

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.



24th Annual Donor Dash Draws 14,000 in Support of Organ Donation!

This year's annual Donor Dash drew 14,000 dedicated Dashers and raised \$600,000 to support *Gift of Life* education, community outreach and family support programs. This signature program helps underscore the critical need to register more organ and tissue donors in order to save more lives.

"When it comes down to it, no city has more heart than the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support for the Dash and for the many thousands of people who ran and walked in support of organ and tissue donation. This is a tremendous way to stand up for the thousands of families waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. And it is a heartwarming tribute to the people we have lost, including many who gave others the gift of life," said Howard M. Nathan, *Gift of Life Donor Program* President and CEO.

If you missed the Dash, but still want to donate, please visit donordash.org.



Grateful Surgeon Runs in Donor Dash After Heart Transplant

Saving Dr. Stansbury

Last summer, Dr. Neal Stansbury was growing weaker as disease turned his heart muscle to fibrous tissue. This accomplished athlete, who once set a world record as an amateur cyclist, said he had "stopped riding, stopped doing everything."

"I struggled just to get through the day," he recalled.

He was too sick to leave the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania when he went for a checkup last July. "I only had a few weeks to live. My time was running out and the odds weren't good," he said.

Then one anonymous hero – an organ donor – changed everything. July 14 brought the news that "they had the perfect heart" and Dr. Stansbury's life-saving transplant launched an exciting year. In just ten weeks, he was back to work full time as an orthopedic surgeon, transforming the lives of patients thanks to tissue grafts from more heroes – tissue donors. He repairs about 75 torn ACLs per year plus rotator cuff tears and other painful, debilitating injuries.



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A Donate Life Organization



GIFT of LIFE
DONOR PROGRAM
THE REGION'S ORGAN & TISSUE TRANSPLANT NETWORK
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Philadelphia, PA 19123-4101

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DR. STANSBURY, continued from page 1

"We're taking people from misery and life-disabling conditions and restoring them thanks to donors. Every single week, I use tissue grafts," he said.

Dr. Stansbury participated in his first Donor Dash in April, running the 10K and joining 14,000 other transplant recipients along with donor families and Gift of Life supporters for our biggest celebration of donation. "I feel fantastic," he said. "I have more energy than I've had in 15 years. I'm absolutely thrilled to be alive."

"I can't stress how grateful I am to my donor and donor's family," Dr. Stansbury added. "I'm very excited to be able to continue my life and help others."

Dr. Stansbury, who lives in North Whitehall Township, PA, is married, has three daughters and works with Lehigh Valley Health Network.



CONGRATULATIONS

TOP THREE DASH FUNDRAISING TEAMS
that combined raised more than \$33,000

FIRST PLACE Team Louie	SECOND PLACE Team Tyler Robinson	THIRD PLACE Living the Dream
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RACE WINNERS

5K M: Christopher Naimoli F: Kayla Vaughn	10K M: Jimmy Vizzard F: Anne Beth Huy
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THANK YOU

The Dash would not be possible without the generous support from its sponsors:

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KIDS FUN RUN

THANK YOU

volunteers, hospital partners and supporters for helping to make NDLM such a success!

PROCLAMATIONS



BLUE & GREEN DAY



HOSPITAL EVENTS



QUILT DEDICATIONS



FLAG RAISINGS



PRE-DASH PICNIC

THE Party celebrates Organ Donation

Lavish Event Supports Community Outreach

A glittering crowd enjoyed a Mardi Gras theme at Donors Are Heroes THE Party on March 29. This fabulous evening of fun and fashion raises money for life-saving community outreach to promote organ and tissue donation.

Co-chairs Carol Domb and Stanton Myerson welcomed 500 guests to the newly renovated ballroom of the Bellevue Hotel in Philadelphia as a selection of the city's top chefs served specialty dishes and cocktails. The event included lavish decorations, live music and hours of dancing.

THE Party earned night-of coverage by 6ABC and CBS3, as well as preview coverage by FOX 29.

Thank you to our event's 60 generous sponsors including our Diamond Sponsors:

- Parx Casino
- Joan & Bernard Spain Family Foundation
- The Inquirer

All proceeds will help increase public awareness about the critical need for more organ and tissue donors in our region, especially among high school students and in communities of color. Donors Are Heroes was founded in 2001 by Don and Renee D. Freeman and has raised more than \$1 million for donation education – reaching thousands of students and our community at large. Donors Are Heroes has hosted THE Party for 17 years.

