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SHARING THE



A NEWSLETTER OF GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE VOLUME 3 | NO 1 | SPRING 2004

20 Years of "Sharing the Gift"

IT ISN'T EVERY DAY THAT A GRASSROOTS, HOME-GROWN, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY. IT'S BELIEVED THAT MOST BUSINESSES FAIL WITHIN THREE YEARS, USUALLY DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS TO COVER EXPENSES, A LACK OF INCOME, OR A LACK OF HUMAN RESOURCES. AT GIFT OF LIFE THOUGH, OUR MISSION HAS ALWAYS CARRIED US ABOVE THE USUAL BUSINESS OBSTACLES. When we opened our doors, we knew we were here to serve people who were scared, who hadn't had a good night's sleep in months, and who needed a safe haven and the compassion of a friend who cared. It's not surprising then that Edward Pompeian's vision to offer a home away from home to transplant patients has achieved such heartwarming success.

Please join us Sunday, July 11, 2004, at Gift of Life to celebrate 20 years of "Sharing the Gift." The day will begin with brunch at 11 a.m.* Amid music and merrymaking, guests will be encouraged to tour the House and see what's new since they stayed here last. Then at 1:15 p.m., we'll honor those benefactors who have gifted us tremendously in the three years since our last open house. We promise to share a lot of laughter and a number of moving stories that will remind us why we are here.

All current and former guests, caregivers, family members, friends, volunteers, benefactors, Board Members, staff, and volunteers are cordially invited to attend. It won't be the same without you!

* If you plan to join us for brunch, please RSVP by calling 507-288-7470 or e-mailing us at office@gift-of-life.org. Thank you.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS
OF GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE

Cordially invite you to attend the

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
And
BENEFACTORS' RECOGNITION

Sunday, July 11, 2004

Brunch* ~ 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | **Benefactors' Recognition** ~ 1:15 p.m.

All events to be held at the House:
705 Second Street Southwest, Rochester, Minnesota

**Please RSVP if you plan to attend the brunch: 507-288-7470 or office@gift-of-life.org*

Golf Speakers Announced

Former Notre Dame Athletic Director and His Wife to Speak at 20th Annual Golf Benefit

Due to a childhood illness, Michael ("Mike") Wadsworth has lived most of his life with just one functioning kidney. But that hasn't slowed him a bit. After his undergraduate studies at Notre Dame came successful careers in Canadian pro football and TV sports commenting, plus law school, years of private practice as a lawyer, and time in executive business positions. He also spent five years as Canada's ambassador to Ireland. Then from 1995 to 2000, he was the athletic director at the University of Notre Dame, in South Bend, Indiana. Finally, last year, at age 60, he wore out that one working kidney. His doctors told him it was time to get a transplant.

Bernadette ("Bernie") Wadsworth, who's been in love with Mike for 44 years and married to him for 39, knew she'd be the "perfect donor," she said, despite learning the odds would be 1 million to 1 because she wasn't a blood relative. Don't ever bet against Bernie. She was right. On November 24, 2003, her kidney "fit like a



Bernadette and Michael Wadsworth make a grand entrance at a recent gala.

glove" and began to work for Mike immediately. Take that woman to the races!

Mike and Bernadette Wadsworth will be the featured speakers at Gift of Life's 20th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament, Monday, July 12, 2004, at Rochester Golf

speakers continued on page two



President's Letter

Greetings, friends and associates!

I am happy to report that spring has arrived in Minnesota. It was an intense winter, so everyone is feeling blessed with the warmer temperatures. Sister Jane Frances can now move from tending the snow and ice to cleaning up the yard and watching the landscape turn bright green. As you may know, she particularly enjoys outside work, and our guests benefit from the peaceful setting she creates around our home.

We enjoyed another blessed holiday season at the House, including a wedding! Patient-guest Don Ward, who'd received a heart in late November, realized with gratitude he had a future to offer his long-time love, Rose. They were married in a quiet ceremony in the library on December 30th. The house was



festively decorated and many thoughtful experiences were shared by both guests and staff. Your support during the holiday season with generous gifts is keeping the spirit and service of the House alive today. Thank you.

