

# GIFT OF LIFE NEWS



**GIFT of LIFE**  
DONOR PROGRAM  
THE REGION'S ORGAN & TISSUE TRANSPLANT NETWORK  
800-DONORS-1 • [www.donors1.org](http://www.donors1.org)

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

## This holiday season, our heartfelt thanks go out to the entire

***Gift of Life* family** – our donor families, recipients, volunteers, hospital and community partners, staff, board and advocates – for your support. Your compassion and selfless dedication to our life-saving mission inspires us in our work every day, helping to make the *Gift of Life* region the most generous in the nation for organ donation, and the leader in organs transplanted.

View our environmentally friendly e-card and video of gratitude at [donors1.org/holiday](http://donors1.org/holiday).

Major events in 2020 will keep the spirit dashing well into the New Year, providing young and old the opportunity to celebrate the life-saving power of organ and tissue donation! Please be sure

to join us for our exciting 25th Anniversary Donor Dash coming up in April at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Donate Life Transplant Games of America this summer in northern New Jersey!



WISHING YOU  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
AND A  
**DASHING**  
NEW YEAR!



## Register now for the **25th Anniversary DONOR DASH!** SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

### Philadelphia Museum of Art

The Dash is *Gift of Life's* largest and most exciting gathering of the year, and we expect our 25th Anniversary Donor Dash to be our biggest ever! Held each April during National Donate Life Month, the Dash celebrates the life-saving power of organ and tissue transplantation and honors all donors who give others a second chance at life.

Last year's event was an outstanding success, attracting 14,000 enthusiastic runners and walkers from throughout the tristate region. Participants describe the Donor Dash as having its own special "esprit de corps" and a "special energy".

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A Donate Life Organization



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800-DONORS-1 • [www.donors1.org](http://www.donors1.org)  
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Philadelphia, PA 19123-4101

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Since its establishment in 1996, a quarter of a million people have attended the Dash and its life-saving message has reached millions through media and community participation. In the last 10 years alone, the Dash has raised more than \$4.5 million. Proceeds benefit the Transplant Foundation, which supports donation education, research and programs for donor and recipient families.

**Register now and support our life-saving mission! We hope you will join in and share your memories from 1996 to 2019. You can submit photos from past Donor Dashes at [donors1.org/Dash25](http://donors1.org/Dash25).**

## DASHING THROUGH THE YEARS...



## Two families, Two faiths: Joined by Ryan's life-saving legacy

Ryan Shaw's devout faith and his mother Carol's ability to transcend grief sparked two events Carol calls "miracles." First, new life for four strangers and then a deep and inspiring bond between two very different people.

Carol McCloud asked doctors if Ryan could be an organ donor when he suffered a fatal epileptic seizure in 2014. She knew that Ryan, so loving and strong in his Catholic faith, would want to save lives as his final act.

Carol wrote to Ryan's four transplant recipients shortly after his passing. Just a few months later, on Christmas Eve, she received a letter from Ryan's liver recipient, Abdul-Kareem Salahuddin, a devout Muslim grateful for his second chance.

"She and Ryan are tremendous heroes to me," said Kareem, whose transplant has allowed him to enjoy life with his family.

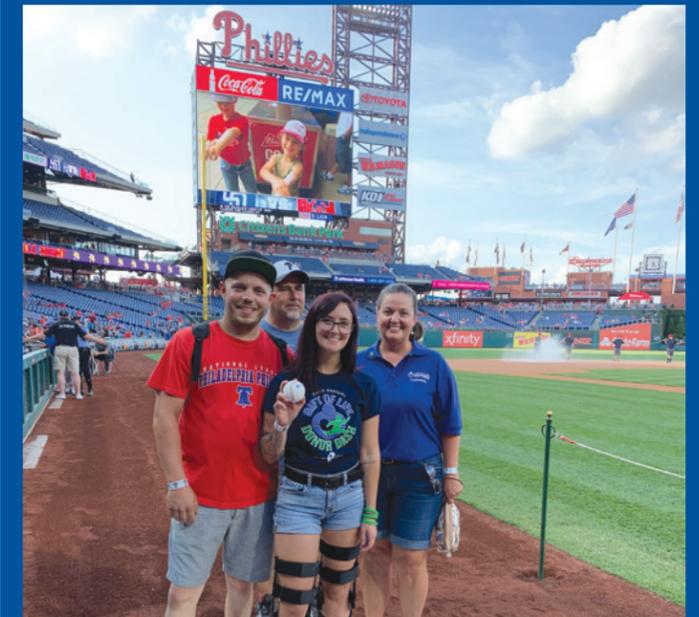
Carol and Kareem continued to correspond, then spoke by phone for the first time on Christmas Eve 2015 and became close friends. This woman and man of different faiths are now one family blessed to be joined by Ryan's life-saving legacy.

"Whether you call him God or Jehovah or Allah, it's all God and can bring anyone together," said Carol.

She encourages other families to support donation despite the pain of losing a loved one, saying, "Take a moment to think about how in the midst of your pain you can bring some sense of joy to the situation."

