

2020 IMPACT REPORT

# HEROES AMONG US



## Kaylin

LIVER RECIPIENT

At ten years old, Kaylin is a force of nature on and off the basketball court. No one would ever guess this active little girl was born with a serious liver condition. At just eighteen months, Kaylin received a transplant that saved her life. Through the generosity of organ donation, Kaylin has been given the ultimate gift: to grow up healthy and happy.

### A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED GENEROSITY

While the pandemic has challenged the way we work, it has shined a bright light on the heroes among us — our generous donor families and dedicated healthcare workers on the front line. In a year unlike any other, these heroes have saved hundreds of lives through the gift of organ donation.

**278**  
ORGAN DONORS

A record number of local donors made the courageous choice to save lives, providing hope to those who need it most.

**815**  
ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

From a healthy heart to a functioning kidney, these gifts forever changed the lives of recipients and families near and far.

#### ORGANS TRANSPLANTED FROM LOCAL DONORS



415 KIDNEYS  
(RECORD)



182 LIVERS  
(RECORD)



69 HEARTS  
(RECORD)



121 LUNGS



25 PANCREASES



3 INTESTINES

#### A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

### Saving Lives with DCD Donation

When a patient suffers an irreversible injury and the family decides to withdraw clinical support, donation after circulatory death (DCD) becomes an option. In 2020, a record 102 DCD donors went on to provide 200 lifesaving organs for transplant.

### The Latest in Lifesaving Technology

As the first OPO in the world to open an onsite recovery facility, we deliver the highest standard of care for donors to ensure the highest quality organs for recipients. With a new 64-slice CT scanner and Panther system, we can continue to provide the information transplant surgeons need to make fast, informed decisions.



## A YEAR OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

In 2020, more families in our service area than ever before said yes to tissue donation, leading to a record increase in tissues for transplant. These final acts of generosity provide the gift of hope for recipients and a source of healing for donor families.

**2,424**  
TISSUE DONORS

A life-giving milestone for our organization, these heroic donors will provide healing, hope, and mobility for recipients and their families.

**181,800**  
TISSUES FOR TRANSPLANT

This record number of bone, skin, tendon, and heart valve transplants will go on to help patients who are recovering from devastating medical conditions and injuries.

**908**  
CORNEA TRANSPLANTS

For patients with impaired vision, a corneal tissue transplant can mean the world, restoring sight, and with it, the ability to enjoy the scenes that make life special.

## A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

### Charting the Path to "Yes"

Last year, we made a commitment to save even more lives by closing the gap in tissue authorization. A cross-departmental team implemented lean tools and problem solving to increase tissue authorization from 59% in 2019 to 63% in 2020.

### Restoring Sight for Local Recipients

In 2020, we saw record domestic utilization numbers for corneas. 344 corneal tissue transplants from local donors went on to restore vision for patients right here in our community.



**TONIA & HANNA**  
Jeff's wife and daughter

Jeff and Tonia were married on Valentine's Day, 1992. A few years later, their daughter, Hanna, came along. "We were a tight family. We were lucky," remembered Tonia.

On August 27, 2020, Jeff died unexpectedly. Tonia recalls that evening, "After the tragedy happened, we got a call from this wonderful woman at Mid-America Transplant. I'm so thankful they called. It gave us a light in a time when everything was so raw."

Before Jeff's death, he and his family talked about their final wishes. Jeff's generous gift of tissue donation will help dozens of people to live fuller, healthier lives.

## Honoring Jeff

TISSUE DONOR

## BUILDING A CULTURE OF DONATION

Donation relies on generosity and clinical expertise, but it begins with awareness. Across all 84 counties in our service area, we strive to educate community members and healthcare partners on donation, transplant, and the lifesaving potential of every “yes.”

**22** HOSPITALS WITH DCD DONORS

### 3 Partner Hospitals See First DCD Cases

Last year's increase in DCD donation wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our hospital partners. In 2020, Citizens Memorial Hospital, SIH Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, and Cox Medical Center Branson saw their first DCD organ donors.

