highest in the world, equating to 50 organ donors-per-million-population.

In the past year, nearly 5,000 tissue donors repaired life-threatening heart defects, healed burns and improved mobility for almost 88,000 people.

“Our growth is possible only because of the selflessness of the donors and donor families who consistently make this the most

generous region in the country. This year, they saved and improved the lives of nearly 90,000 people,” says *Gift of Life* President and CEO Howard M. Nathan. “We are so grateful to them for providing their precious gifts, often in the face of overwhelming loss.”

Nathan continues, “This important work takes tremendous compassion and around-the-clock commitment by our staff, transplant centers and hospital partners. Together, they ensure that we provide desperately-needed organs and tissue to those who need it most.”

Since 1974, *Gift of Life* has coordinated more than 46,000 organs for transplant and approximately one million tissue transplants have resulted from *Gift of Life* donors. One organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people, and a tissue donor can enhance the lives of up to 75 others.

For more information or to register, visit [donors1.org](http://donors1.org).

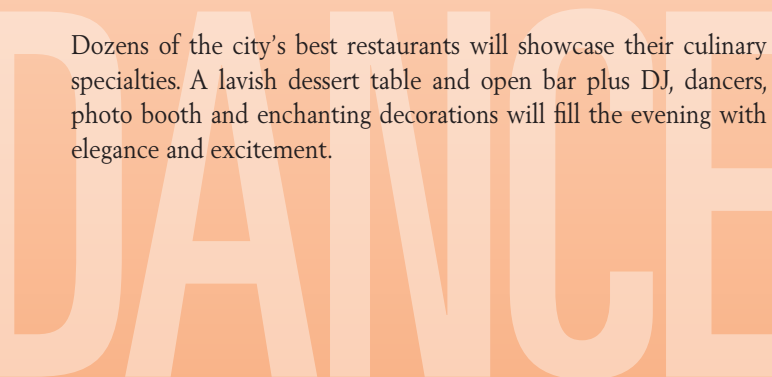
# DAZZLING FUN, FANTASTIC CAUSE

Get out your glamorous attire and join more than 500 guests for one of Philadelphia’s most sparkling social occasions as Donors Are Heroes hosts THE Party on Friday, April 13.

“THE Party makes it possible to raise funds to educate the public on the need to say yes to organ and tissue donation, and in doing so, to save lives,” said Renee D. Freeman, co-founder, Donors Are Heroes. Renee and her husband Don, a heart recipient, founded Donors Are Heroes in 2001. Since then, the volunteer group has raised more than \$1 million for donation education.

“It’s a really great, fun event for an amazing cause. It’s really high energy – fun and festive,” said Carol Domb, co-chair along with Karleigh Rose Pettit of THE Party of 2018. Carol, who is a principal in the School District of Philadelphia, continues, “Our whole mission is to raise awareness. Our funds go to education.”

Dozens of the city’s best restaurants will showcase their culinary specialties. A lavish dessert table and open bar plus DJ, dancers, photo booth and enchanting decorations will fill the evening with elegance and excitement.



You’re invited to

# THE PARTY

Friday, April 13 | 8 p.m.

The Bellevue Hotel  
200 South Broad Street, Philadelphia

Tickets: \$150 (\$175 at the door)  
Online: [donorsareheroestheparty.com](http://donorsareheroestheparty.com)

Sponsorships available  
Call 215-557-8090 x1128 or email Karen Keener  
at [kkeener@donors1.org](mailto:kkeener@donors1.org)

## 300 Celebrate “SPICE OF LIFE” in New Jersey

Thank you to Cherry Hill’s Forgotten Boardwalk Brewing Co. for hosting its fourth annual “Spice of Life” event on January 28.

Twelve years ago, owner Seth Dolled donated a kidney to his mother and he now hosts this fun event to help raise awareness about organ donation. More than 300 people attended and 37 registered on *Gift of Life’s* new “self-service” donor registration kiosk.







*Gift of Life* is expanding its highly successful Donation & Transplant Improvement Initiative beyond transplant centers to include hospitals and healthcare systems throughout the region in 2018.

