

# the LIVING BANK



continuous flow of life-giving transplants

SPRING / SUMMER 2015

Mission Statement: Raising awareness of the critical need for organ transplant donors through public education and advocating for donors and their families.

## NATIONAL DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

THE UNITED STATES DIVISION OF TRANSPLANT ESTABLISHED APRIL AS NATIONAL DONOR AWARENESS MONTH.

ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESSES

ACROSS THE U.S. SCHEDULE SPECIAL EVENTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT ORGAN DONATION.

## THE NEED FOR ORGAN DONORS HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER

NATIONAL ORGAN  
TRANSPLANT  
WAITLIST AS OF  
FEBRUARY 13, 2015

The Living Bank was the first organ donor registry in the nation. Today, our program focus is living donation. Due to the rise in obesity and diabetes, the demand for kidneys cannot be met through deceased donation. Liver disease is increasing and living liver transplant can be a viable option for some patients.

1 KIDNEY 109,446

2 LIVER 15,932

3 HEART 4,012

4 KIDNEY/PANCREAS 2,070

5 LUNG 1,700

6 PANCREAS 1,105

7 INTESTINE 250

### LIVING KIDNEY DONATION

Relatives, loved ones, friends and individuals who wish to remain anonymous may serve as living kidney donors. Living donor kidney transplantation allows an individual to donate one of two healthy kidneys to a kidney failure patient.

### LIVING LIVER DONATION

Living liver donations are still relatively rare. In 2014, there were 5,256 living liver donations. The liver regenerates very fast, within three months, the donor's liver function should be 100 percent. Transplant centers will determine if a living liver transplant is a viable option for the patient.

YOU CAN HELP SPREAD THE WORD ON LIVING DONATION BY TWEETING —

**#ELIMINATETHEWAIT #LIVB**

for people on the kidney and liver transplant waitlist. Learn about living donation and spread the word.

**LIVING DONORS HAVE THE POWER TO NOT ONLY IMPROVE A PATIENT'S QUALITY OF LIFE, BUT TO SAVE THAT PERSON'S LIFE.**

# TEXT MESSAGE LEADS TO A LIVING LIVER DONOR



Christer Hiort and Andy Rose

IN ONE OF ANDY'S TEXT  
MESSAGES, HE ASKED,  
"WHAT ABOUT A LIVING  
DONOR? WOULD THAT BE  
A POSSIBILITY?"

Christer Hiort and Andy Rose were co-workers living in Dallas. In October 2014, Andy read a newspaper article in which Christer, age 53, told his story about needing a liver transplant because of a progressive bile duct disease. Andy had no idea that his colleague was on the transplant waitlist. In the article Christer stated, "My biggest fear is to be taken off the transplant waitlist because I will be too sick to have a transplant."

Andy decided to text Christer of his concern for him. Andy relayed to Christer that at one time he had a liver condition. It was when he weighed 250 pounds and was destroying his own liver by being obese. He made the decision to diet and exercise and lost more than 50 pounds. Now, he is an avid marathon runner and in excellent health.

Through text messaging, Christer and Andy went back-and-forth exchanging information on Christer's condition and need for a transplant. In one of Andy's text messages, he asked, "What about a living donor?" "Would that be a possibility?"

Andy's next text message read, "I'll get screened for a match if it is possible."

## LIVING DONOR LIVER TRANSPLANT



DR. GIULIANO TESTA, M.D., FACS, MBA, specializes in living donor liver transplant for both adult and pediatric patients and is the Surgical Director of Living Donor Liver Transplantation, Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas.

Dr. Testa says many people don't realize they can donate a portion of their liver. The liver has the ability to regenerate. "We take between 50 and 60 percent of your liver, and that's enough for a patient who needs it. And that will grow back in the donor, and that will grow back in the recipient, as well."