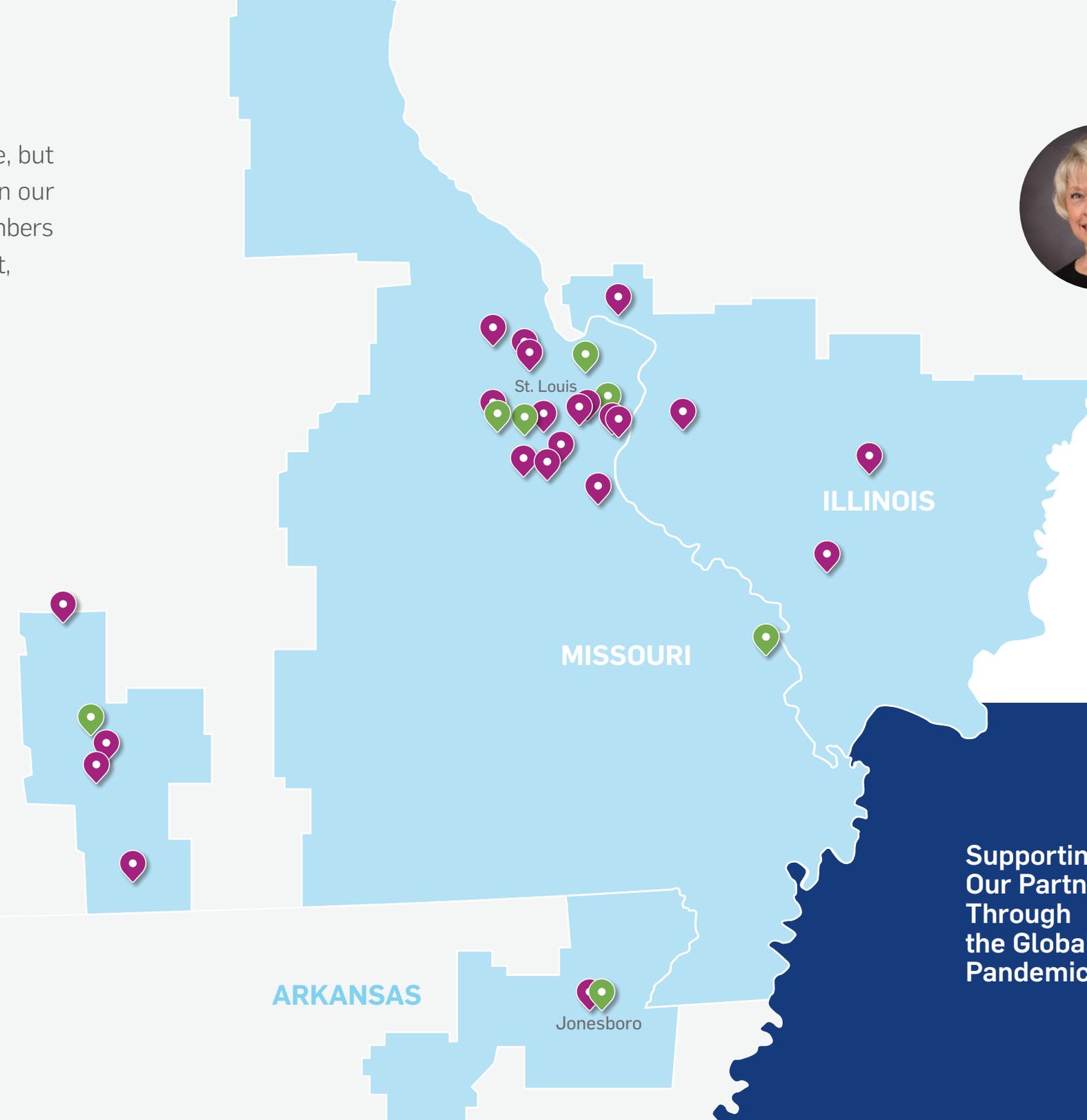
 NURSING PROGRAM  HOSPITAL WITH DCD DONOR

**7** NURSING PROGRAMS



### Educating Tomorrow's Nurses on Organ & Tissue Donation

Developed in partnership with Dr. Linda Heitman, professor of nursing at Southeast Missouri State University, this first-of-its-kind nursing school curriculum educates future nurses on organ and tissue donation, from how the process works to the important role that nurses serve in this lifesaving work. Today, the curriculum is used at seven nursing schools across our region.



### Supporting Our Partners Through the Global Pandemic

Recognizing COVID-19's financial impact on the healthcare field, we provided grants to hospitals and coroners across our service area, with a focus on facilities with limited economic resources.

## LIFTING UP OUR HEROES

As part of our important mission, we work hard to support donor families and transplant patients across our community.