## DONATION & TRANSPLANT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE CONTINUES

*Gift of Life* will host an Organ Donation and Transplant Summit at our Philadelphia headquarters and a satellite location in Hershey, PA on April 12th. This is the third Summit to be held as part of *Gift of Life's* Donation and Transplantation Improvement Initiative that launched in May 2017. Critical care leaders, physicians, nurses and other key ancillary staff from the region's fifteen transplant centers have been active participants in this important initiative since the program began.

This initiative was launched by *Gift of Life* to bring the region's transplant centers together to share best practices to increase donation rates in the region.

The need to keep up with the increasing demand for organs is a serious public health issue – there are not enough organs to keep pace with the critical need. Currently, there are approximately 115,000 men, women and children waiting for organs in the United States. Twenty people die waiting every day. In *Gift of Life's* region, 5,300 people are now waiting for life-saving transplants.

The 2017 Donation & Transplant Improvement Initiative was a success, with the 15 participating transplant centers reporting an 11 percent increase in generous organ donors as compared to 2016.

As a result of the positive results and feedback received, *Gift of Life* is launching the "spread-phase" of this initiative in April when the program will expand beyond transplant centers to include acute care hospitals and healthcare systems from throughout the region. Participants will have an opportunity to hear from critical care leaders and colleagues about practices and processes that have been successfully implemented and that have increased donation rates within other healthcare institutions.

*Gift of Life* is excited to continue this innovative work. We look forward to helping provide legacies for donors and their families and saving more lives through organ transplantation.

## CYCLE OF LIFE: Transplant Games Get Recipient's Wheels Turning

Heart recipient Bill Soloway of Yardley, PA went to the 2016 Transplant Games hoping to bring back a medal for his donor's family – but the experience turned out to be more precious than gold.



"All transplant patients should experience the games in their new life. It's very therapeutic," said Bill.

Training for the games was a powerful motivating force after Bill's transplant at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. His lifelong passion for bicycling had been sidelined by congestive heart failure.

Five years before his transplant, hospital chaplain Janet Dennis showed Bill medals and photos as she told him about the Transplant Games. After his transplant, Bill couldn't sleep one night and recalled what Janet had shared.

He searched "Transplant Games" on his phone at 3 a.m. – suddenly, Bill had a goal for his new life after transplant. "I needed to be training. It helped me stay active and get my strength back," he said.

The games showed Bill that "there is life after transplant" and he is embracing that life with dozens of new friends. "Team Philadelphia is a second family to me," he said.

**The 2018 Transplant Games will bring together more than 9,000 participants from across the United States. Their goal is to raise awareness of donation and increase the number of organ, cornea and tissue donors. Soloway is busy recruiting new members for Team Philadelphia to take part in the 2018 Donate Life Transplant Games to be held August 2-7 in Salt Lake City, Utah.**

LEFT: Heart transplant recipient and Team Philadelphia Member Bill Soloway.

## Summer Fun for Transplant Kids at Camp Jeremy

Summer adventure awaits young transplant recipients and their siblings, ages 5 to 16, at Camp Jeremy from July 16-20. This free day camp draws youngsters from *Gift of Life's* region, which encompasses the eastern half of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

Registration is now open for the action-packed week that will include swimming, archery, rock wall climbing, games, crafts and the opportunity to make new friends.

Space is limited so register today! Transportation is available via two pick up locations, one in Philadelphia, PA at *Gift of Life* headquarters, and the other in Wilmington, DE at Nemours Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children.



Camp Jeremy is held at Mermaid Country Day Camp in Blue Bell, PA in memory of Jeremy Clemens, a heart recipient and camp counselor. His family has continued Jeremy's legacy by having transplant recipients enjoy camp for 14 years.

**For more information and to register, call Karen Keener at 215-557-8090 x1128.**



## DONATE LIFE TRANSPLANT GAMES OF AMERICA August 2-7, 2018 Salt Lake City, Utah



Join thousands of transplant recipients, living donors, donor families and supporters at this Olympic-style competition to celebrate the success of organ and tissue donation and transplantation!

**For more information, visit [TeamPhilly.org](http://TeamPhilly.org) or email [TeamPhilly@donors1.org](mailto:TeamPhilly@donors1.org)**



Kidney transplant recipient and 12-time Transplant Games of America participant Daniel E. Snowden, D.Ed.

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