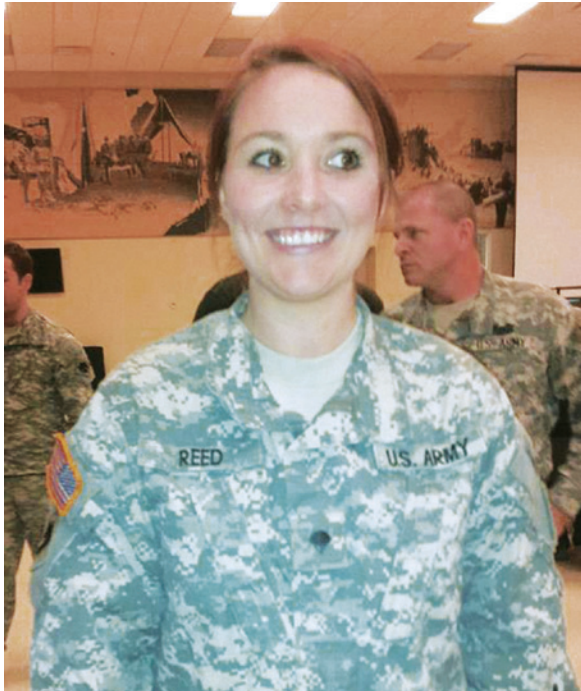
As it turned out, Andy was a perfect match for Christer. On January 19, 2015, Andy donated a portion of his healthy liver to Christer. Christer was able to leave the hospital five days after his surgery. Twenty-eight days post op, Christer was out and about, spending time with this family, and going to church and taking the stage to play his bass guitar to give praise to God.

Christer's thoughts on his transplant experience, "There are a lot of emotions after the transplant of gratitude. I have received a horizon which is longer than what I had before."

Andy's comments about being a living liver donor, "When I woke up from surgery and saw Christer's daughter and the love in her eyes and learned she was pregnant with Christer's first grandchild, I thought, he's going to be able to be a part of that baby's life for a long time. I can honestly say I've had Achilles Tendonitis that hurt more than donating part of my liver."

# SERVING OUR NATION AND HER FAMILY

**“I WON’T TELL A POTENTIAL LIVING DONOR THAT IT WAS EASY MENTALLY BUT OVERALL, IT WAS MORE REWARDING KNOWING I HELPED SOMEONE LIVE.”**



Rachelle Reed in her uniform



Rachelle Reed and her uncle Larry Brockman

Rachelle Reed is a 28 year old born and raised in Oklahoma. She has a B.S. in molecular biology and works as a vet technician while enrolled in trauma nursing courses. She is also a member of the Army National Guard.

In the winter of 2013, Rachelle Reed learned from her mother that her mother's brother, Larry Brockman, who lives in Houston was in need of a kidney transplant. Uncle Larry's son and one cousin came forward and were tested to see if either one were a match to be his living kidney donor; they were not.

Once Rachelle learned that a match was not found for her uncle, she researched information on living kidney donation and transplantation. An informed Rachelle, then simply stated, "I want to be tested to see if I am a match for my uncle, but first, I want to make sure it does not affect my military career."

Rachelle is a sergeant in the Oklahoma Army National guard as a medic. She was told by the military that as long as she was able to perform

various physical tasks after her recovery, her military career would not be in jeopardy.

Rachelle came to Houston to be tested to see if she was a match, and, yes, she was. After undergoing the full range of living donor assessments required, Rachelle was approved to go forward in donating her kidney to her uncle.

In May 2014, the living kidney donor transplant surgery was scheduled once and stopped and re-scheduled. The second time it was a go. Dr. Wesley Mayer, Living Donor Transplant surgeon, CHI St. Luke's Health-Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center performed the surgery. Rachelle's employer and the military were supportive of her serving as a living kidney donor. She received paid time off and was insured through Tricare, the Military Health Plan.

Rachelle comments about her experience, "I won't tell a potential living donor that it was easy mentally but overall, it was more rewarding knowing I helped someone live. I love my uncle and only want the most fulfilled life for all of my family members."

