



Gift of Life



Mid-South Transplant Foundation, Inc.

Winter 2023

Inside This Issue

Holiday Issue!

E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

Go green and stay informed! Sign up today at email:

newsletter@midsouthdonor.org

- 2 Lobby Days Program Underway
- 2 MSTF Hosts Employee Appreciation Day
- 3 MSTF Employees Help with Food Giveaway
- 3 AOPO
- 4 2022-23 Ambassador Awards Presentation
- 5 MSTF Celebrates Holiday Season with Parade Participation
- 6 Spotlight
- 6 Congratulations

Like us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Visit our website:

www.MidSouthTransplant.org

1-877-228-5433

Let's Dance Event Raises Awareness for Donation

Donation was celebrated at the Let's Dance – A Liturgical Celebration event on Nov. 4 at Pursuit of God Church in Memphis.

Telisa Franklin Ministries and Mid-South Transplant Foundation co-sponsored an evening of praise dances and transplant recipient stories. The event served as a platform to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation in the African American community.

"The Let's Dance Liturgical Celebration was a remarkable event that brought together our faith-based community to celebrate and honor life," said MSTF Multicultural Relations Coordinator, event organizer and event host Dr. Telisa Franklin. "It was an extraordinary opportunity for our community to witness the beauty of our shared faith and the importance of cherishing every moment."

Eleven praise dance teams performed, and MSTF Ambassadors Jasmine Bradshaw, accompanied by her daughter, Jada; Kiauna Thompson; and Gay Hannah, in addition to MSTF Digital Communications Coordinator ARTavius Veasey, shared their stories with the audience. All are kidney recipients, except Jada, who is a pediatric heart recipient. Veasey is also a donor family member.

"To say that the Let's Dance event was phenomenal is an understatement," Hannah said. "My sister and I were so blessed to be in attendance."

Let's Dance is likely to become an annual



event based on the positive response it received and the important message it provided. It is an ideal event to coincide with National Donor Sabbath (NDS), which is traditionally observed in November. NDS is an interfaith celebration of life and a time for congregations across the country to learn about organ and tissue donation.

"As we continue to advocate for organ and tissue donation within our community," Franklin said, "we urge everyone to consider becoming a donor and to have conversations with loved ones about this lifesaving decision."





Baptist Celebrates Transplant Anniversary, Patients



Baptist Memorial Hospital's Heart Institute in Memphis celebrated the 38th anniversary of its transplant program and honored heart transplant and heart failure survivors with a Totally '80s theme party on Oct. 27. Patients who have received left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) were also honored at the celebration in recognition of the 27th anniversary of Baptist's Mechanical and Circulatory Support (MCS) Program. Members of the Baptist staff dressed for the event.

Lobby Days Program Underway

MSTF Ambassadors have been visiting dialysis clinics throughout the MSTF service area in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas in 2023 as part of a new Lobby Days program. They set up information and registration tables in the clinic lobbies and spoke to dialysis patients and staff about donation. They also let patients know that kidney transplantation is an option for some. Ambassadors working with Lobby Days are part of the Kidney Kruisers Team.

Community Outreach Coordinator Zola Burgess established the MSTF Lobby Days program.

"Although many people are unaware, dialysis patients can often donate," Burgess said. "We have had the opportunity to reach out to DaVita, Dialysis Clinic, Inc., Fresenius and U.S. Renal Care patients and staff throughout this process and let them know. The staff and their patients have been very welcoming, and we appreciate the chance to share the message of donation with them."

More than 80% of those on the national waiting list are waiting for a kidney. If you would like to join the Kidney Kruisers Team, please contact Burgess at zburgess@midsouthdonor.org.



MSTF Hosts Employee Appreciation Day

MSTF's Annual Employee Appreciation Day was Oct. 26. The day featured team-building games, prizes and a luncheon at The Atrium at Overton Square.

AMAT

Kevin Shaw, Manager of Family Care -Tissue, and Dr. Telisa Franklin, Multicultural Relations Coordinator, represented MSTF at the 31st Annual AMAT Conference in Baltimore, MD, Oct. 3-6. AMAT is the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation.



DLA

Zola Burgess, Community Outreach Coordinator, and Mary Beck, Community Relations Coordinator, traveled to St. Pete Beach, FL, for the 2023 Donate Life America (DLA) Annual Conference Nov. 13-16.



Toys for Le Bonheur



Staffers Marty Jackson (left), who spearheaded the toy drive for MSTF, and Khadisha Green delivered the toys to Pinnacle Bank in Germantown, TN, on Dec. 18.

MSTF teamed up with Santa this year to provide toys for the annual Little Wheels Big Hearts of Tennessee Toy Drive. The toys will be donated to the Le Bonheur Children's Hospital's Bunny Lane program. Children at Le Bonheur who go into surgery travel through Bunny Lane on their way to the operating room and get to select a toy that will be with them when they wake up from surgery.

Little Wheels Big Hearts of Tennessee is an initiative that collects new, unopened toys for children at Le Bonheur.

MSTF Employees Help with Food Giveaway

MSTF's Community Outreach Department volunteered time Nov. 3 to help distribute food to seniors and others in need. The distribution was held at Pursuit of God Church and was sponsored by Dr. Telisa Franklin, MSTF's Multicultural Relations Coordinator; Pursuit of God Church; and Memphis City Councilwoman Michalyn Easter-Thomas. More than 200 families were served.



