

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.



Students (left) explored careers in STEM thanks to Dr. Thomas Butler, pictured at right with President & CEO Rick Hasz and transplant coordinator Kimberlee Mander of *Gift of Life*.

DISCOVERING AN Exciting Future in STEM

Transplant Surgeon Inspires Diverse Students

A dynamic transplant surgeon is inspiring young students of diverse backgrounds to explore careers in science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) thanks to a grant from Transplant Foundation, an affiliate of *Gift of Life Donor Program*.

"STEM impacts almost everything in our daily lives and we need diverse professionals to provide compassionate and excellent health care, develop scientific breakthroughs and keep America globally competitive. Our surgeons and scientists of tomorrow should mirror the diversity in our communities," said Thomas Butler, M.D.,

Crozer ID-STEM program founder and chairman. Dr. Butler is a Crozer Health abdominal transplant surgeon who operates from Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

Dr. Butler's inaugural ID-STEM (Increasing Diversity in STEM) program at Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, PA brought 47 multicultural students, ages eight to 18, from Chester Boys and Girls Club and Chester STEM Academy together with diverse leaders in medicine and science this summer. Students each received a lab coat with their name embroidered on it at a "white coat" ceremony to formally launch their exploration of STEM careers. The event included *Gift of Life's* Kimberlee Mander talking about her work as a transplant coordinator.

"These students can become anything they want. I look forward to calling them colleagues."

—**Thomas Butler, M.D.**, Crozer ID-STEM Program Founder and Chairman

The four-day experience was packed with hands-on learning including a behind-the-scenes look at an operating room, cardiac procedure labs and a medical simulation lab. Physicians, scientists, Drexel University medical students and residents participated as mentors and discussion leaders. The program is the first of its kind in our region and second held nationally.

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STEM, continued from page 1

Support of Dr. Butler's program is part of *Gift of Life's* strong commitment to diversity and equity. "We are proud to be partners in this innovative initiative to introduce diverse students to the exciting possibilities of careers in STEM including the life-saving world of organ donation and transplantation," said Rick Hasz, *Gift of Life* President and CEO.

Dr. Butler notes the importance of sparking interest in STEM at an early age; the youngest students in his program are eight years old. "Data shows that access to mentors, seeing what is possible at a young age and challenging stereotypes helps multicultural students get a foothold in STEM," he said. "These students can become anything they want. I look forward to calling them colleagues."

Visit donors1.org/grants for research and community grant opportunities through *Gift of Life's* affiliate Transplant Foundation.

Please join **Donors Are Heroes** as we celebrate our 20th anniversary at

THE PARTY

Theme: Under the Big Top

Food Stations by Top Restaurants • Music by DJ Eddie Tully • Open Bar
Thursday, September 29, 2022 • 8:00 p.m.
The Bellevue Hotel

Attire: Fashionable – Sophisticated
Tickets: \$150 (\$175 at the door)

For tickets and details:
donorsareheroestheparty.com

All proceeds benefit programs to educate students, clergy and diverse communities about the critical importance of organ and tissue donation.



Campus Champions Register 400+ Donors

Students helped save lives across ten campuses as part of *Gift of Life's* 2022 College Challenge, registering 403 new organ and tissue donors and raising awareness of donation through dozens of events and programs, both live and virtual.

Event Planning and Public Relations students (pictured) at Alvernia University in Reading, PA won first prize for their "Pledge the Pack" campaign that featured the school's wolf mascot and included multiple events, information tables and a robust social media campaign across Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Students at second-prize winner Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia used survey research, social media and a kickoff event to register people through their campaign called "Griffins for Life." Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA took third prize for a campaign called "Giving Grows: Plant the Seeds of Life," produced by members of the school's Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter.

Bloomsburg University received a prize for registering 189 people, the most of any school involved in the challenge.

Join the 2023 College Challenge

Registration for the 2023 *Gift of Life* College Challenge will open this fall for schools across *Gift of Life's* region: the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware. The top schools will be awarded a cash prize and bragging rights for resume-building! Visit donors1.org/college for details.

In Our Schools Sharing Life-Saving Lessons

Gift of Life is bringing our life-saving mission to classrooms across our region through our volunteer ambassadors, teachers and students. Highlights of our recent educational outreach:

- 200 high school students from all three states in our service area completed our License to Save Lives virtual program, earning more than 2,000 hours of community service.
- More than 6,000 students were educated about donation through grants to nine high schools from the Gov. Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund.
- Tom Gano shared the story of his donor hero son, Curtis, with close to 13,000 high school students in New Jersey.
- The fourth annual PSA contest sponsored by the Delaware Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Board received 17 entries and featured winners from five different schools. The contest is promoted by the Delaware Department of Education.
- Our "Spirit for Life" school summit program for Philadelphia students funded by generous support from Donors Are Heroes is relaunching this fall.

