INSPIRED BY *life*

Mid·America TRANSPLANT



2025 IMPACT REPORT

LANDON AND HIS PARENTS
Pediatric Liver Recipient
and Family House Resident

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



In 2025, Mid-America Transplant continued to advance its mission to ensure that lifesaving organs and tissues are available to every person in need. Through the extraordinary generosity of our donor heroes and their families, lives were saved and transformed across our region. Each donation reflects our unwavering commitment to the highest standards in organ and tissue donation and our determination to honor the gift of life by helping as many people as possible heal and thrive.

Our donor heroes made it possible for individuals to regain sight, recover from injury, and experience renewed quality of life through the gift of organ and tissue donation. From restoring vision through cornea recovery to providing life-saving organs for transplantation, these selfless acts continue to touch countless lives and reinforce the hope at the heart of our mission.

Our achievements this year also highlight the dedication and passion of our staff, whose tireless efforts honor the profound gift of donation. Every role contributes meaningfully to our success, and our people remain our most valuable resource. In 2025, we proudly celebrated employees reaching significant retirement milestones and honored their years of service in advancing our mission. We also welcomed new team members whose fresh perspectives and shared commitment will help carry forward the legacy of organ and tissue donation.

Over the past five years, the health care community has seen significant advances in machine perfusion for donated organs. This technology has improved organ viability and increased the number of organs suitable for transplant—especially for donors over age 55 and those who give through the donation after circulatory death (DCD) process. We are honored to work with these heroes whose gifts save lives and improve outcomes for patients waiting for a second chance at life.

As we build on our incredible progress in 2025, the need remains urgent. More than 100,000 people are still waiting for a transplant. As we enter 2026, we are committed to pushing even harder—because our work is not finished until no one is waiting.



UNTIL NO ONE IS WAITING

LIVES SAVED AND HEALED

Through the generosity of donors and their families, organ and tissue donation in our region brought hope to thousands of patients waiting.

280 ORGAN DONORS → **799** ORGANS TRANSPLANTED

2,653 TISSUE DONORS → **199k** LIVES HEALED

ORGANS TRANSPLANTED

371 KIDNEYS

200 LIVERS

121 LUNGS

80 HEARTS

23 PANCREATA

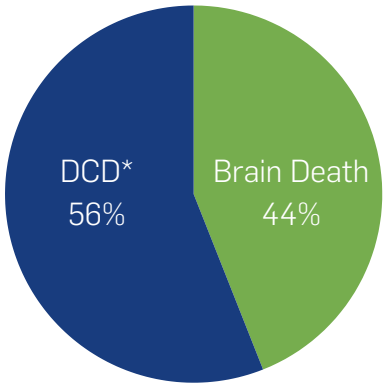
4 INTESTINES

1665 CORNEAS TRANSPLANTED

416 HEART VALVE DONORS

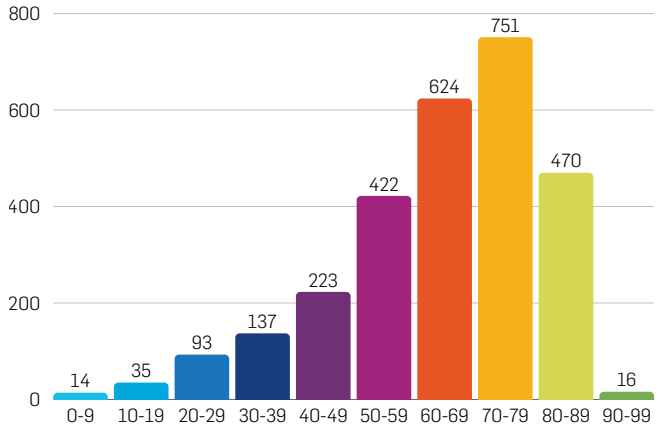
1,968 BONE DONORS

ORGAN DONORS BY TYPE OF DONATION



*Donation after Circulatory Death
*67% of DCD donors gave the gift of life through Normothermic Regional Perfusion

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONORS BY AGE



Mid·America TRANSPLANT

STORIES OF GRATITIUDE

Grateful for the Gift

For years, Teri struggled with her vision. Although she could do most things, she could not drive at night and often relied on her husband or a neighbor for transportation after dark. She couldn't thread a needle to sew or make jewelry. When she went to Bible study, the text on a page was a blur.

Teri had cataracts removed, hoping it would restore some clarity, but her vision remained cloudy. Eventually, she was diagnosed with Fuchs' dystrophy and the beginnings of macular degeneration. A cornea transplant was her only option to restore her sight. She first received the gift of sight in her left eye; then received a transplant in her right eye the week of Thanksgiving. Teri was amazed at how quickly her vision returned and is exceedingly grateful for her donors and their families.

