

# Generosity Endures

We are once again grateful for the opportunity to see last wishes become living legacies, and we're proud to share results that rival some of our best years. The strength of our organization through collaborative partnerships enabled us to make the most of every opportunity to serve our community and save lives.

We thank everyone who selflessly donated, celebrate everyone whose life has been changed, and remain both humbled and honored to steward these incredible gifts.

Draine Brock moier



#### HOLDING THE BAR HIGH

Through the generosity of donors and their families, the commitment of our staff, the dedication of our hospital partners and protocols that produce even better results, 2021 brought the third-highest number of donors in our history — even in a year filled with challenges.

258

#### ORGAN DONORS

chose to give a selfless and lasting gift

706

#### ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

forever changed the lives of recipients and their families

ORGANS TRANSPLANTED FROM LOCAL DONORS



**352** KIDNEYS



176 LIVERS



81 LUNGS



70 HEARTS



27 PANCREASES

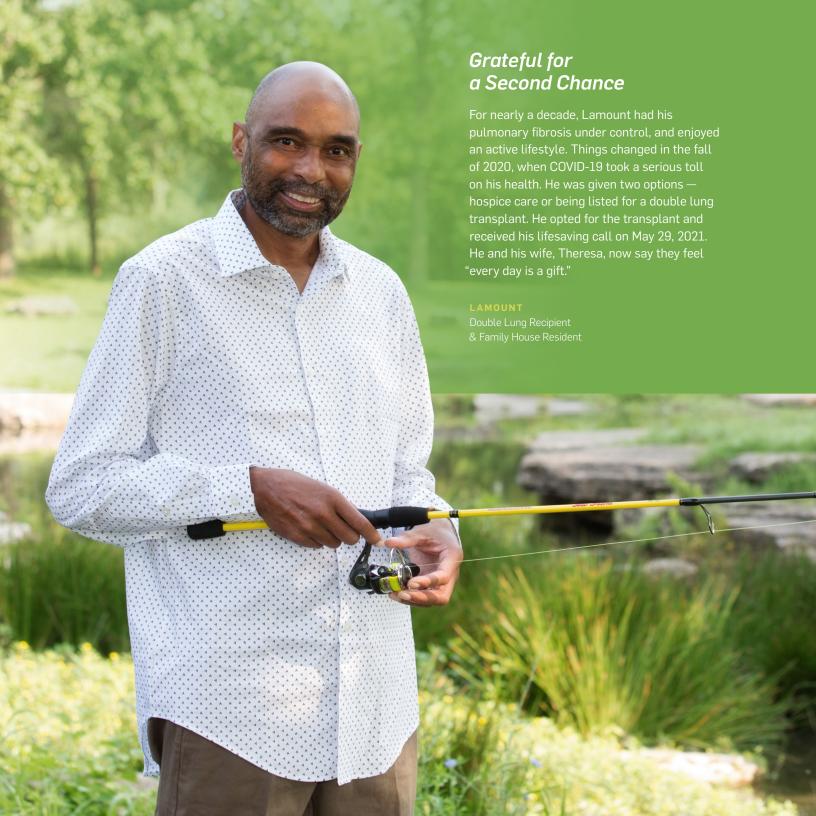
### **Research to Save More Lives**

Mid-America is partnering with Washington University/Barnes-Jewish Hospital on the RESTORE Declined Livers Study. This FDA-approved clinical trial will lead to a transformative change in donor utilization practices by increasing the number of livers suitable for transplantation and decreasing discards. In 2021, 10 trial participants received transplants as part of this study.



To save more lives, we must make improvements in non-traditional cases. We are accomplishing this through our participation in the RESTORE study, which is possible only because of selfless donor heroes and their families who say 'yes' to organ donation.

**RICH ROTHWEILER**Director of Organ Utilization



#### **EXPONENTIAL IMPACT**

Our community continues to save and heal lives through the selfless act of tissue donation. These gifts impact the lives of grateful recipients and their families.

2,245

168,375

**TISSUE TRANSPLANTS** 

1,159

**CORNEA TRANSPLANTS** 

AMPLIFYING REACH & APPLICATION

## Breast Reconstruction Awareness (BRA) Day

Celebrated on the third Wednesday in October, Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day (BRA Day) was created to promote education, awareness, and access surrounding post-mastectomy breast reconstruction. There are many options available, including reconstruction using implants or using donated tissue to provide additional protective layers under the muscle for the implant. Less than 30 percent of women with mastectomies undergo breast reconstruction because they are unaware of breast reconstruction options. BRA Day aims to change this by making additional facts and stats more readily available to women across the globe.

# Giving More Patients the Gift of Sight

Mid-America Transplant has partnered with the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research (LEITR), the world's largest combined eye bank, tissue recovery, and ocular research center in the world, to provide more patients with the gift of sight.

Through this partnership, LEITR will share clinical developments and training that support cornea transplantation, improve clinical outcomes, and maximize distribution. Together, we will promote the most advanced technologies in ocular tissue processing for ophthalmologists and their patients nationally and across the globe.



#### **OUR COMMUNITY**

# Honoring & Celebrating the Silent Heroes



# **Compassionate Care**

The Path of Honor is a quiet yet powerful way to give thanks for a gift that will save and enhance the lives of many. Providing comfort to the family in a time of great sadness, the ceremony is a symbol of unity and compassion among families, donors and their care teams.



