



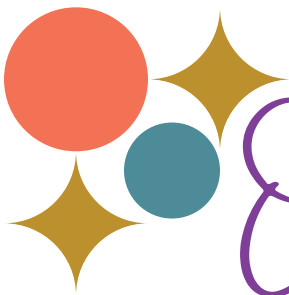
# *Connections*

the  
LIVING  
BANK

WINTER 2023

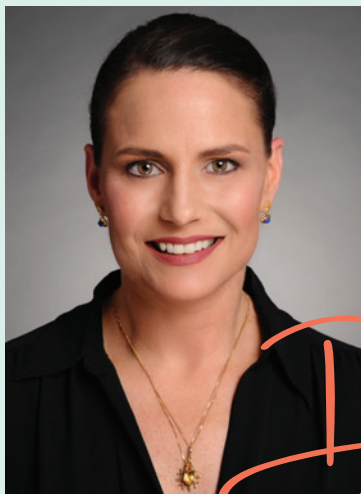
# Our Mission

Is to eliminate the shortage of organs for lifesaving transplants by being a trusted education resource for living organ donation and the leading provider of advocacy services for living donors.



# Our Vision

Is for living organ donation to be widely known, understood, and available to those needing a lifesaving transplant, and for living donors to receive the independent advocacy and support they need before, during, and after transplantation.



# Dear Friends

We are excited to celebrate our 55th anniversary in the New Year. Looking back on the legacy of our five founders is humbling. Since 1968, The Living Bank is a grass-roots success and the first organ donor registry in the Nation. Today, we are the leading provider of advocacy services for living organ donors. We couldn't have done this without YOU.

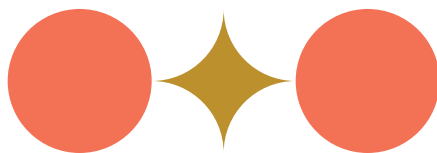
Education has always been at the heart of our mission. Our team of Independent Living Donor Advocates are committed to ensuring living donors receive the protections and support they deserve when making this life-saving decision.

But many people simply do not know that living donation is an option. Start the conversation now and help us save more lives.

We are thankful for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Perdue". The script is fluid and elegant.

Kelly Perdue  
President and CEO





The need for organs is vastly greater than the number available for transplantation.

### National Transplant Waiting List

# 114,175

people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant.\*

## 86%

ARE WAITING  
FOR A KIDNEY

## 9%

ARE WAITING  
FOR A LIVER

- **95%** of those on the waiting list could be saved through a living organ donation.
- Last year, only **26%** of those waiting for a kidney received their 2nd chance at life.
- **12** people die each day waiting for a kidney transplant.

\*Based on Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Data - November 2023

KIDNEY  
**98,400**



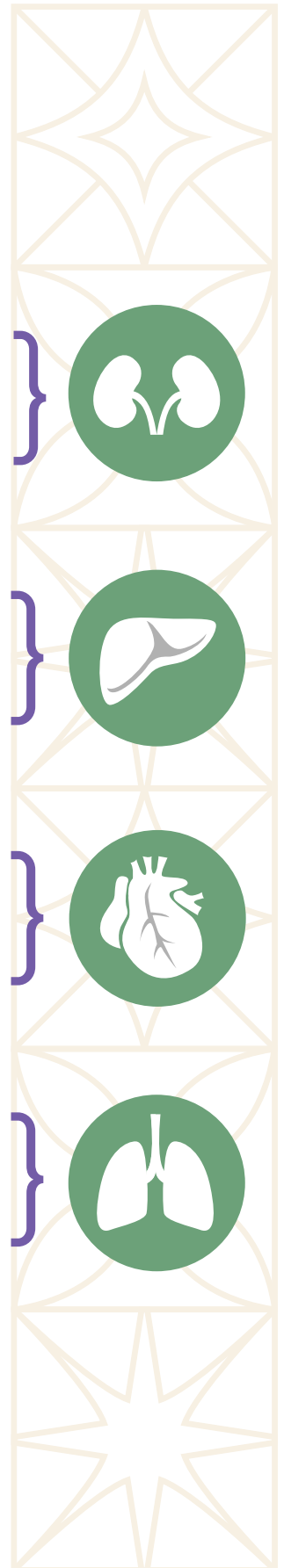
LIVER  
**10,276**



HEART  
**3,460**



LUNG  
**962**





**The Living Bank advances its mission with the following programs and services:**

### **INDEPENDENT LIVING DONOR ADVOCACY**

The Living Bank's licensed clinical transplant social workers serve as Independent Living Donor Advocates (ILDAs) to live donor transplant programs in the Texas Medical Center and throughout the Nation. ILDAs serve to protect and promote the best interests of living organ donors, ensuring their decision to donate is informed and free from coercion.

