

Mid-America  
TRANSPLANT



# INSPIRED BY *life*

2022 IMPACT REPORT

Nancy and her daughter Erin attended the 2022 Transplant Games of America in celebration of their love one's heroic gift.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

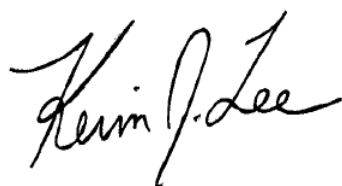
Every day, the Mid-America Transplant team is inspired by people in our community who say yes to donation. In 2022, our team supported 3,885 individuals and their families who chose to save and heal the lives of others through the selfless act of donation. The generosity of these heroes will impact tens of thousands of lives across in our community, across our region and throughout our country. It was our honor to be part of their journey.

In 2022, the Mid-America Transplant supported those waiting for or recovering from a life saving transplant through the Mid-America Transplant Family House which provides long-term medical housing. In June, we dedicated a new Family House that doubles our capacity and allowed us to support 67 families from 14 states. Collectively, these families spent 2,794 nights with us. It was our privilege to provide this support.

2022 marked the end of an era with the retirement of Diane Brockmeier. Diane started her career with Mid-America Transplant in 1986 as a clinical coordinator based in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Since 2016, Diane served as our President and CEO. Diane leaves a legacy of compassion, innovation, and excellence. She served as a relentless advocate for both the Donor Family and for those waiting for a life-saving transplant. Under Diane's leadership, Mid-America Transplant received the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for a second time in 2021. We are honored to carry on Diane's legacy in support of our vision of a world where organs and tissues are always available to those in need.

Thank you to all of those who bring our mission to life – our staff, volunteers, community partners, and the generous families who chose hope in the midst of heartache. Together, we are saving and healing lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin J. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Lee" being more prominent than the middle initial "J".

**KEVIN J. LEE**





## LIVES SAVED AND HEALED

# 2022: Year in Review

Donor heroes saved and healed thousands of lives in 2022. With support from our community partners, Mid-America Transplant was honored to steward these lifesaving and life changing gifts.

### ORGANS TRANSPLANTED

279

#### ORGAN DONORS

chose to give a selfless and lasting gift



772

#### ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

forever changed the lives of recipients and their families



412 KIDNEYS



167 LIVERS



100 LUNGS



76 HEARTS



14 PANCREASES



3 SMALL BOWEL

### TISSUE TRANSPLANTED

2,200

#### TISSUE DONORS

healed and restored lives through their gifts



165,000

#### TISSUES

to treat disease, restore mobility, and extend life



320 HEART  
VALVE DONORS



1,164 BONE  
DONORS



1,550  
CORNEAS

## ***Stories of Hope and Healing***

"When my husband, Kevin, died suddenly of a brain aneurysm in 2018, we were faced with the question of 'do we want him to be an organ donor' because he was not registered to be one. In that situation, I just felt an overwhelming 'Yes.' Kevin was able to save four lives by donating four organs: his lung, liver, and both kidneys.

A week after my husband passed away, I found a Donate Life bracelet in his work van. I thought, 'This is the sign I needed.' It was confirmation that I did the right thing. It has given us so much peace and joy to know that a part of him is living in others.

I heard from two of the recipients, the first one was from the woman who received his liver and she said that it has changed her family's lives drastically. She has two sons and she actually received the organ on her birthday. It was a literal gift to her and has made a dramatic change for their lives and given them renewed hope. It gives us so much comfort to know that he is still here. And for our family, it really helped us to heal, too.

Kevin was a very giving person. He loved his family. He loved his children. He loved to serve others. He was a service technician and that's what he did for his career and his job. He would help anybody at any chance he could in any way he could."



**KELLEY**  
Donor Family





## CLOSER TO CARE

# *A New Home Away from Home*

The new Mid-America Transplant Family House opened in June 2022. Located in the Dogtown Neighborhood; it is in close proximity to St. Louis' four major transplant centers. This new facility doubled Family House's capacity to serve patients and their families who are awaiting or recovering from a lifesaving transplant.



