



Gift of Life



Mid-South Transplant Foundation, Inc.

Spring 2024

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newsletter@midsouthdonor.org

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www.MidSouthTransplant.org
1-877-228-5433

Get Ready for Blue & Green Day Mid-South 2024



Mid-South Transplant Foundation (MSTF) needs your help to make 2024 another record year for Blue & Green Day Mid-South and, more importantly, to deliver hope and healing to those in need of organ and tissue transplants. Join MSTF on **April 12** to turn your community Blue & Green.

Blue & Green Day is part of Donate Life America's National Donate Life Month and is celebrated as Blue & Green Day Mid-South in MSTF communities. Donate Life Month (April) and Blue & Green Day Mid-South (this year, April 12) provide significant opportunities each year to raise awareness of the need for donation.

Please show your support for Blue & Green Day Mid-South by registering as a participant today. You can register yourself, your company, your place of worship or other organization with which you are affiliated. Encourage everyone you know to register as well. **Registration is free, fast, easy and open to all.** Simply go to the MSTF website, www.MidSouthTransplant.org, and click the Blue & Green Day tab at the top of the homepage or scan the QR code here.

Also available on the MSTF website under the Blue & Green Day option is the new **2024 Blue & Green Day Mid-South T-shirt. Shirts are available to order now through March 24.** Shirts are \$18 and will be

shipped directly to you in early April. Additionally, graphics, social media banners and coloring sheets for Blue & Green Day Mid-South are on the website.

There are endless ways to participate with Blue & Green Day Mid-South. You can light your home or office in Blue & Green, decorate your car in Blue & Green, put a message on your company marquee, host a Blue & Green Day party, wear Blue & Green colors, put a yard sign on your lawn, style your pet in a Blue & Green bow tie or create a Blue & Green dessert extravaganza for your co-workers. These are just a few examples. We encourage you to be creative in promoting Blue & Green Day Mid-South.

Don't forget to take photos of your Blue & Green Day Mid-South activities. Post them on social media using the hashtag **#Blue-GreenDayMidSouth** (tag us!) and then pick your favorite photo and enter it in the Blue & Green Day Photo Contest. More information about the photo contest and Blue & Green Day Mid-South is available on the MSTF website.

Visit. Register. Participate. Help Save Lives.

With your help, April 12, 2024, will be the biggest Blue & Green Day Mid-South to date!



Register Today



Important Donate Life Month Dates

Donate Life Living Donor Day	April 3
Blue & Green Day	April 12
National Pediatric Transplant Week	April 21-27

You can learn more about these observances on the Donate Life America website, <https://donatelife.net/how-you-can-help/national-observances-celebrations/ndlm/>.



MSTF Celebrates Another Record-Breaking Year for Donation

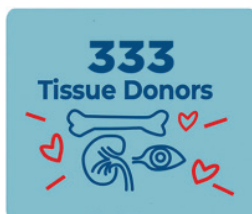
MSTF is proud to announce that 2023 was the organization’s third consecutive record-breaking year for saving lives in the Mid-South through organ and tissue donation.

In 2023, MSTF had 105 organ donors (up 4% from 2022), 306 organs were transplanted (up 19% from 2022) and there were 333 tissue donors.

For more than 45 years, MSTF has helped facilitate the organ and tissue donation process between donor families and recipients and promotes awareness of donation through public and professional education.

MSTF is grateful to its community partners, which include – among many others – hospitals, clinics, transplant centers, businesses, schools, churches, donor families, medical personnel, coroners, individual supporters from all walks of life, county clerk offices in Tennessee and department of motor vehicles/driver’s license offices throughout the MSTF service area. These partners are integral to the lifesaving work of donation.

MSTF’s mission is to improve lives through organ and tissue donation, and its vision is to end the wait for those in need of an organ or tissue transplant. Every person who says yes to donation and every partner who works to facilitate donation in any way moves MSTF toward these goal posts.



MSTF Hosts Webinar on Legal Aspects of Donation

MSTF presented “The Gift & The Law” webinar on Dec. 12, 2023, to an audience interested in learning more about the legal aspects of donation and first-person authorization. The educational event featured attorney Christina W. Strong, a partner at Dilworth Paxson LLP in Philadelphia, PA. Strong specializes in healthcare law and policy, with expertise in the area of organ and tissue donation for transplant, education and research. She is also an Adjunct Professor in Health Law at Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, NJ.