In case you haven't heard, this will be a very busy year for Gift of Life. It's our 20th anniversary year so we'll find many occasions to celebrate. I hope you'll join us on July 11th for our Open House and on the 12th for the 20th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament. The golf benefit is our largest fundraiser of the year. Along with our request for donations at the holidays, this fundraiser truly helps carry our operating budget throughout the year. Please come to celebrate with us and give us an opportunity to thank you in return!

Every month, the staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers at the House witness tremendous interest and support from our friends. For this, we offer you our most sincere thanks. We hope you'll share in our celebration of health, hope, and fellowship this year.

*Sincerely,
Ron Kreinbring, President
Gift of Life Board of Directors*

MAYO CLINIC ANNOUNCES ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO GIFT OF LIFE

Mayo Clinic announced in January that it will donate \$25,000 a year to each of three Rochester organizations that provides a homelike setting for Clinic patients and their caregivers where they may live while receiving treatment at Mayo Clinic. Gift of Life Transplant House, Ronald McDonald House, and American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge each will benefit from these gifts.

"These organizations add an important dimension to the compassionate care we provide here," said Hugh C. Smith, M.D., chair of the Mayo Clinic Rochester Board of Governors. "They offer patients and their families a sense of community that is so helpful when dealing with serious illness away from home."

The new annual donation, which begins in 2004, is an extension of Mayo's ongoing support of each of these organizations. Mayo owns the land on which each house is located and leases it to each of them for \$1 a year. In addition to its annual donation, Mayo also pledged to match community donations of up to \$100,000 in support of capital campaigns launched by the three organizations.

One Thousand "Thank You's"

...to some former guests who recently donated \$500 in memory of another guest and designated that it be used to help publish this newsletter.

...to the angels of many Rochester churches who regularly present us with home-baked cookies and treats for our guests.

...to the many current and former guests who clip out the newsletter's "wish list" and walk in our doors with arms full of our daily needs.

...to the members of Clover Leaf 4-H Club who brought 48 bags of candies for our guests on St. Patrick's Day.

...to a friend of Gift of Life and her friends at Ty, Inc., makers of Beanie Babies®, who donated 48 stuffed animals for our guests on St. Patrick's Day and Easter.

...to Roshini Sarah Abraham, Ph.D., a Mayo Clinic research scientist who hosts a patient and caregiver support group twice monthly at the House.

...to our tireless volunteer Pat White, a retired IBM employee who comes in every week to update the thousands of entries in our database of patients, caregivers, family members, benefactors, and other friends of Gift of Life.

...to four Rochester churches who recently pooled their resources to offer our guests 25 copies of the local newspaper for the next year. They are New Life Worship Center, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Pax Christi Catholic Church, and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

HOW BLESSED WE ARE FOR THESE KINDNESSES AND MANY OTHERS GIVEN US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

"Hope is an orientation of the heart...an ability to work for something because it is good..."

— VACLAV HAVEL

speakers *continued from page one*

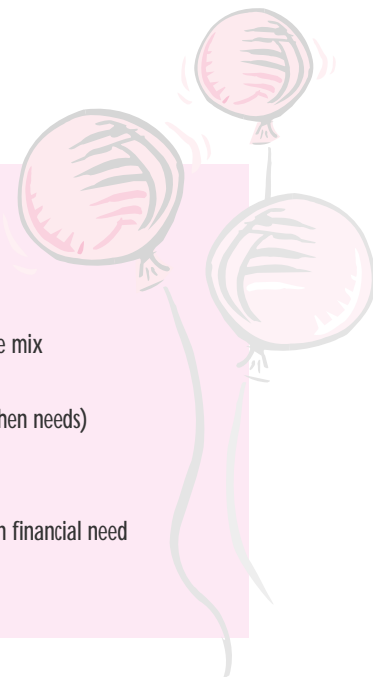
and Country Club. Please plan to join us this year especially to celebrate our 20th year of helping transplant patients and their caregivers. Watch your mailbox for the special mailer coming in May featuring the registration form to golf and to attend the dinner and presentation by the Wadsworths. This information also will be on our web site soon. Both communication pieces will carry information, too, about how to send in a donation for a "Tribute" in honor of your special transplant event, person, or memory. (See related story.)