ABOVE RIGHT, L-R: Joe Grande of Donors Are Heroes, THE Party co-chair Stanton Myerson, Jan Weinstock of Gift of Life, THE Party co-chair Carol Domb, Renee D. Freeman of Donors Are Heroes, Karen Keener of Gift of Life and Fox29's Mike Jerrick.



CONGRATULATIONS HOWARD!

Gift of Life Donor Program's President & CEO Howard M. Nathan is one of **Main Line Today's 2019 Healthcare Heroes!** Howard was honored by the magazine for his work in making Gift of Life's region the most generous in the U.S. Of his life's work Mr. Nathan has said, "Being able to orchestrate the transition from someone's deepest loss to new life still gives me chills...every day is a tremendous privilege." Howard was honored at an awards ceremony in Malvern, PA.



CLINICAL CORNER



Recipients of grants from Gift of Life's Transplant Foundation include Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. L-R: Greg Swoppe, Hershey Transplantation Operations Director; Howard M. Nathan, Gift of Life President & CEO; Dr. Zakiyah Kadry, Transplantation Chief; Deborah A. Berini, President, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center; Sandra Cantera, Transplant Manager; and Richard Hasz, Gift of Life Vice President of Clinical Services.

Helping Patients and Caregivers Seven Transplant Centers Receive Grants

Transplant centers in the Gift of Life Donor Program region located outside of Philadelphia may apply for grants to assist patients and their caregivers who travel to their centers for transplant-related care. This support includes assistance towards lodging, meals and transportation expenses, thanks to grants from Gift of Life's non-profit affiliate, Transplant Foundation.

This spring, grants of up to \$25,000 each were awarded to seven transplant centers: UPMC Pinnacle, Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Geisinger Medical Center, Crozer-Chester Medical Center and Lehigh Valley Hospital in Pennsylvania, as well as Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children and Christiana Care Health System in Delaware.

Patients traveling to Philadelphia for their transplant care can receive lodging and supportive services through Gift of Life Family House.

Gift of Life and its Transplant Foundation are committed to supporting innovative programs for transplant patients and their caregivers/families across our service area, which includes the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

Editor's Note: Liver transplant recipient Peter Matthews was pictured in the Donation Champion Learning Session photo in the Clinical Corner section of our Spring 2019 newsletter. The photo caption was incorrect.

Mini-Dash at HUP

Gift of Life staff and volunteers joined the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania to host the first-ever Mini Dash!

This special event created an opportunity for patients from 10 different units at HUP a chance to Dash their way across the finish line since they were unable to attend the 24th Annual Donor Dash on April 14. Patients from all walks of life, including some recovering from a recent organ transplant, were able to cross their own personal finish lines in celebration of organ and tissue donor awareness! Patients were treated to giveaways, snacks and a visit from Heartman!

The hope is that all the patients we met at HUP will join us at the Philadelphia Museum of Art for next year's Dash!



Patients are all smiles after winning prizes and taking part in the first Mini-Dash at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

National Donor Sabbath November 15-17

We encourage all houses of worship to join in and learn about the critical shortage of organs and pray for those affected by donation and transplantation.

Visit donors1.org for information on how your congregation can participate or email Leslie Jean-Mary at ljean-mary@donors1.org.



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A joyous crowd of 14,000 Dashers came together to make our 24th Annual Donor Dash on April 14 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art a big success, raising \$600,000 to support



National Minority Donor Awareness Week August 1-7

Gift of Life is joining forces with iHeart Radio once again to celebrate National Minority Donor Awareness Week with radio interviews and a town hall forum. The goal of this special observance is to increase donor registration among multicultural communities who make up more than half of the 114,000 people on the national transplant wait list. For more information email Leslie Jean-Mary at ljean-mary@donors1.org.

Help Keep Our Donor Families Wrapped in Hugs!

Every fall, Gift of Life Donor Program holds Life and Legacy Celebrations to honor our heroic organ and tissue donors and their compassionate families. During the ceremonies, each family receives a crocheted or knitted wrap intended to provide comfort and support throughout the grief experience. Our current supply of handmade wraps is running low and we need your help to ensure that we have enough for our Life and Legacy Celebrations this fall.

For more information and specifications, visit our website at donors1.org/wraps. If you have any questions, contact Jacqui Kates in Family Support Services at 1-800-366-6771, ext. 1127.