### **LIVING ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS**

Our community awareness program provides education on living organ donation and empowers communities to make informed health decisions. The program is provided to inform, inspire, and invoke our communities to start the living donation conversation. Additionally, we support our local and national communities through multiple communication channels, including online, print, social media, and in-person presentations in community and corporate venues throughout the region.

### **INDEPENDENT LIVING DONOR ADVOCATE NETWORK™ (ILDAN™) WEBINAR SERIES**

The Independent Living Donor Advocate Network™ (ILDAN™) is an online community of social workers, nurses, professional counselors, clergy, and other health professionals who serve in live donor transplant programs. The Living Bank produces a live webinar each quarter and offers previously recorded presentations for on demand viewing. Attendees may earn one credit of continuing education for each ILDAN™ course completed.



## FAITH, FAMILY, AND A LIFELONG CALLING TO HELP OTHERS. SENATOR KELLY HANCOCK BRINGS LIVING ORGAN DONOR EDUCATION TO THE STATE OF TEXAS.

Little information is available to the public on **living organ donation**. Conversely, most people are familiar with deceased organ donation. Many are registered as organ donors, typically signified by a heart on their state driver's license. However, unless you have a family member or know someone who has had an organ transplant, living donation isn't common knowledge. The Living Bank is continually seeking ways to bridge that information gap.

When Texas Senator, Kelly Hancock's Senate Bill 1249 popped up on The Living Bank's radar we reached out. We discovered he was a kidney transplant recipient, and his living donor was son-in-law, Greg Cox. They were coming up on their one-year transplant anniversary!

During our visit two principles prevailed. One, was their unwavering Christian faith and two, their desire to make a positive difference in the lives of fellow Texans. Senator Hancock has been in public service for over thirty years. He first served on his local school board, then was elected to the Texas House for three terms, and presently presides as the Texas Senate President.

His bill created the ***Texas Living Donor Education Program***. The program's goal is to develop and deliver education to raise critical awareness about living organ donation. The potential impact cannot be overstated. If the Texas legislation serves as a blueprint for other state legislatures, our National Transplant Waiting List



## "I GAVE IT" AND "I GOT IT."

There are approximately 10,000 Texans waiting for an organ transplant. If a mere fraction of the 30 million residents were educated and willing to be a living organ donor; think of the possibilities. If you have questions about living organ donation and transplant, call The Living Bank at (800) 528-2971 or email Cathleen Thomas at [cathleen@livingbank.org](mailto:cathleen@livingbank.org).

could one day encounter a significant reduction in the number of those waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

We then shifted the conversation to their personal donation and transplant journey. The Senator was diagnosed with a genetic kidney disease in his twenties. Through diet, exercise, and sheer doggedness he was able to keep it at bay for decades. Then the day finally came; his doctor said he would have to start dialysis or have a kidney transplant.

Unbeknownst to the Senator, eight family members were evaluated for living donor candidacy. Greg tested as the best match and there was no question in his mind. God's path was clear, he would donate one of his kidneys to his father-in-law. Senator Hancock wasn't as quick to jump on board, he needed time to consider his son-in-law's lifesaving offer. Greg joked telling him, "I'm giving my kidney to somebody, so you might as well take it."

By the time the transplant was scheduled in July 2022 the Senator was in excruciating pain. The contaminants had built up, most notably in his feet, and he could barely walk. The transplant was a success. Greg was up and walking around the evening of the surgery and discharged home the next day. In commemoration, Greg's mom had robes embroidered with, "I Gave It" and "I Got It."

The Senator had more energy than he initially knew what to do with. His proactive tenacity kicked in and he began putting that newfound spirit to work even harder helping others. This has always been core to who he is and remains a lifelong calling.