Honoring Those You Love

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED A UNIQUE WAY TO SHOW YOUR SPOUSE, FAMILY MEMBER, OR FRIEND YOU CARE? Would you like to remember a loved one in a special way while helping Gift of Life? Please sponsor a \$100 sign on the greens of Rochester Golf and Country Club during our annual golf tournament. Last year the course was alive with wonderful sentiments about our friends! It's a great way to support Gift of Life at our largest fundraiser of the year, and it's tax deductible. Watch your mailbox for the golf registration form; the Tribute information will be requested there. Your kindness in supporting Gift of Life Transplant House allows us to continue our vital mission of service to our guests.

WIS Spring needs

- Wrapped candy, especially chocolates
- Postage stamps (37 and 23 cents)
- Toilet paper, in 4-packs
- Paper towels
- Mr. Clean®, toilet-bowl cleansers, and Windex®
- Toothbrushes — soft, medium-size heads
- Coffee creamer and sugar
- Spices and baking needs
- Birthday party plates and napkins
- Crystal Lite® sugar-free, powdered lemonade mix (for our guest socials)
- Pop can tabs (recycling proceeds supply kitchen needs)
- Plastic food-storage bags
- Anti-bacterial liquid hand soap and refills
- \$25 to cover a one-night stay for a family in financial need



Transplants Touch the Kids, Too

Over the years, we've had hundreds of patient-guests at Gift of Life. But the number of pediatric patients has never been something we pondered — until this past winter, when we realized we had four young patients in the House at the same time!

Monica, age 10, lived here while she recovered from a liver transplant. John, 15, got a kidney from his dad. And Meaghan, 18, also recovered from a kidney transplant in January. In recent years, we've also had Tom, 16, who liked to play jokes on the staff as he recovered from a heart transplant. Mallory was 9 when she got a kidney, and now she brings boxes and boxes of pop tabs to us each year when she comes for her check-up. Alyssa, 8, was another grateful heart recipient not long ago. She was on the John Walsh Show in February, where she met the mother of her donor. Miranda received a heart at just six weeks and lived here with her parents in 2001. And Shawna Jo, 12, almost became a staff member as she regained her strength with a new heart and made herself indispensable helping in the office.

Each of these kids and many others have touched our lives and reinvigorated us to work hard at our "sideline business" of promoting organ and tissue donation. And one of these kids is still at Gift of Life waiting.

Sarah Bacerra is a quiet, 12-year-old girl from Arizona who has the world's longest eyelashes, we're pretty sure. She and her mother, Rafaela Ruiz, have lived here since mid-November as Sarah waits for a new liver. Though she'd much rather be at home with her six siblings, ages 24 through 16, Sarah admits it's been a "pretty fun" experience living at Gift of Life.

It was a defect at birth and an unsuccessful surgical procedure to correct it that prompted her liver to fail, she reports. Her mother estimates she's had more than 200 hospital stays in her short lifetime, and she once spent as long as a year inpatient while doctors tried to find a solution. Her parents split shifts to be with her there. Finally, it was discovered last October

that her lungs were in poor condition and her heart was three times the size it should have been. That prompted a move onto the waiting list and away from her family.

In Rochester, this bilingual child spent her first month as an inpatient with her mother sleeping in her hospital room. Sarah regularly translates complex information for her mother, who speaks only Spanish. Since coming to Gift of Life in November 2003, she's charmed her way into many a heart as she's roamed the halls of Gift of Life, padding around in her slippers, flannel pants, and short-sleeved t-shirts — even in the midst of one of our coldest recent winters. (Sarah, who loves winter, simply giggled and grinned when she was often prompted to put on her coat before heading outdoors!) She carries a self-regulating dispenser of blood thinner, so her heart and lungs won't become overworked again. And she spends a lot of time on the computer when she's not working with her tutor or at the Clinic. At home, Sarah is in the sixth grade.



Sarah Bacerra enjoys one of Rochester's first spring days rocking on our porch.