# LIVING DONOR FORUM

*The Living Bank's Living Donor Forum* has been launched on our website. The *Forum* is a moderated online forum that serves as a support resource for living donors. The *Forum* offers this unique community the opportunity to connect and communicate with other living donors in a safe environment.

*The Living Donor Forum* has been developed through the input of focus groups of living donors and professionals serving as living donor advocates in transplant centers.

The *Forum* moderators are The Living Bank's licensed clinical social workers that serve as living donor advocates who assess, counsel, and provide follow-up to living donors.

## INDEPENDENT LIVING DONOR NETWORK (ILDAN)

The Living Bank's ILDAN is an online networking community of social workers, professional counselors, psychologists, physicians, nurses and clergy who work as independent living donor advocates in transplant centers across the U.S.



## THANK YOU TO SERIES III PRESENTERS

Mark Hobeika, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Surgery, Memorial Hermann Hospital

Jennifer Hiser, MHA

Director, Transplant Services, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston

Shelley Spector, LCSW

Living Donor Advocate, The Living Bank

Duane Hurst, Ph.D.

Chair, Director of Psychology, Mayo Clinic, Arizona

Ellen Shukhman, RN-BC, BSN, CCTC

Cedars-Sinai Comprehensive Transplant Center

Suzanne McGuire, RN, BSN, CCTC

UCLA Health System Transplant Center

## ILDAN PRESENTS

Live Webinars

Third Tuesday Each Month

12:30 – 1:30 PM CST

Continuing Education Credits are Offered





# celebrating life TOGETHER

Celebrate Life 2015 will be held Friday evening, October 23, 2015, at The Junior League of Houston. The theme of the night will be *Celebrating Life Together*.

The honoree for this special event is Dr. Robert Robbins, president and chief executive officer of the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world. Dr. Robbins is an internationally recognized cardiac surgeon.

## WORKING TOGETHER



Dedicated and talented individuals along with teamwork have made The Living Bank's education programs on living donation and transplantation one of the best in the nation.

In February, our team had a Working Together, Get Together social hosted by Limb Design located in one of Houston's historic downtown buildings. Limb Design provides sensitivity, respect, and clarity in creative ways to relay the important message of our mission.

If you haven't hugged your IT and website teams lately, you should.

BYTE TIME computing always comes through for The Living Bank, even if it means removing ceiling tiles and wiring an office. Brandon Layhew, Principal, and Kimberli Bowman, whose dad is a living kidney donor, represented BYTE TIME. Normal Modes provides critical website and software applications to collect and manage data for all of The Living Bank's programs. Angela Randall, one of the principals of Normal Modes, is the daughter of a transplant nurse.

Dorothy Mahon, CEO of The Living Bank, is retiring and Kelly Perdue, associate development director, is her replacement.

The Living Bank Board and staff work effectively and diligently on a mission that impacts the lives of thousands of people across the U.S.

## get-TOGETHER



Dorothy Mahon & Dr. Deshpande



Kelly Perdue, Teresa Radosti, Dr. Braun



Brandon Layhew & Kimberli Bowman



Rick Chandler & John Greer



Chair, David Gregory & Rene Aviles



Carol Conine & Dr. Biscone



Graham & Angela Randall



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#### THE LIVING BANK PROGRAMS

General and Minority Public Education Program  
Living Donor Advocacy (LDA) Program  
Independent Living Donor Advocate Network (ILDAN)  
ILDAN Certification Program  
Telehealth Program  
Living Donor Forum

#### THE LIVING BANK STAFF

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Shelley Spector, LCSW, Living Donor Advocate

## PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE LIVING BANK

Simply go to [livingbank.org/donate](http://livingbank.org/donate) to make a donation to our secure server.

If your employer matches your donation to nonprofit organizations,  
please provide your company's matching gift form with your contribution.