**For more on Carol and Kareem's story and Ryan's life-saving legacy, visit [donors1.org/Ryan](http://donors1.org/Ryan).**

Tissue recipient Carrie Dailey (center) poses with her family at Citizens Bank Park moments before she took to the mound to throw out the first pitch during Gift of Life Night at the Phillies. Thank you to everyone who helped make our Phillies night a success with more than 500 supporters at the game!



## TEAM PHILADELPHIA 2020 Transplant Games of America



Join Team Philadelphia at the 2020 Transplant Games of America in the Meadowlands, New Jersey – **July 17th to 22nd**. Thousands of transplant recipients, living donors, donor families and supporters will gather at this Olympic-style competition to celebrate the success of organ and tissue donation and transplantation!

Who is eligible to compete? Organ, tissue or bone marrow recipients, as well as living donors, who are at least nine months out from transplantation or donation and medically eligible.

Donor families are encouraged to attend! Families enjoy cheering on the athletes and attending a variety of special workshops and events.

**For more information visit [TeamPhilly.org](http://TeamPhilly.org).**



## Jan L. Weinstock, Esq. 20 Years of Dedicated Service to Gift of Life

Congratulations to Jan L. Weinstock, Esq., our Vice President of Administration & General Counsel, as she celebrates a major milestone with *Gift of Life*. For two decades, Jan has been a driving force for life-saving initiatives in our region.

She has championed landmark legislation in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania that has helped save thousands of lives. In 2011, Jan oversaw the building of our Family House, a haven for transplant patients and their families, and continues to bring her compassionate guidance to its daily operations and fundraising.

Jan's strong leadership spans numerous areas integral to supporting *Gift of Life's* work as the most successful organ procurement program in the country, including IT, facilities, human resources, finance, legal and public affairs. Prior to joining *Gift of Life*, Jan was a partner at Blank, Rome LLP, a leading firm where she specialized in health law. She holds degrees from the Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania and Villanova University School of Law.

**Thank you Jan for your tireless advocacy on behalf of donor families, transplant recipients and patients on the waitlist!**

## Hospital Challenge Creates a Strong Culture of Donation

*Gift of Life's* hospital partners continue to play a major role in making Pennsylvania our nation's leader in saving lives through organ donation and one of the top states for promoting the importance of organ and tissue donation through the 2019 Hospital and Healthsystem Association of PA (HAP) Donate Life Hospital Challenge.

Seventeen health systems and 66 individual hospitals in *Gift of Life's* region achieved honors through the statewide campaign. They hosted educational programs to improve the clinical process for donation and transplantation and special events to increase donor designations.

"*Gift of Life* applauds HAP and our hospital partners for championing organ donation and transplantation through the HAP Donate Life Pennsylvania Hospital Challenge," said *Gift of Life Donor Program* President and CEO Howard M. Nathan.

### The top health systems in *Gift of Life's* region are:

<b>First Place</b> UPMC Susquehanna	<b>Second Place</b> Jefferson Health Northeast	<b>Third Place</b> University of Pennsylvania Health System
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### The top hospitals are:

<b>First Place</b> Temple University Hospital	<b>Second Place</b> Riddle Hospital	<b>Third Place</b> Chester County Hospital
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Mr. Nathan added, "This innovative initiative, now six years old, serves as a national model that showcases clinical best practices in improving education and donation practices in hospitals and encourages hospitals to promote awareness of the importance of organ donation in their communities. Thanks to the tremendous partnership of our hospital partners, and their commitment to fostering a strong culture of donation, Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in donation and transplantation."

Hospitals earned points by conducting donation-related activities from January through April 2019. A comprehensive scorecard was used to guide their campaign programs and track which level of success each hospital achieved: bronze, silver, gold, platinum or titanium.

### The results in *Gift of Life's* region are:

#### • Health Care Systems

##### Platinum Level – 17 health care systems

Abington – Jefferson Health	Main Line Health
American Academic Health System	Prime Healthcare
Commonwealth Health System	St. Luke's University Health Network
Crozer-Keystone Health System	Tower Health
Einstein Health Network	University of Pennsylvania Health System
Geisinger Health	UPMC Pinnacle
Jefferson Health	UPMC Susquehanna
Jefferson Health Northeast	WellSpan Health
Lehigh Valley Health Network	

#### • Hospitals

<b>Titanium Level</b> 6 hospitals	<b>Platinum Level</b> 51 hospitals	<b>Gold Level</b> 7 hospitals	<b>Silver Level</b> 1 hospital	<b>Bronze Level</b> 1 hospital
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Across Pennsylvania, a record 113 hospitals and 24 health systems participated in the 2019 HAP Donate Life Hospital Challenge with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Our hospital participants made Pennsylvania one of the top four states in the nation for hospital involvement, and the most engaged state on the east coast.

Pennsylvania's challenge was recognized in June by Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Workplace Partnership for Life Hospital Organ Donation Campaign for being the nation's leader in hospital participation.