Please contact Dwendy Johnson at djohnson@donors1.org if you know of an opportunity for us to provide programs or resources to a school in your community.



DONATION NEEDS Diversity

National Minority Donor Awareness Month

Diversity plays a vital role in donation and transplantation. National Minority Donor Awareness Month, observed each August, calls attention to the gap between the number of organ donors and the number of African Americans, Hispanics and Asian Americans who need a life-saving transplant. *Gift of Life* continues to bring our mission to all communities as we strive for a day when every person on the transplant waitlist gets a second chance at life.

We are working to increase the donor registry in multicultural communities and build a positive culture of organ, tissue and cornea donation in strong partnership with our volunteer ambassadors, healthcare professionals and community leaders.

Nearly 60 percent of more than 100,000 patients on the national transplant waiting list are from multicultural communities. To support our critically important community outreach year-round, contact Leslie Jean-Mary at ljean-mary@donors1.org.



"I am so glad I'm still here"

It takes a hero to save a hero like Duffy.

William "Duffy" McDuffie is a Marine and Air Force veteran who now helps keep our skies safe as a member of the TSA. He's also a teacher at Delaware State University. Duffy is deeply grateful to the selfless stranger who became an organ donor so that he could receive a life-saving transplant after five years of worsening heart problems that caused him to lose 80 pounds and become increasingly weak.

Illness and uncertainty were replaced by joy after Duffy's transplant as he was able to hold his new grandson for the first time thanks his extraordinary gift. "That was one of the best feelings ever and one of the reasons I am so glad I'm still here," Duffy said.



"He's helping so many people"

Sebastian Plummer, 19, was eager to get his commercial driver's license and start his own business when, instead, he saved and healed dozens of lives through organ, tissue and cornea donation. Known as "Bash," he was an accomplished athlete in wrestling, football, basketball and baseball before his untimely death following a car accident.

"He was full of life, laughter and love, and touched so many people simply with his smile," said his mother, Karen Lyn Bush. "Through tragedy came life. The woman who received one of his kidneys calls him her guardian angel. He's helping so many people."

November 11-13: National Donor Sabbath

Sharing Faith, Hope & Life

November is the time to share inspiring personal stories and vital information about organ and tissue donation as houses of worship across our region celebrate National Donor Sabbath. *Gift of Life* joins with people of all faiths to support those on the waitlist, donor families and transplant recipients.

Faith plays a major role in the decision of many families to give or receive the gift of life. Help us dispel myths and share the fact that every major religion in the U.S. supports organ donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.

Ways to Participate

- Host a guest speaker in person or virtually.
- Highlight a story of donation and transplantation from your congregation.
- Light a Donor Sabbath candle in honor of heroes who gave the gift of life and patients awaiting a transplant.
- Publish an announcement in your congregation's newsletter or bulletin and share information via social media. We can provide samples.

View our special faith video at donors1.org/nds
Speakers and materials are available for faith-based organizations and houses of worship. Contact Leslie Jean-Mary at ljean-mary@donors1.org.



"I highly encourage pastors, leaders, anybody to consider being a part of this cause. It is vitally important. Look at it as another aspect of loving your neighbor."

—Nicholas A. Smith
Executive Assistant Pastor, Bethany Baptist Church, Lindenwold, NJ

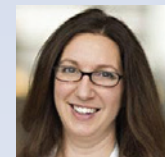
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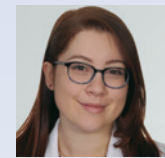
SUMMIT SUPPORTS LIFE-SAVING MISSION

300+ Hospital Partners Participate

More than 300 of our healthcare partners from 85 hospitals attended our virtual Organ Donation & Transplantation Summit on April 27, 2022. *Gift of Life* hosts two Summits annually, bringing the region's healthcare experts together to share best practices aimed at increasing donation rates and saving more lives. Our dynamic Summits feature distinguished faculty and cutting-edge topics. The following facilitated breakout sessions using an interactive simulated case presentation:



Vanessa A. Ribaud Kaufman, MD
Medical Director, Pulmonary Lab, Critical Care Medicine, Pulmonology, Lehigh Valley Health Network



Dr. Elif Onursal, DO
General Surgery, Trauma Surgery & Surgical Critical Care, Geisinger Medical Center



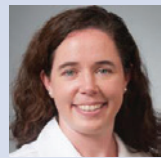
Abhijit S. Pathak, MD, MS, FACS
Professor of Surgery, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University



Emily Anne Vail, MD, MSc.
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

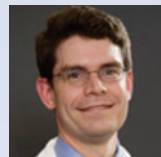


Sean Devine, MD, Pulmonologist and Lung Recipient, Geisinger Medical Center with his wife.