67

families  
served



2,794

nights  
occupied



14

states  
served

Bobby, from Arkansas, received a lung transplant in the spring and became our first guest at the new Family House, along with his wife Patricia.

## PATIENTS FROM 27 STATES


A map of the United States with states colored in three shades: light blue, dark blue, and light gray. The light blue states include CA, NV, UT, AZ, NM, WY, OR, ID, WA, MT, ND, SD, WI, MI, PA, NJ, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, KY, TN, MS, AL, GA, SC, and FL. The dark blue states include MN, IA, NE, KS, OK, AR, MO, IL, IN, OH, KY, TN, and FL. The light gray states include AK, HI, TX, LA, WI, MI, PA, NJ, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, KY, TN, MS, AL, GA, SC, and FL.



Served by the

- Cindy, Liver Recipient & Former Family House Resident





LAKEVIOUS  
Liver Recipient

## ***Celebrating New Beginnings***

The first symptom Lakevious's mom noticed in her seven-year-old son was that the whites of his eyes had turned a deep yellow. After a series of consultations, Lakevious and his mother were flown from their home state of Arkansas to St. Louis Children's Hospital.

In September 2022, Lakevious underwent surgery for a liver transplant. Although Lakevious was out of immediate danger, he still needed daily care. With their family far away in Arkansas, his mother wasn't sure how she and her son would be able to stay in St. Louis.

Thankfully, they were able to take advantage of staying at the new Mid-America Transplant Family House. "It's been a stress relief," said Lakevious's mother.

The average length of stay for guests of the Family House is 100 days, Lakevious didn't need that long. After just three weeks, he was back to jumping, scrambling, and leaping over everything in sight.



## OUR COMMUNITY

# *Honoring Donors and Their Families*



### CANDLELIGHT MEMORIALS

Candlelight Memorial Ceremonies honor organ and tissue donors who have given the Gift of Life in the past year. After a 2-year hiatus from in-person gatherings, the 2022 events were expanded to include donors from 2020 and 2021. Candles represent the shared light of hope given through the selfless and heroic act of donation.

**149** Donor heroes honored at the St. Louis Candlelight Memorial

**27** Donor heroes honored at the Springfield Candlelight Memorial

### CELEBRATE LIFE 5K RUN/WALK

The Celebrate Life 5K Run/Walk was back as an in-person event on October 9th in Forest Park. The event raises awareness about organ, tissue, and eye donation. In bringing the St. Louis Transplant Community together we honor donor families and living donors, celebrate new life with recipients, support those waiting for a life-saving transplant, and inspire others to say yes to donation.



5K REGISTRANTS





## OUR PARTNERSHIPS CARDINALS NATION



## Creating Fans for Life with the St. Louis Cardinals

In Spring 2022, the St. Louis Cardinals and Mid-America Transplant launched a partnership to raise awareness and increase the number of organ and tissue donors across Cardinals Nation. The launch of the FansForLife.org website, along with the enthusiastic support of former Cardinal David Eckstein and a series of events at Busch Stadium, made it easier than ever for Cardinal fans to help save and heal lives by adding their names to the national organ and tissue donation registry.

David Eckstein, major league baseball veteran and Most Valuable Player of the St. Louis Cardinals' 2006 World Series Championship, has been integral in the partnership. Eckstein has tirelessly supported organ donation and appreciates the lifesaving act of donation because it hits close home. Four of his family members have received kidney transplants, and three additional family members have donated their kidneys.

## Bringing Awareness to Donation with the Springfield Cardinals

In Summer 2022, Mid-America Transplant partnered with the Springfield Cardinals to bring awareness to organ donation and transplantation.

The Donate Life Game is a special way to honor our donor heroes, celebrate our recipients and give hope to those waiting for the gift of life. In 2022, the day was made even more special by having a donor family and a recipient family throw out a first pitch.



## OUR PARTNERSHIPS

# Southeast Missouri State University Hosts Donate Life Games

Mid-America Transplant and Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) celebrated Donate Life Month in partnership by hosting the Donate Life Game, raising awareness for the importance of organ and tissue donation at the SEMO Redhawks baseball game.