AOPPO

MSTF was well represented at the AOPPO Leadership Development Summit in Atlanta, GA, Nov. 13-14. AOPPO is the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations. The AOPPO Leadership Development Summit is an educational program designed to develop leaders by teaching them the skills needed to take on senior leadership roles in OPOs.

MSTF attendees were (from left) Mary Alan Husske, Quality Systems Coordinator; Kim Van Frank, Executive Director; Wanda Peperone, Director, Clinical Operations - Organ; Melissa Norwood, Manager of Organ Recovery Services; and Dr. Jennifer McNary-McIvain, Director, Quality Systems and Compliance.





2022-23 Ambassador Awards Presented



Shirley Branch is the winner of the 2023 Ambassador of the Year Award, while Richard Edmondson is the 2022 Ambassador of the Year. (photo left)

Richard Edmondson is the recipient of the inaugural Dr. Louis G. Britt Award. (photo above)

Ambassadors are a vital part of MSTF. These tireless volunteers work in MSTF communities to educate, inspire and register new organ and tissue donors. They share their experiences and give a face to donation/transplantation statistics. Their contributions are immeasurable. MSTF is very grateful for the dedication and support offered by every Ambassador who volunteers his or her time to speak, staff information tables, participate in media activities, help with office projects, build relationships with DMV offices, promote Blue & Green Day Mid-South or encourage donation in any way. MSTF Ambassadors volunteered more than 1,500 hours in 2023, the highest number of hours to date in a year.

Each year, MSTF recognizes individual Ambassadors who go above and beyond in their efforts. This year's awards presentation recognized 2022 and 2023 award winners.

The prestigious **Ambassador of the Year** honor is presented to the Ambassador who has given the most volunteer hours to the organization. The 2022 Ambassador of the Year is Richard Edmondson, a heart recipient from Covington, TN. The 2023 Ambassador of the Year is Shirley Branch, a donor family member from Memphis.

Another equally prestigious award debuted in 2023. The **Dr. Louis G. Britt Award** was created to recognize the Ambassador who best demonstrates exceptional service and dedication to MSTF and the community. The winner of the inaugural Dr. Louis G. Britt Award is Richard Edmondson. Edmondson received the award for his extraordinary work registering Blue & Green Day Mid-South 2023 participants and for his ongoing efforts with Tennessee Department of Public Safety and County Clerk offices. He also played a significant role in MSTF receiving community grants in 2023 from the Covington and Collierville, TN, Walmart stores.

Recipients of the **MSTF Service Award** for 50 or more volunteer hours in 2022 and 2023 include Lois Braden, Shirley Branch, Richard Edmondson, Shemeka Malone, Vera Milam Johnson and Sara Beth Silverman. Betty Harris is a recipient of the award for 2022.

MSTF thanks not only these Ambassadors but all MSTF Ambassadors for the incredible job they do to promote donation.



Recipients of the 2022 and 2023 Service Awards are (left to right) Sara Beth Silverman (2022, 23), Richard Edmondson (2022, 23), Shemeka Malone (2022, 23), Vera Milam Johnson (2022, 23), Lois Braden (2022, 23) and Shirley Branch (2022, 23). Not pictured is Betty Harris, a recipient of the award for 2022.



MSTF Celebrates Holiday Season with Parade Participation

MSTF participated in parades across its service area this holiday season.



Hernando, MS



Somerville, TN



Forrest City, AR



Whitehaven / Memphis, TN



Marion, AR



Tom McRedmond

TCCODAF Director Honored

Tom McRedmond, Executive Director of the Tennessee County Clerk Organ Donation Awareness Foundation (TCCODAF), was honored at the 2023 County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT) conference in Kingsport Nov. 7. COAT is a non-profit association of county clerks, state court clerks, registers and trustees. McRedmond was recognized for his 28 years of service and leadership in the executive director's role with TCCODAF. He will be retiring in 2024.

The money collected through the county clerk offices during his tenure has made a tremendous impact toward educating Tennesseans about organ and tissue donation. As a result, many residents have elected to say yes to donation and many lives have been saved or improved.

The inaugural Tom McRedmond Innovation Award was also given at the conference. The award went to Montgomery County Clerk Teresa Cottrell for her office's Donate Life Tennessee Donation Duck Campaign suggestion.

The Donation Duck Campaign resulted in significant contributions to TCCODAF. Sixty-six out of Tennessee's 95 counties (70%) showed an increase in contributions over the previous year. Some increases were as much as 50%. The overall increase was 15%.





Spotlight

Angela Feild, Family Care - Tissue, and Tina Hill and Greg Kenerly, both Family Care - Organ, have received MSTF Hope and Life Recognition Awards for their exceptional work with donor families during the third quarter of 2023. Congratulations.



Angela Feild



Tina Hill



Greg Kenerly

Congratulations



ARTist Feature magazine was named Magazine of the Year at the Memphis Elegance Awards in September. MSTF Digital Communications Coordinator ARTavus Veasey is the publisher and editor-in-chief of the award-winning quarterly creative lifestyle magazine.

Happy Holidays

Please visit <https://ispri.ng/IBQg6> to view the 2023 MSTF digital holiday card.



On the Move

Melissa Norwood is now Manager of Organ Recovery Services. She previously served as Clinical Educator.