Today Greg works out almost every day, chases after three young children, and is living a life full of gratitude and thanks. Immediately following donation, he said the fatigue he experienced was next level for several months. Now he doesn't notice a difference from before he donated one of his kidneys. He testified during the legislative session in support of SB 1249 and insists he got more out of his donation than his father-in-law did. After donation Greg's perspective on life was infused with an even greater appreciation for life and love of family.

# PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION NEW ON DEMAND

## CHANGING THE CULTURE OF LIVING DONATION

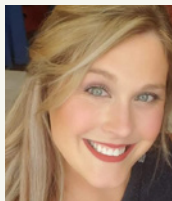


**CHERIE PETERS**  
Living Donation  
Liaison, UPMC  
Kidney Transplant  
Program

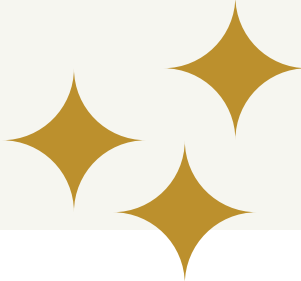


**AMIT D. TEVAR, MD**  
Surgical Director, UPMC  
Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

## DECREASING FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO LIVING DONATION THROUGH NLDAC



**EMILY C. WALTZ, MSW, LCSW, CCTSW**  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC)  
Outreach Coordinator



# Locations Served

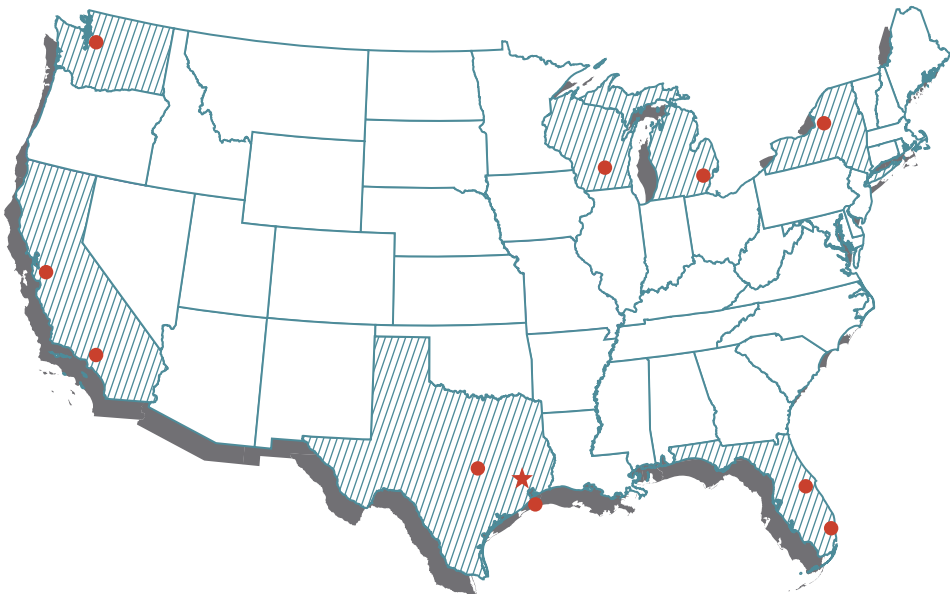
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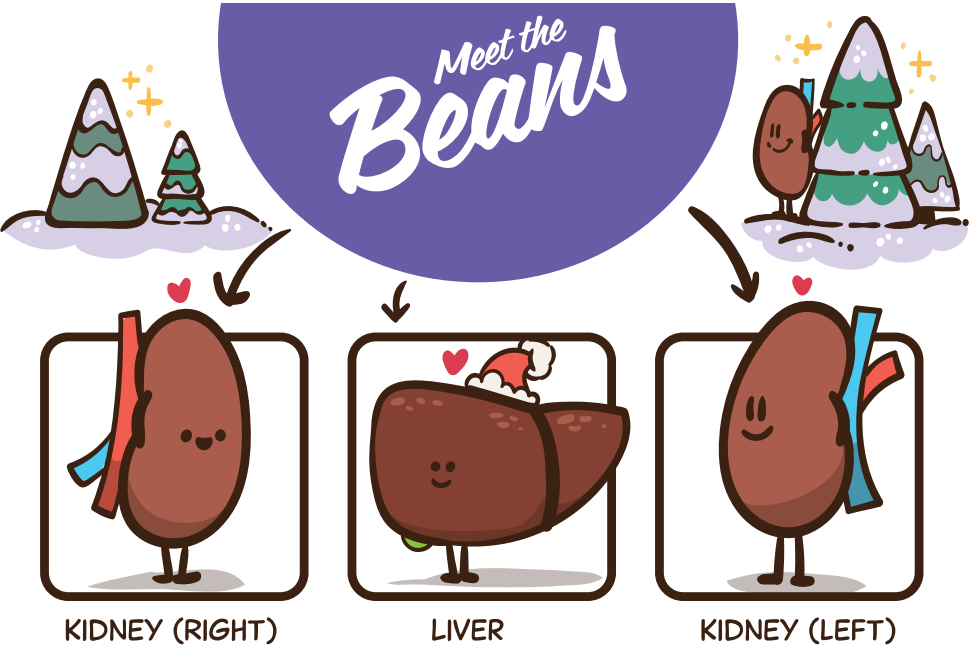
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SUPPORTING LIVING DONOR TRANSPLANT CENTERS NATIONWIDE