Anne H. Warner, MD
Surgical Critical Care, Trauma Surgery, Christiana Hospital

The following shared their experience with increasing use of organs for transplantation from donation after circulatory death (DCD) donors:



Peter L. Abt, MD
Director, Penn Transplant Institute Multiorgan Abdominal Transplant Fellowship, Surgical Director, Liver Transplant, Professor of Surgery, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania



Ashish Shah, MD
Professor of Cardiac Surgery, Alfred Blalock Endowed Director and Chairman, Department of Cardiac Surgery, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Our "Connect To Purpose" speaker was **Sean T. Devine, MD**, who shared his inspiring journey as a Geisinger Health System Pulmonologist who became critically ill with COVID-19 and received a life-saving double lung transplant in 2021.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Our next Summit will be held on **October 26, 2022**. For information, contact Beatrice McQuiston at bmcquiston@donors1.org.



CELEBRATION OF DONATION DONOR DASH

Our 25th anniversary Donor Dash was filled with smiles, cheers and exhilaration as we welcomed thousands of supporters back in person in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on April 24. Hundreds more joined us virtually to Dash in their community and celebrate National Donate Life Month.

Gift of Life Donor Program President and CEO Rick Hasz was joined by kidney donor and KYW Newsradio broadcaster Jim Melwert to host a joyous crowd for 10K and 5K runs, a Kids Fun Run and an exuberant 3K Walk.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters, we raised nearly \$500,000 for programs that support donor families and transplant recipients.



Donor families carrying Threads of Love memorial quilts led hundreds of participants in the Dash 3K Walk.

THANK YOU to our Donor Dash sponsors:

Presenting Sponsors



Platinum Sponsor



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Bronze Sponsors



Supporting Sponsors

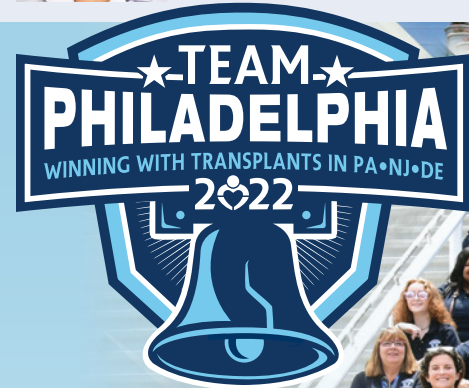
ChristianaCare Kidney Transplant Program • Cornerstone Institutional Investors, Inc. • Cozen O'Connor • CSL Behring • CTI Clinical Trial & Consulting • Eurofins Donor & Product Testing • Gillespie Electric • Organ Recovery Systems • Penn State Health

Patron Sponsors

Artivion, Inc. • Cohen, Placitella & Roth, P.C. • LifeNet • Main Line Health • Sanofi • Sovereign Insurance Group

Underwriting Sponsors

Penn Transplant Institute (Finisher Medal) • The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (Kids Fun Run) • Nationwide Organ Recovery Transport Alliance "NORA" (Backpack) • Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley (Virtual Takeover)



2022

"Every decision I make, I want to honor my donor, and thank his family in any way that I can, and of course, raise awareness for organ donation. If it wasn't for somebody checking that box, I wouldn't be here."

— Jennifer Rouse
Liver Recipient & Team Philly Triathlete

Congratulations and thank you to all who participated!

Donate Life Transplant Games of America

Team Philadelphia traveled across the country to help showcase the success of donation and transplantation and connect with transplant recipients and donor families from all over the U.S. in August.

Our athletes won 58 medals including 36 gold, 16 silver and 6 bronze at the 2022 Donate Life Transplant Games of America against a backdrop of palm trees and Pacific beaches in San Diego. *Gift of Life's* enthusiastic team included more than 100 transplant recipients, living donors, donor families and supporters ages 7 to 75.



Gift of Life President & CEO Rick Hasz with liver recipient and gold medalist Onyi Kenine.