"The timing couldn't be more meaningful during this season of gratitude," she said. "Living with these issues taught me that sight isn't just about what we see, it's about how we see life."

Being a cornea recipient isn't Teri's only connection to donation, however. In 2021, her husband, Keith, became a living kidney donor after hearing about a local teacher in need of a transplant.

Watching him give a part of himself so that another person could live filled me with awe and gratitude," said Teri. "I was blessed to witness Keith's generosity and what it means to live conviction through action."



Teri
CORNEA RECIPIENT

JAMEICA
Donor Mom

Stories of Hope

Just days before his 17th birthday, Jamecia lost her son Lonnie to a terrible car accident.

When she was asked whether she wanted to donate her son's organs, she said, "Why wouldn't I?"

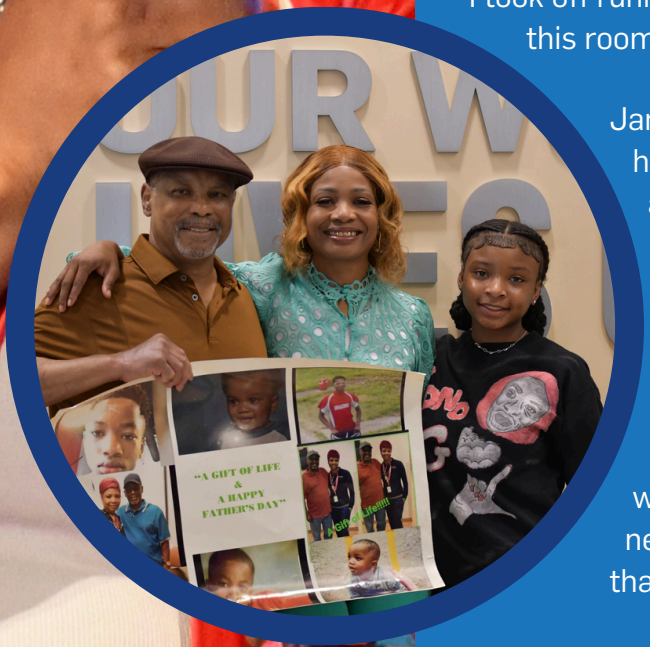
For Jamecia, the number seven serves as a symbol of hope and faith.

"God brought me seven days to be with him at the last part of our Journey. He lived seven days, he saved seven lives, and seven means completion."

Six months after her son's passing, Jamecia was working at an urgent care when a man came in with a broken toe. As they talked, Jamecia mentioned that her son was an organ donor, and the man mentioned that he was a kidney recipient at about the same time.

Jamecia had received a letter from one of her son's recipients, but hadn't yet known how to respond. When she asked the man if his name was Bennett, he said yes.

"I took off running, and I said, 'The man in this room got my son's kidney!'"



Jamecia is grateful to know her son's kidney recipient, and Bennett is grateful to live a life free of dialysis.

"I was ready to give up," he said.

"I know that my son is still with us," said Jamecia. "He never left, and I thank God for that."

UNTIL NO ONE IS WAITING

SHARED EXPERIENCES

Recipients build lifelong connections at the Family House

The Mid-America Transplant Family House provides housing for families who must relocate temporarily to St. Louis for lifesaving transplant care. For two families, this community of hope and healing provided more than just a place to stay.

Keith and his wife Amy came to St. Louis from central Illinois, and David travelled with his wife Caren from central Missouri. Both received life-saving lung transplants in 2025. The two men and their wives met pre-transplant and were excited to realise they were staying in the same building.

Throughout their stays, Keith and David went to pulmonary rehab together, and the couples went on double dates around St. Louis. On their last night in St. Louis, Amy even included Dave & Caren in a dinner reservation to recreate Amy & Keith's wedding proposal 14 years before.

“There aren't words to describe the value of the Family House to Keith's recovery,” Amy shared.

“From the first time we got here, we knew this is where we needed to be,” said David.



KEITH AND DAVID
Lung Recipients & Family House Residents,
Pictured with their wives, Amy and Caren

IN 2025

151
GUESTS SERVED

14
STATES SERVED

6,461
NIGHTS OCCUPIED

HONORING DONOR HEROES

Year-Round Remembrance







Each month, our employees gather in our lobby to recognize donor heroes who have selflessly given the gift of life. Colorful orbs representing each organ, eye, and tissue donor are placed into an art installation, providing a visual representation of how many families we have supported over the year.

In 2025, we held Candlelight Memorial events in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Springfield, and St. Louis. Families adorn lighted trees with leaves that display the names of their loved ones, and a photo slideshow highlights donors and families who have said yes to organ, eye, and tissue donation in the past year.







75 Donors honored in St. Louis

38 Donors honored in Springfield

53 Donors honored in Jonesboro

CHAMPIONS OF THE MISSION

INSPIRED BY ADVOCATES

In 2025, we proudly partnered with sports legends as they brought awareness to organ, eye, and tissue donation.