The webinar was designed for MSTF staff and for hospitals and other organizations that are involved in donation.

Topics for the one-hour presentation included:

- What is the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA)?
- How does the law protect First-Person Authorization (FPA)?
- How does this topic apply to your hospital/facility?
- Honoring a person’s decision to be a donor, regardless of family opposition.

The webinar was hosted by Kim Van Frank, MSTF Executive Director, and Michael Norwood, Manager of Family Care – Organ. It was organized by Lynn Tillman, Manager of Hospital Services, and the Hospital Services team. The webinar production group included Amira Bass, Data Analyst, and ARTavius Veasey, Digital Communications Coordinator.



MSTF is available to present "The Gift & the Law" to your organization. If you would like more information, please contact Melody Ramsey at mramsey@midsouthdonor.org or 901-328-4438.



Thank You to “Show Me Your Heart Week” Participants



Thanks to the wonderful support from this year’s participants, Show Me Your Heart Week 2024 (SMYHW) was one of MSTF’s most successful SMYHW observances to date. SMYHW is organized around National Donor Day on Feb. 14 and was celebrated Feb. 12-16.

National Donor Day is a day observed each year to promote awareness about donation. It is a day to recognize those who have given and received the gift of life, those who are waiting for a transplant and those for whom the transplant did not come in time.

Seventeen area businesses demonstrated their support for SMYHW 2024 by offering discounts or goodies to customers who showed them the heart on their driver's licenses, indicating a registered donor status.

Drivers’ licensing offices also participated. The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Mississippi Highway Patrol and Tennessee Department of Safety offices in MSTF’s service area gave candy to customers who registered as donors or renewed their commitment to donation when they renewed their driver’s licenses. The offices extended the celebration beyond SMYHW and participated throughout February in recognition of American Heart Month.

Donate Life Mississippi – a collaboration that includes MSTF and Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA) – sponsored a statewide artwork contest for health sciences students. The contest theme was “Show Us Your Heart” in honor of National Donor Day. MSTF and MORA are the organ procurement organizations in Mississippi. MSTF serves 19 Mississippi counties, in addition to counties in Arkansas and Tennessee.

The top three winners in the art contest were Aly Watkins from West Lauderdale High School CTC, first place; Jayla Magee from Walthall County CTC, second place; and Mabry Gaines from Desoto County West CTC, third place.

Thank you to everyone who participated in any way to support donation and honor donor heroes during SMYHW and American Heart Month in February.

Local Phi Gamma Delta Chapter Champions Donation

Phi Gamma Delta at Memphis has adopted organ and tissue donation as its philanthropy. The fraternity, which is new to the University of Memphis, partnered with MSTF to host a donor registration drive on campus Feb. 21. Fraternity members offered pizza slices to students who were registered donors or who registered to become donors.



Mary Beck, MSTF’s Community Relations Coordinator, worked with Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) to organize the drive. “I’m very impressed with how the fraternity took on the challenge to educate and promote awareness of organ and tissue donation,” Beck said. “Sixty students grabbed a slice, meaning they were registered or became registered. Twenty people scanned the registration QR code at the event and signed up to save lives. The fraternity is making a difference.”



BLUE & GREEN DAY
MID-SOUTH

https://www.bluffcitysports.com/mid-south_transplant_foundation/shop/home

TSHIRTS AVAILABLE NOW
DEADLINE: MARCH 24TH



Congratulations

Histocompatibility Laboratory Technologist Jaleesa Wright, MT(ASCP), CHT(ASHI), successfully completed her Certified Histocompatibility Technologist exam in December 2023.



Spotlight

Angela Feild, Donation Support Coordinator – Tissue, and Tina Hill, Family Care Coordinator – Organ, have received MSTF Hope and Life Recognition Awards for their exceptional work with donor families during the fourth quarter of 2023.



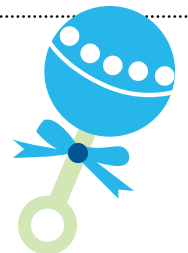
Angela Feild



Tina Hill

Hello, Baby!

Mary Alan Husske, MSTF Quality Systems Coordinator, and her husband, Cody, welcomed a son, Walker, on Feb. 28. Congratulations to the proud parents.



Blue & Green Day Mid-South is April 12. Register as a participant today at www.MidSouthTransplant.org.