# Life and Legacy

## CELEBRATIONS: Sharing Memories and Hope

Donor families have described our annual Life and Legacy Celebrations as "a beautiful way to share memories and hope" and "a wonderful tribute." Five of these special ceremonies honoring about 250 organ, tissue and cornea donors were held this fall in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Each ceremony featured inspiring speakers including organ, tissue and cornea recipients, and a donor family member, along with a photo tribute and live harp music. Every family was presented with a donor medal, yellow rose and handmade wrap as their loved one's name was read.

Donor families were invited to bring a one-of-a-kind quilt square honoring their loved one. They had an opportunity to pin their square on a large fabric background prior to the ceremony and those squares will now be combined into new "Threads of Love" memorial quilts for display at hospitals, schools, houses of worship and other venues.

Approximately 800 families and friends joined together at this year's Life and Legacy Celebrations to honor more than 200 donors. "It was very heart warming," said one participant. "It made me feel like I was part of something special."

Every *Gift of Life* staff member attends one of our annual donor ceremonies to honor our heroes and support their generous families. We especially thank our dozens of volunteer ambassadors who help with all aspects of these unique events, serving as greeters, guest speakers and even providing one-on-one support for donor family members.



## Watch for the Donate Life Float

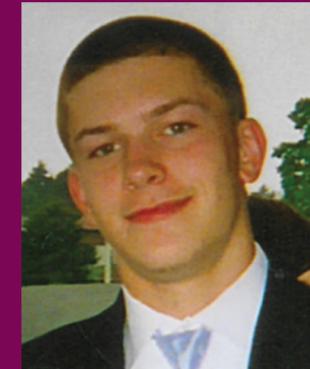
# Rose Parade to Highlight Ryan's Legacy

You can enjoy a popular holiday tradition and be part of one of the world's most visible campaigns to promote cornea, tissue and organ donation by watching the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day.

The 2020 Donate Life Rose Parade float will include a floral portrait, called a floragraph, of a donor from *Gift of Life's* region, Ryan Lee Mohn. **Ryan saved more than six lives through organ and tissue donation** when he died following a car accident in 2004. Ryan, of Steelton, PA, was 16 and had just recently passed his driver's test and registered as a donor after being inspired by the story of a kidney recipient who spoke to Ryan's church youth group. An outstanding athlete, Ryan was a starting pitcher on the school's baseball team, a reserve guard for the basketball team and he led the school's championship football team as its star quarterback.

Ryan's family created the Ryan Lee Mohn Memorial Foundation to continue Ryan's legacy. The foundation provides scholarships to graduating seniors from Ryan's high school, promotes organ and tissue donation awareness, and makes donations to other organizations in Ryan's memory.

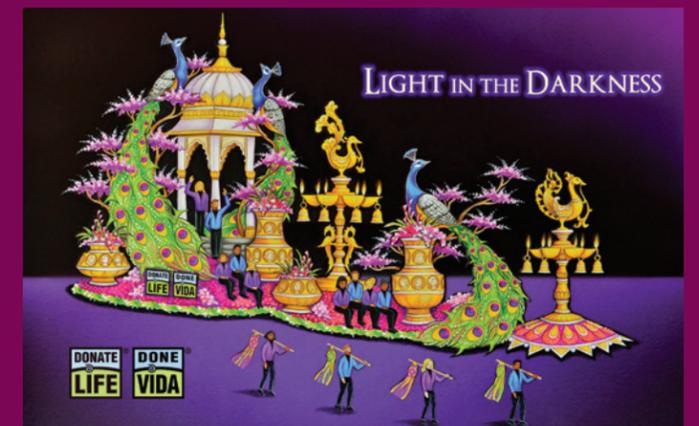
"Knowing that Ryan saved and enhanced so many lives helps with our grief," said Ryan's mother, Alison Mohn. "Organ donation works. We never know if one day we could need a life-saving transplant. I would hope that even in an extreme time of grief, others would say yes to organ and tissue donation."



Ryan's family put finishing touches on his floragraph in November and will travel to Pasadena, CA to help decorate the Rose Parade float and watch the parade in person.

The theme of the Donate Life float, Light in the Darkness, will celebrate the many lives touched by donation and the power of unity, light and love. **Ryan's floragraph will be one of 44 memorial floral portraits on the float.**

Now in its 17th year, the Donate Life Rose Parade float is the centerpiece of a national effort to reach a broad audience with the powerful message that organ and tissue donation saves and heals lives. Millions of people watch the parade, which airs at 11 a.m. EST. Please check your local TV listing for details.



**Supporting Second Chances** Team *Gift of Life* joined more than 30,000 participants for the PRO-ACT Recovery Walk at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia in September. This was *Gift of Life Donor Program's* third year sponsoring the event that celebrates recovery and promotes awareness to end the stigma surrounding drug and alcohol addiction.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Donors Are Heroes

**THE PARTY**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**

The Bellevue Hotel

Tickets and information:  
**donorsareheroesTHEparty.com**

**BE INFORMED & INSPIRED**

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