When asked how long doctors say she can manage without a transplant, Sarah simply says they aren't sure. It's been a long 12 years with this illness, but it's all she knows. In her understated way, she encapsulates her journey to Minnesota and onto an organ waiting list by saying, "It's an experience. I don't get to travel much, due to my illness. I really like this house, and I like Minnesota. This is my chance to add a state to my list." Just the same, she admits she'd rather be at home, getting hugs from her dad, playing with her friends, or getting pestered by her brothers and sisters, all of whom miss her very much.

Here's hoping our efforts to spread the word about the need for organ and tissue donors will pay off soon for Sarah, a soft-spoken girl with an infectious giggle, cascading dark hair, and the world's longest eyelashes.

Margaret Gowan Mester, Communications Manager

DID YOU KNOW...



THE FIRST HOSPITAL HOSPITALITY HOUSE in the United States was launched by the family of a pediatric patient?

IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK, the home was purchased in January 1972 by Cyril and Claudia Garvey of Sharon, Pennsylvania. Their son had died at age 13 of leukemia, and the Garveys wanted to help others who found themselves in similar situations. The "Kevin Guest House" opened on July 26, 1972, and quickly became an inspiration for the first Ronald McDonald House, which opened in Philadelphia in 1974. Today, there are more than 185 member and provisional houses, as well as affiliate members, in the National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses (NAHHH). Most of these homes, such as Gift of Life, have grown out of local or regional needs, serving a specific illness or audience.

NAHHH, to which Gift of Life has belonged since 1993, provides a support network for all these homes. Sister Margeen Hoffmann, O.S.F., our executive director, is currently serving her second, one-year term as President of the Board for NAHHH. And our founder, Ed Pompeian, is in his third year on the NAHHH Board. Though their audiences may differ, the philosophy of each NAHHH house is the same: to provide a "home that helps and heals."

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE:

CHUCK PAGENHART

If you've lived at Gift of Life, you've likely seen Charles ("Chuck") Pagenhart volunteering here. He may have been blowing snow outside or diligently working to prepare the bulk mailing of a newsletter. However you may have seen him, you've seen a very dedicated member of our Board of Directors.

A 1984 real estate transaction introduced Chuck to Ed Pompeian, the founder of Gift of Life. When an opening arose on our Board in 1987, Chuck jumped in. With his expertise as an engineer at IBM, he soon helped update our database program. In addition, he stepped in as a member of the Finance Committee and has chaired that committee for years. His family background in construction also has given him an inclination to help with our facility issues. In fact, after taking early retirement from IBM, he spent many months volunteering at Gift of Life in 1995 while the construction of our first (north) wing was in progress. (During the summer of 1974, while working half-days at IBM, Chuck even built his own home!) Chuck came by his interest in medical issues through family ties, too. His sister is a nurse, as was his wife before retirement, and his mother was a medical secretary. Helping people as they face medical journeys is "in his blood," you could say.

When he's not at Gift of Life, Chuck is likely to be found managing one of his business ventures or spending time with his family. He and his wife have a son, a daughter, a son-in-law, and five-year-old triplet grandchildren who are the apples of Grandpa's eye!

With a wide array of talents, it's easy to see why Chuck is such a valuable friend. And he's quick to say he enjoys working alongside the Board Members, staff, and other volunteers on behalf of our guests. "There's always something to do; it's a great charity and it has great needs." We thank Chuck for his great dedication to our home and our guests!



Chuck Pagenhart, a tireless volunteer

A Kid's Post-Transplant Goal: To Get a Life!

Submitted by Therese Moore, R.N.
Pediatric Kidney Transplant
Coordinator, Mayo Clinic Rochester

GROWING UP CAN BE HARD ENOUGH, and when you add a complex medical situation such as an organ transplant, the challenges are multiplied. Fortunately, organ transplantations save lives. And adjusting to the changes is possible — even for children.

LIFE AFTER AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT IS TOUGH, IT'S TRUE. Of course, having the illness/condition is also difficult, but it's a different kind of difficulty after the transplant. Children often are very ill while preparing for transplantation. Then after surgery, they go home to face a new lifestyle, including recovery which can take a few weeks or several months. The kids will have to be strict about taking medications that have significant side effects. They will be asked to go to a local laboratory for frequent blood tests. Often, the children will have to deal with new psychological issues too, such as pain, fear, loneliness, and/or depression. Over all, they'll soon know there are things they can do that they've never been well enough to do before, and there may be things they will never be able to do again.