In early September, we welcomed NASCAR driver Joey Gase ahead of his Xfinity Series race at World Wide Technology Raceway. Gase is a passionate advocate of donation in remembrance of his late mother, who became a donor in 2011.

During Gase's visit, donor families attended a meet-and-greet with Gase and honored their loved ones by placing handprints and writing messages of hope on Joey's car.

The hood of the car featured photos of two donor heroes, Isaac Lashley and Chevy Gall, volunteer firefighters and best friends from Union High School, who both became donors at the age of 16.







St. Louis Cardinals '06 World Series MVP David Eckstein and his wife, actress and fashion designer Ashley Eckstein, have been Fans for Life from the beginning. Four of David's family members have received kidney transplants, and three additional family members have donated their kidneys.

In March, we had the pleasure of welcoming them to a staff meeting, where they shared their personal connection to organ donation. Following their presentation, they visited our Family House, where they met residents, shared stories, and signed autographs. We are so grateful to the Ecksteins for their commitment to our mission.









National Donate Life Month

Throughout April, we celebrated National Donate Life Month with over 25 events in collaboration with our hospital and community partners. This included registry tables, flag ceremonies, and donor memorials.

Thank you to the donor families, recipients, living donors, patients waiting, and transplant professionals who joined us in April to celebrate the gift of life.



Fans for Life

On April 27th, we partnered with the St. Louis Cardinals to host Donate Life Day at Busch Stadium.

Nearly 600 donor families, transplant recipients, and supporters participated in this year's honor walk, proudly holding signs in honor of donor heroes.

Donor mom Phillis Noodel threw out the first pitch in honor of her son Alexander, along with his daughter Harmoni and stepfather Marceo.





COMMUNITY IMPACT

Supporting Those We Serve

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION



One of the best ways to advocate for the work we do is to educate our community about our mission.

Our Education Program connects with students through classroom visits and on-site education and provides students with an opportunity to explore medical careers they may not have considered previously. Presentations include engaging workshops, interactive learning, and connect-to-mission testimonies.

IN 2025

163 HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

7 POST-SECONDARY PRESENTATIONS

RECOGNIZING LOCAL CLERGY

In May 2025, a destructive tornado tracked through St. Louis, affecting several neighborhoods. As residents and volunteers worked to clear debris and repair damage, faith-based organizations often served as hubs of support.

In early August, Mid-America Transplant had the privilege of hosting clergy from across the St. Louis region — leaders who've been a source of strength, comfort, and hands-on assistance in the wake of May's devastating tornado.

We're grateful for the chance to recognize their tireless efforts, share time together, and express our appreciation for all they do to meet the needs of our communities.



INSPIRING OTHERS TO SAY YES

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

In 2025, we engaged with our community to raise awareness and appreciation for organ, eye, and tissue donation.



Top row: Staff and volunteers held a donor registry booth at Pridefest; A panel discussion hosted by Impact Church St. Louis highlighted the impact of organ and tissue donation within faith-based communities.
Middle row: Mid-America Transplant hosted registry booths at sporting events throughout our region - SEMO basketball, a Blues game, and at Busch Stadium
Bottom row: Families submitted photos of loved ones for the Garden of Heroes at our annual 5k run/walk; a donor family participates in a memory-making activity at a holiday workshop.

PERSUING EXCELLENCE

Over 5,000 Student Nurses Complete Organ and Tissue Donor Education

In 2017, the Mid-America Transplant Foundation awarded a grant to Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) to explore disparities in organ and tissue donation education for nursing students. In partnership with the university and Dr. Linda Heitman, five online modules were created to address these gaps, which included an overview of donation, the nurse's role in the process, and family bereavement and aftercare.

Since its launch in 2019, this innovative platform has now been offered to 11 nursing schools with more than 25 faculty participating. As of July 2025, 5,207 students had completed the program.

"Providing education regarding this vital end-of-life decision is an important step to prepare them for their roles as professional nurses, when they will be part of helping patients and families consider donation," Dr. Heitman said. She now serves as a Nursing Education Advisor at Mid-America Transplant and Professor Emerita at SEMO.



A class of senior nursing students learn more about organ donation. Photo courtesy of Southeast Missouri State University.

This educational offering is one of the many ways we are working to make more lifesaving organs and tissues available for patients awaiting the gift of life. We look forward to sharing this platform with the next generation of nurses as the program continues to expand.



The Mid-America Transplant Foundation proudly hosted the 8th Annual Research and Innovation Symposium in St. Louis. The 2025 symposium was well attended both in-person and virtually by transplant professionals from throughout the country. Presentations highlighted research aimed at improving organ and tissue donation and transplantation, including developments in pancreata islet cell research, kidney biopsies, and artificial intelligence.


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