### A Quiet Space for Donor Families

In collaboration with our partners at SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital, Mid-America Transplant opened the Gift of Life Family Room, which will provide donor families with a private, quiet place to gather with caregivers, family, and friends.

### In a Difficult Year, We Remember Those Who Gave

In light of the pandemic, 2020's remembrance events looked a little different from those in a typical year. Our team adapted quickly to create an online Candlelight Memorial that brought hundreds of donor families together to honor the heroes who gave.

### Raising a Flag to Honor Our Heroes

At Mercy Jefferson Hospital, staff present donor families with a folded Donate Life flag in remembrance of their loved one's heroism. Last summer, Mid-America Transplant donated a new flagpole to the Festus-based facility to help carry on this meaningful tradition.



*Lung recipient Peyton and her parents, Jake and Melissa, stayed at the Family House before and after her lifesaving transplant.*

### 40 Family House Residents

In 2020, recipients and families, including five military families, stayed at the Family House. This low- or no-cost housing provides the comforts of home for families who must relocate to St. Louis for lifesaving transplant care.

### 86 Recipient Grants

From the weeks, months, and even years spent on the waiting list to the long recovery process, life isn't easy for transplant patients and their families. Last year, we supported patients across our community with recipient grants.



Emily serves as executive director of Lost & Found Grief Center, which provides grief support services to community members, including the families of organ and tissue donors.

Emily knows firsthand the healing power of tissue donation. In 1995, as a Division I college basketball player, Emily seriously tore her ACL. After a ligament transplant and a lot of hard work, she was back on the court the following season. In her final year of play, Emily helped restore her school's former glory when she led her team to the second round of the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

# Emily

TISSUE RECIPIENT



**JENNIFER**  
Reverend  
Hickman's  
sister

## Honoring Reverend Hickman

**ORGAN RECIPIENT &  
TISSUE DONOR**

Reverend Lauren Hickman had been on dialysis for 11 years when he got the call that a kidney was available. Within a few days, Lauren had a new kidney and a newfound freedom.

His sister, Jennifer, recalls, "Lauren had the freedom to do his ministry without restrictions. Without boundaries." Her brother could now devote more time to his church, singing the gospel music he loved and traveling to see friends and family across the country without the burden of dialysis.

In June 2019, Reverend Hickman passed away, but his spirit of service lives on through his own gift of tissue donation.

### ENHANCING LIVES THROUGH EQUITY & INNOVATION

Teams across our organization are working to find new and innovative ways to save even more lives through groundbreaking research, grassroots awareness campaigns, and ongoing healthcare partnerships.

#### INCREASING EQUITY IN DONATION & TRANSPLANT

### Addressing Health Gaps

Emerging research has identified a genetic cause for part of the increased risk of chronic kidney disease in Black Americans. By testing for the APOL1 gene, healthcare providers can work with patients to treat hypertension and prevent the need for kidney transplant.

Mid-America Transplant Foundation is partnering with Saint Louis University to assess knowledge and attitudes related to the use of this new test among Black Americans seen in SLUCare hypertension and nephrology clinics. Led by Krista Lentine, MD, PhD, this ongoing work has shown that participants are receptive to APOL1 genetic testing and believed that testing would motivate changes in health-related behaviors.

### Building Awareness

In August, Mid-America Transplant sponsored a Facebook Live Town Hall on diversity in donation and transplant. Hosted by Illinois State Senator Christopher Belt and Illinois State Representative LaToya Greenwood, the event featured panelists who shared their experiences with donation and the disproportionate need for transplants in multicultural communities.

#### ONGOING INNOVATION

**7**  
Research  
Studies Published  
in 2020

### Endowed Distinguished Chair

The Mid-America Transplant/Jane A. Beckman Endowed Chair was created to support advancement in the field while encouraging top medical talent to pursue lifesaving careers in our region. In 2020, this funding was awarded to Dr. Majella Doyle of Washington University in St. Louis to further her clinical practice and research focusing on liver transplantation.

**2**  
Clinical Innovation  
Grants Awarded  
in 2020



*inspired by life*  
midamericatransplant.org



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## ON THE COVER

### Rocky & Lyla, Heart Recipients

Rocky and his daughter, Lyla, share a special bond — they are both heart recipients. Rocky received his transplant in high school after nearly dying from an enlarged heart. Twelve years later, at only six months old, Lyla received the same diagnosis and also required a transplant. Lyla, now eight, loves to swim and plays several sports, while Rocky stays active running and cycling.