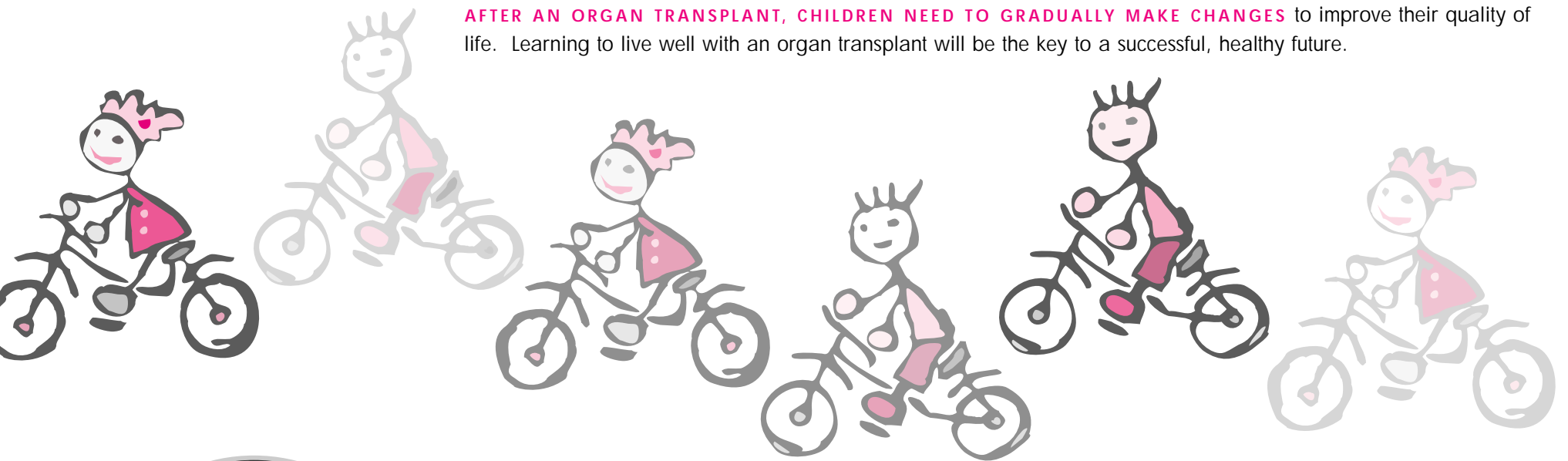
AS SHOULD BE EXPECTED, FAMILY MEMBERS WILL PLAY A BIG ROLE in how well the child's transition works. With recovery underway, it will be time to stop making illness the center of the child's and family's worlds. Changing thoughts of "I'm sick" to "I'm getting better" and "He can't do that" to "What can he do now?" will have to be consciously made. It will be important to help the child stop thinking as a patient and start thinking as a person living with a transplant. This helps children look at their talents and dreams and continue to do the things they have loved while accepting the challenges new situations bring, too.

"It will be important to help the child stop thinking as a patient and start thinking as a person living with a transplant."

FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOL IS WHERE THINGS HAPPEN. They spend so much time there, socializing and developing talents and personalities. Unfortunately, chronic illness and frequent hospitalizations take children out of this environment, sometimes for long periods. Before the child rejoins the class, someone should talk to the students and teachers about the transplant so they understand what the child has gone through and will be going through. With the support of family, teachers, and friends, the weeks after a transplant can hold great emotional growth!

WHEN IT'S TIME TO TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD, the biggest challenges may arise. Many of these children have been ill for years and have had someone care for their every need. Moving away means the child must monitor his or her own health. Somehow, he or she will need to live as normal a life as possible without forgetting their special needs.

AFTER AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT, CHILDREN NEED TO GRADUALLY MAKE CHANGES to improve their quality of life. Learning to live well with an organ transplant will be the key to a successful, healthy future.



Shawna Jo is wheeled into the OR to get the best Christmas present of her life — a heart. She lived at Gift of Life for three months as she recovered.

