Blue & Green Day 2023: Get Ready for April 14

Blue & Green Day Mid-South 2023 has big shoes to fill. Last year’s event set records. Mid-South Transplant Foundation (MSTF) needs your help to ensure April 14, 2023, outshines its remarkably successful 2022 predecessor and, more importantly, delivers hope and healing to those in need of organ and tissue transplants.

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 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 then click the Blue & Green Day tab. Registration is a dropdown menu option.

New this year for registrants is the Blue & Green Day Mid-South Tool Kit. Instead of selecting individual participation items, you will receive either the individual or business tool kit, as appropriate, when you register for Blue & Green Day Mid-South. Everything you need to be a Blue & Green Day Mid-South star will be included in the kit, including a yard sign and balloons.

Also available on the MSTF website under the Blue & Green Day tab is the 2023 Blue & Green Day Mid-South T-shirt. Shirts are available to order now through March 27. They will be shipped directly to you. T-shirts cost $17 for sizes small through 1X. Size 2X is $19, and 3X is $20.

In addition to shirts and the tool kit, you will find downloads for graphics, social media banners and coloring sheets on the MSTF 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, put a message on your company marquee, host a Blue & Green Day party, wear Blue & Green colors, put a yard sign on your lawn or create a Blue & Green dessert extravaganza for your coworkers. 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 expression. Post them on social media using the hashtag #BlueGreenDayMidSouth (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.

With your help, April 14, 2023, will be the most inspiring Blue & Green Day Mid-South to date!
MSTF is proud to announce that 2022 was another record-breaking year. It was, in fact, MSTF’s second consecutive record-breaking year.

In 2022, MSTF had 101 organ donors, an increase of 25% from the previous year, and 257 organs were transplanted, an increase of 9% from the previous year. In addition, there were 341 tissue donors in 2022, up 7% from 2021.

MSTF received a Partnership Award from Community Tissue Services (CTS) for its role in helping CTS reach a milestone in 2022 of one million grafts distributed. CTS is a provider of services to donor families, medical communities, recipients and community partners through the recovery, processing and distribution of tissue grafts.

In Loving Memory

It is with great sadness that MSTF said goodbye to a dear friend of the donation community, Chuck Stinson, earlier this year. Chuck served as the Director of Community Services and Relations for the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA). MSTF and MORA work together to promote donation in Mississippi, and both are part of Donate Life Mississippi. The MSTF family was very close to Chuck and will miss him greatly. He died on Jan. 2, 2023, after fighting a courageous battle against HLH and its resulting complications.

In a statement from Donate Life Mississippi, Chuck was described as “a storyteller, sensitive, with a big sense of humor and an even bigger heart. If you are lucky enough to have known Chuck Stinson, then you are lucky enough. He will be deeply missed.” Chuck leaves behind his wife of 30 years, Regina Reifers Stinson, and their three daughters, Claire, Emily and Molly.

Other Important Days in National Donate Life Month (April)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donate Life Living Donor Day</td>
<td>April 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue &amp; Green Spirit Week</td>
<td>April 8-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Pediatric Transplant Week</td>
<td>April 23-29</td>
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Please visit https://www.donatelife.net/celebrations/ to learn more about these important April observances.

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Just Like That: Grammy-Winning Song Puts the Spotlight on Donation

 Bonnie Raitt’s “Just Like That” won Song of the Year at the 2023 Grammy Awards on Feb. 5. “Just Like That” tells the story of a mother meeting her son’s heart recipient, and it brings the message of donation to a big audience.

“I was so inspired for this song by the incredible story of the love, and the grace, and the generosity of someone that donates their beloved’s organs to help another person live,” Raitt said in her acceptance speech. She told reporters backstage that she had been inspired to write the song after watching a news story.

Raitt received an “outpouring of messages” after her Grammy win. She posted a response on her Facebook page that included these words:

May the song bring about even more awareness and motivation for more of us to support organ donation registration and infrastructure — removing obstacles that have hindered helping thousands connecting to facilitate this miraculous gift of life and help bring comfort to those suffering such tragic loss. (Facebook, Feb. 10, 2023)

You can hear Raitt’s Song of the Year on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Skd0XR3twCA

National Records Set for Donation in 2022

Last year 42,887 organ transplants were performed in the U.S., an increase of 3.7% over 2021 and a new annual record, according to preliminary data from the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). The U.S. reached a one million transplant milestone in 2022.

Organ donation from deceased donors continued a 12-year record-setting trend in 2022 (14,903 people became deceased organ donors), and for the first year ever, more than 25,000 kidney transplants (25,498 from living and deceased donors) were performed in the U.S. Records were also set for liver (9,528), heart (4,111) and lung (2,692) transplants.

2022 | A year of lifesaving milestones

Exceeded 42,800 transplants
Surpassed 25,000 kidney transplants for the first time
Also set all-time records for liver, heart and lung transplants

*Based on UNOS data as of Jan. 9, 2023. Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction

Join the MSTF Team for the Regional One Health One-Mile Championship

MSTF is again proud to be a sponsor of the Regional One Health One-Mile Championship. This is MSTF’s second year sponsoring the event to support the Regional One Health (ROH) Foundation. This year’s race is Saturday, April 1, at the ROH main campus in the Medical District on Jefferson Avenue in Memphis.

ROH is an important part of the tristate community. Please join the MSTF run/walk team to show your support by registering at the link below. Be sure to select Mid-South Transplant Foundation as your team.
https://raceroster.com/events/2023/65099/regional-one-health-one-mile-championship

To receive a $5 discount on your registration fee as an MSTF team member, contact Mary Beck, MSTF Community Relations Coordinator, at mbeck@midsouthdonor.org before you register. Your participation will help ROH better serve patients throughout the region.

Hospital Partner Appreciation

MSTF’s Hospital Services Department delivered bags of popcorn to hospital partners at the end of 2022 to show appreciation for the incredible work hospitals do to support donation. The popcorn scoop read: “You have made a POPPING impact on donation and saving lives!”

Spotlight

Beth Larsen, Family Care – Organ, and Angela Feild, Family Care – Tissue, have received MSTF Hope and Life Recognition Awards for their exceptional work with donor families during the fourth quarter of 2022.

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Congratulations

Telisa Franklin, MSTF’s Multicultural Relations Coordinator, received a Doctorate of Divinity from Atlantic Coast Theological College in November 2022.

Rose Parade Win for DLA

Donate Life America won the top award, the 2023 Sweepstakes Trophy, at the 134th Rose Parade in January. The Sweepstakes Trophy is given to the float entry judged most beautiful and encompasses float design, floral presentation and entertainment.

Employee Appreciation Day 2022

The MSTF family closed out 2022 with its annual Employee Appreciation Day – a day set aside to recognize the work and dedication of staff toward healing and saving lives. The event took place at Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid on Dec. 15.

On the Move

Tina Ray is now in the position of Organ Donation Coordinator. She previously served as Organ Recovery Technician.

Anny Vichaita is now in the position of Organ Recovery Technician/Pulsatile Perfusionist. She previously served as Tissue Recovery Technician.