The baseball team traded in their red jerseys for blue and green jerseys, which are the Donate Life colors, on April 22, in celebration of National Donate Life Blue and Green Day. Fans were encouraged to wear blue and green in support of this lifesaving cause.

On Sunday, Sept 18, Southeast Missouri Soccer held this year's Donate Life Game, honoring Meg Herndon. In September 2012, Meg became a hero, saving and healing 17 lives through her gift of organ and tissue donation.



*"We're just really excited to be partnered with Mid-America Transplant and raising awareness for the lifesaving benefits of organ donation. Fans can join the SEMO Redhawks in providing hope to those waiting and register to be an organ and tissue donor."*

**NATE SAVERINO**

SEMO Associate Director of Athletics for External Affairs





# PROGRESS AND INNOVATION

In 2022, the Mid-America Transplant Foundation awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants that will provide grief services for donor families, drive innovative clinical research to make more organs available for donation, and support preventative programs to catch health issues early and keep people off the transplant list.

In addition to these areas, the Foundation is committed to creating awareness of organ and tissue donation. The Foundation provides scholarships to students studying mortuary sciences, nursing and respiratory therapy. This year, we awarded scholarships to support 17 students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and St. Louis Community College. In 2023, scholarships will be awarded at Cox College, Missouri State University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Southeast Missouri State University and St. Louis Community College.



*Pictured above: Nursing scholarship recipients from St. Louis Community College gather in front of the Remembrance Wall during a tour of Mid-America Transplant*



*Pictured: Nursing leaders from St. Louis Children's Hospital gather in front of the photo wall at the Inspired by Life Symposium.*

## INSPIRED BY LIFE

Attendees at the 2022 Inspired by Life Nursing Symposium joined Mid-America Transplant for a day of learning about the organ and tissue donation process. The symposium explored the steps of donation from the initial referral of a potential donor to the care provided to families after their loved one donates.





## *Gratitude for a Healing Gift*

Robert became a tissue recipient in October 2020, when he underwent surgery to treat the scoliosis in his back.

"When it came time to talk about the surgery, I just figured they were going to replace it with rods which would straighten up his back," his mother explained. "I had no idea that he would receive bone grafts from an actual donor. His spine is now straight and hopefully perfect as a result of the surgery."

Robert and his family shared that they will always remember the donor family's generosity. They hope that more people will have conversations about organ and tissue donation so that as many people can be helped as possible.

**ROBERT**

Tissue Recipient



## PROGRESS AND INNOVATION

# Milestones in 2022

Our legacy of lifesaving work is founded on unwavering commitment and strong community relationships.

*"We are just past one year since our son's open heart surgery and most people are shocked about how well he is doing. Some don't even realize the journey he has had if they do not see the scar on his chest that is the window to his mended heart. It is almost as if he has returned to life as a normal 4 year old boy. He is no longer falling asleep all the time and getting short of breath."*

- Excerpt of letter from the family of a heart valve recipient

### Organizational milestones include

- 279 Organ Donors
- 320 Heart Valve Donors
- 1,550 Corneas Transplanted
- 53.1% DMV Registration Rate



Majella Doyle, MD (center) was installed as The Mid-America Transplant / Department of Surgery Distinguished Endowed Chair in Abdominal Transplantation at Washington University in St. Louis.



Clinical research led and funded by Mid-America Transplant generates more than 20 published peer-reviewed articles, creating knowledge and practices that result in more donor gifts being utilized and more lives being saved.



## *Inspired by Possibility*

"Kinley was first listed for a liver transplant at 6 months old," says her mom Hannah. "Her condition then stabilized and she was removed from the transplant list. By age 4 and 5, her damaged liver was starting to take a toll. At that point Kinley was in kindergarten and was getting so tired. It was hard for her to participate in physical activities."

About two weeks before her sixth birthday, Kinley received a new liver. This summer she celebrated the gift of life with a medal in the swimming competition at the Transplant Games of America as a member MT United Team. Great job, Kinley!

**KINLEY**

Liver Recipient