Children's Playroom Has Something for Everyone

If you're young, or at least young at heart, and need to stay at Gift of Life, you'll be pleased to know we have an inviting environment to entertain you. We owe many thanks to those listed here for this wonderful Children's Playroom.

- The Pediatric and Pediatric ICU Nursing staff at Mayo Clinic recently donated funds in honor of Dr. Bruce Morgenstern, a beloved pediatric kidney specialist who accepted a position at Mayo's Scottsdale, Arizona, site this spring. Morgenstern's wife, Mary E. Murphy, a Mayo

- transplant coordinator, was an invaluable member of Gift of Life's Board of Directors during the House's early years. We're grateful for the family's generous annual donations to the Children's Playroom and the House.

- The Shjon Podein Children's Foundation donated funds to help furnish the room.
- Sister Sara Ruble and her kindergarten class at IHM/St. Luke's School in St. Paul, Minnesota, created colorful artwork to make any child feel at home.

- With a request from a friend of Gift of Life, IBM donated a "Young Explorer" computer station with great games for kids.

- The family of Barbara Bunkers recently donated funds, too. We purchased two OshKosh® child-size easy chairs. They're so cute!

Of course, many, many friends have donated toys, puzzles, books, and other fun things for the room. It's fully furnished now and ready for play when we get young kids!

Keeping People Connected: The Gillette PC Lab Gets a Face-Lift!

“wired” to help heal

Just three short years ago, we moved into the west wing of the House, now named the Norman L. Gillette Jr. Wing, and installed four donated personal computers (PCs) in a dayroom to help our guests keep in touch with family and friends. Little did we know the value-added service of offering Internet access would boom as it has!

Since early 2001, we've made great strides offering this technology to our guests. In 2002, we enlisted the help of some expert former guests, current volunteers, and a local computer business to review our technology and guide us into the future. This “technology advisory group” assessed the unique issues related to a building that has grown in phases and worked to develop a multi-stage plan to build our technology — a plan this non-profit organization could afford. In 2003, the north wing of the House was “wired” to offer wireless Internet access in each of those guest rooms, and the Gillette Wing was prepared for offering Ethernet access in each of those guest rooms.

And then, in mid-2003, we began to hear touring prospective guests say that they (the patient and/or the caregiver) anticipated continuing to work while living here. Many people began to bring laptops for use in their guest rooms (at a \$1/day charge), but others didn't have that luxury. So the timing was right last fall when an angel came to us and offered to help. Keith Dahlgren, of Rochester, had visited Gift of Life last year while his cousin lived here. He was moved by our compassion and our commitment to our guests, but he wasn't as impressed with our older computers. With expertise earned as an IBM employee, he asked if he could join our advisory group and help as needed. Soon, the group decided to turn its attention to upgrading those donated PCs — available 24/7 free of charge — and improving other technologies, such as strengthening our firewalls and blocking access to pornographic web sites, among other improvements.

With the incredible kindness and generosity of many individuals*, we anticipate re-opening “The Gillette PC Lab” in mid-April. With six new desk-stations for computers, six state-of-the-art Dell PCs and flat-panel monitors, and a new networked IBM laser printer, we'll have great bragging rights when we tour prospective guests in that room. In addition, we're putting two new PCs in the second floor Judd House dayroom and another one in the lower-level Judd House dayroom, raising the number of guest PCs from five to nine. We couldn't be more pleased to be able to help our guests stay in touch with their family and friends. We know those contacts truly help our guests heal, even from long distance.

And now that the guest PCs are on order, we've turned our attention to the office PCs. Again, with thanks to our friends, we are the recipients of an IBM “team award,” given to a charitable organization that has in place a group of retired or current IBM employees as volunteers. This award has given us six new state-of-the-art IBM computers with flat-panel monitors. What a gift! You can imagine the work it takes to operate this House and host nearly 30,000 guest nights annually. We simply couldn't do it without great office technology.