The Path of Honor was amazing; the picture doesn't even do it justice. For everyone to come and honor Caleb meant the world to me. It was very special and impactful for our family.

#### CRYSTAL

Donor Mom



It is through the care, compassion, and support shown by the entire healthcare team to the family during this time that this kind of tragedy can be turned into a miracle.

#### RITA FOWLER

VP of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, SLU Hospital





#### A PLACE TO GRIEVE & REMEMBER

With every gift comes a tremendous loss. It's our duty to help ensure that those left behind have a place to process their loved one's death and reflect on the profound impact they've had on the lives of so many others.

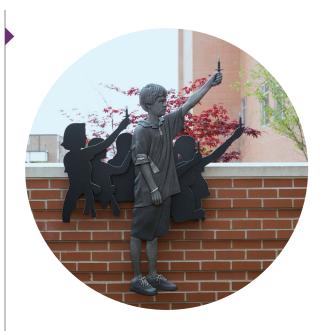
#### Jonesboro Memorial

St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas recently dedicated a new sculpture to honor the selfless individuals who have donated lifesaving organs and tissue to patients in need. Created by Don Wiegand, the bas-relief sculpture and surrounding Prayer Garden provide an open space for visitors to peacefully reflect and heal. This memorial was made possible through financial support of the Mid-America Transplant Foundation.

#### **Grants for Grief Centers**

Grief centers provide support to donor families across Mid-America Transplant's service area. To date, the Mid-America Transplant Foundation has provided over \$500,000 in financial support to grief centers.





# **◀** Gift of Life Family Room

On April 26, the Gift of Life Family Room was dedicated at Mercy Hospital Springfield in southwest Missouri. This space offers privacy and comfort for families who have made the heroic decision to donate their loved one's organs and tissues. This room gives donor families a quiet, restful, healing area during this emotional time. Gift of Life Family Rooms have also been dedicated at SSM-SLUH and Cox Medical Center South.



#### IN PURSUIT OF BETTER OUTCOMES

Research initiatives at Mid-America Transplant serve our community by searching for ways to prevent the need for organ and tissue transplants, and by creating more availability and better clinical outcomes for those who do.

\$580,000

awarded in 2021 through our clinical innovation fund

9

active clinical studies and research projects

#### OTHER RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- Vitamins A, C, E Study
- Regional Recovery Pilot
- T4 Thyroid Hormone Study
- Benefits of Dialysis After
  Brain Death

FEATURED STUDIES

## **Prone Positioning**

Because an organ donor can't cough, secretions collect in the bottom of the lungs, leading to low oxygen levels, lower desirability for transplant, and the need for interventions. After looking at CAT scans of lungs filled with mucus instead of air, Dr. Gary Marklin, Chief Medical and Research Officer at Mid-America Transplant, had a simple and game-changing idea: place donors on their stomach to allow gravity to help clear the lungs. A subsequent 40-donor study demonstrated remarkable results: significantly increased oxygen levels, a decrease in collapsed lungs, and double the number of lungs being transplanted. Since being published, this approach has been widely adopted and even used internationally. To date, 54% of organ procurement organizations have requested information to evaluate implementing this protocol in their own processes.

## **Deep Vein Thrombosis**

Due to a lack of movement and being on a ventilator, brain-dead donors are at high risk for developing blood clots. The prevalence of blood clots in these circumstances is not well. known, and because they can damage the donor's organs, more information is vital to establishing protocols that best protect their donation. In partnership with Dr. Varun Puri, a lung transplant surgeon at Washington University, this study uses ultrasound on each donor to better understand the frequency of blood clots in limbs and lungs and will ultimately help inform the use of blood thinners in organ recovery.

# **Kidney Function**

Every year, 20% of kidneys are deemed unfit for transplant. This is especially problematic because the vast majority of people on the transplant waiting list need a kidney. But the criteria used to evaluate kidney quality leaves much to be desired, as it's an indirect measurement of kidney function — meaning some kidneys that are viable may appear the opposite. By using CAT scans to calculate nephron mass (a direct and true measure of kidney function), Dr. Kevin Bennett of Washington University Radiology seeks to validate a novel and more reliable scoring method. This study has the potential to help more kidneys get transplanted and to establish protocols that can be scaled across other organ procurement organizations.



#### **CLOSER TO CARE**

Through the Family House, we are able to minimize the burdens that come with awaiting or recovering from a lifesaving transplant, and provide comfort and community to patients and their families.





#### **OPENING APRIL 2022**

# Breaking Ground on a New Home Away from Home

Located in Dogtown, the new Mid-America Transplant Family House will be in close proximity to St. Louis' four major transplant centers. It will double the capacity of the existing Family House and continue to minimize the burdens that patients and families face while awaiting or recovering from a lifesaving transplant.

21 1-3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

4

MAJOR TRANSPLANT CENTERS NEARBY



#### **ON THE COVER**

#### Lloyd, Liver Recipient

After learning he had stage 4 liver disease and the only chance of survival was a liver transplant, Lloyd was determined to beat the odds. Lloyd received his life-saving liver transplant in July of 2019, after two months of waiting. Lloyd says his sense of humor helped him through the challenging times, and he doesn't let the trivial things in life bother him anymore. He thanks his donor for the time he now has to spend with his wife and three children.