Our deepest thanks go to the extraordinarily dedicated members of our technology advisory group. Jim R. and Don F. both work in the computer field. They lived here with their wives when we launched this group and helped us discover and fix the most urgent flaws in our system. Pat White has volunteered here for years; she manages our database of guests, caregivers, and benefactors. It's a big job! Margaret Gowan Mester is our communications manager. When there were more problems and questions than she could answer, she knew it was time to pull together a group of resources...and what a talented group it is! Sister Margeen Hoffmann, our executive director, does a great job of supporting our proposals when they are discussed at the Board meetings. And the individuals mentioned in the first three bullets of the sidebar to the right have been the backbone of the group. They are truly heaven sent!

Of course, offering computers and Internet access isn't our main line of business. We're here to offer compassion, companionship, and a clean home away from home when it's needed most. But we know our guests need to stay connected with those they love. We are grateful we can offer this service to them. It helps them remember why they are fighting to live.

Margaret Gowan Mester, Communications Manager

* Gift of Life is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

This newsletter wouldn't be complete without thanking those angels who have worked so hard to rebuild this lab. They are:

- **Venture Computer Systems, Rochester**, and its many of employees, including Jon Eckhoff (owner), Paul Korkowski, and Ed Hudson, who have donated hundreds of hours and more to our cause;
- **Charles (“Chuck”) Pagenhart**, the Gift of Life Board Member who has donated many hours to shepherding the cause of the technology advisory group;
- **Keith Dahlgren**, cousin to patient-guest Carla Reinken, and **Alanna Seefeldt**, Rochester IBM employees who initiated the team award and who can brainstorm like no others;
- **Kenneth and Meredee Dahlgren**, parents of patient-guest Carla Reinken, who donated \$1,500 respectively to improve the guest PCs, thereby launching our 2004 technology plan;
- **Kristi Wieser**, a Twin Cities IBM employee and niece of patient-guest Sharon Smith, who initiated and earned for Gift of Life a grant for two high-speed laser printers valued at more than \$2,200;
- **John Duntley**, cousin of patient-guest Mike Hosch, and his employer, Montage, Inc., of Roseville, Minnesota, which donated six used PCs that have helped tremendously;
- **Edward and Jayne Pompeian**, who donated \$2,500 for this goal as a tribute to Ed's sister, Sharon Maraian;
- **The Norman L. Gillette Jr. Donor Advised Fund** which generously donated \$2,100 for this project;
- **The IBM 2003 Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign (ECCC)** and **an anonymous IBM employee** who won an ECCC contest and chose Gift of Life as the recipient of a new IBM NetVista PC;
- **Keith and Cathy Dahlgren**, who donated Keith's annual United Way contribution of \$1,250 to this project at Gift of Life!

Many of our guests also have helped us. They have donated ink cartridges for the old printers and reams of paper or money to help buy these items when we needed it most. If you have benefited from the computers and Internet access at Gift of Life, we hope you will continue to gift to our home so we can maintain this free service for our guests.

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GIFT OF LIFE VOLUNTEERS

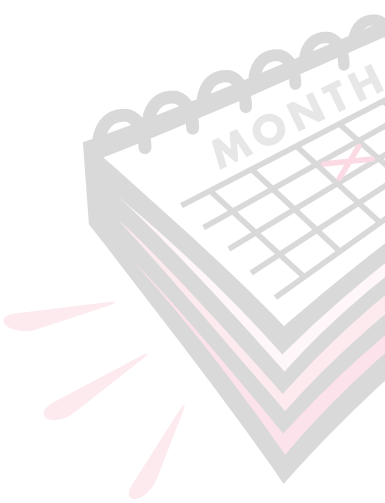
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Pat Irrthum

Mark Your Calendar Now!



April is National "Donate Life" Month. This month and always, please help spread the word about the need for organ and tissue donation!

May 30th, the "Gift of Life Runners" will glide to the finish line again at the **Med-City Relays and Marathon**. As in previous years, runners take on a 26.2-mile marathon, a two-way relay, or a four-way relay — all to further the mission of the House. *To join our runners, contact House Board Member Timothy Larson, M.D., at 507-266-6953 or Larson.Timothy@Mayo.edu.* If you won't be able to run, you may support this program by mailing a check, payable to Gift of Life, to "GOL Runners" at the House. Gift of Life is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Mayo Clinic's annual transplant picnic will be **Saturday, July 10** at 11 a.m. at Essex Park in Rochester. *For more information and to register, e-mail patientpicnic04@hotmail.com or call toll free 1-866-249-1648 and ask for Mollie or Kay.*

On **Sunday, July 11**, Gift of Life will host **"Sharing the Gift: 20 Years of Gift of Life"** to celebrate its 20th anniversary. *See story on page 1.*

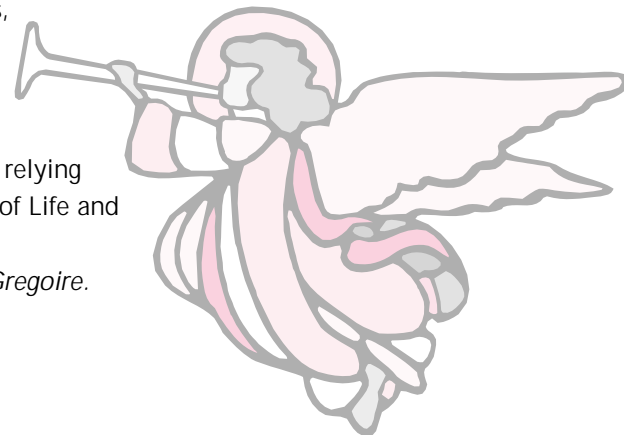
Plan now for the **20th Annual Gift of Life Benefit Golf Tournament**, to be held **July 12** at Rochester Golf and Country Club. *See the related article about our featured speakers at that evening's dinner, Michael and Bernadette Wadsworth. More information and the golf registration will be mailed soon.*

National Hospitality House Week will be celebrated nationwide **July 25-31, 2004**. This week is designated by the National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses (NAHHH) to honor the houses across the country that provide family-centered lodging and support services to people receiving medical treatment far from home.

Mayo's Transplant Endowment Fund Needs a Boost

If you live nearby, on **May 1st** join the local transplant community for a special new event, **"Angels for a Miracle,"** a walk to raise awareness for organ donation and raise money for the Mayo Transplant Endowment Fund. That fund helps patients cover some of the non-medical expenses, such as lodging, associated with a transplant. If you can join us to walk, collect funds to sponsor your journey then enjoy a silent auction, educational opportunities, entertainment, and a motivational speaker! Call Joel or Violet Nelson at 507-529-1745 for more information and to register to walk.

If you can't attend the walk, please consider making a donation to this worthy cause. Gift of Life fully supports this opportunity because Mayo Clinic has helped dozens of our guests over the years with grants from this fund. They are relying on you to help ensure the fund's viability in the future. Please consider making regular annual donations to both Gift of Life and the Mayo Transplant Endowment Fund. Mayo Clinic has established a checking account specifically for this fund. *Checks should be made out to "Gift of Life Transplant Walk" and mailed to Gift of Life in care of Sister Jane Frances Gregoire.*



Celebrating 50 Years of Transplantation: The 2004 U.S. Transplant Games

It's billed as the largest gathering of transplant recipients in the world. And the organizers are calling **YOU** to participate!

Whether you're a recipient, a living donor, a donor family member, a caregiver, family member or friend of a recipient, or a transplant professional, here's your chance to show the world the great value of organ donation. From **July 27 to August 1, 2004**, the **National Kidney Foundation** will host the **2004 U.S. Transplant Games** in the Twin Cities. This is a once-in-a-lifetime event that will offer athletic competitions for everyone plus workshops and seminars on subjects near and dear to our hearts. The registration slots are based on geographic regions, and they fill quickly. So go to www.transplantgames.com to learn more. If you do participate as a spectator, workshop attendee, or competitor, take lots of photos and tell us here at Gift of Life! We'd like to talk to you about a possible follow-up article.

Help Us Maintain Our Database

Are you getting two newsletters? Do you no longer wish to receive our mail? If you need to make a change, please send us a note, e-mail us at office@gift-of-life.org, or call us at 507-288-7470. Your update will help us keep our postage costs as low as possible. Thank you!

GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Gift of Life Transplant House is to provide transplant patients and their caregivers with high quality, affordable accommodations in a supportive, home-like environment.

Gift of Life Transplant House is a proud member of



GIFT OF LIFE TRANSPLANT HOUSE
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