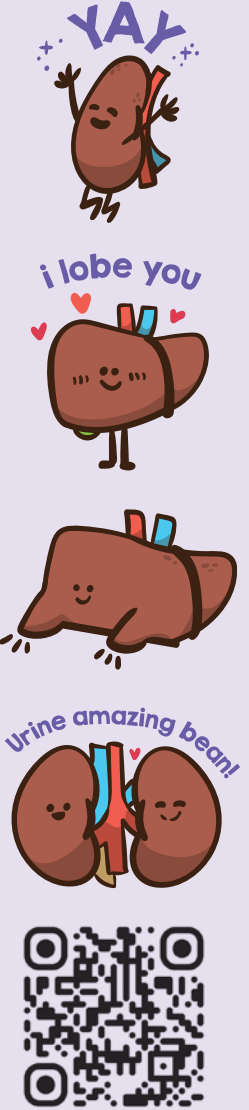
# PUBLIC EDUCATION



The Wholesome Beans are a brand new addition to The Living Bank family. The Beans are a cast of whimsical, organ-inspired characters that seek to spread living donation awareness. Their comics and stories educate in a fun and engaging way, using puns, word play, and common social media events as a spring board.

The Beans have a bright future ahead, including a line of animated gifs and social media stickers on GIPHY, which will feed into any app that utilizes the GIPHY Sticker engine. This will allow the Beans to be shared in messages, stories, and video content.

## GIPHY STICKERS



# Listen in

**PODCAST**  
**GET AUTHENTIC WITH**  
**MARQUES OGDEN**  
**JANUARY 16, 2024**  
**AT 12:00PM CST**  
**MARQUES WILL BE**  
**INTERVIEWING OUR CEO,**  
**KELLY PERDUE.**





WE DEDICATE  
THIS ISSUE TO  
**JAMES WOOLSEY**  
**"JAMIE" ROBERTSON**  
AUGUST 6, 1942 – DECEMBER 27, 2022

Jamie was a longtime supporter of The Living Bank and son to founding member, Marjorie Robertson.

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

5<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

*Celebrate Life*

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Hotel ZaZa | Museum District

# Realizing our Purpose

Serving

**13**

Transplant Centers

**40%**

**INCREASE FROM  
PRIOR YEAR**

California + Florida + Michigan + Texas  
+ Washington + Wisconsin

Independent Living Donor Advocate (ILDA) Social Work Services

Provided

**PUBLIC EDUCATION**

to over

**20,000**

Constituents Nationwide  
In-Person + Online + Print + Newsletter

Produced

**4**

**LIVE WEBINARS**

Continuing Education for  
Transplant Professionals

Registered over **1,200**  
transplant professionals for  
continuing education.

Live+On Demand Webinars

**30%**

**INCREASE FROM PRIOR YEAR**

**3,300**

Independent Living Donor  
Advocate Social Work Evaluations  
for Living Kidney Donors  
+ Living Liver Donors

**IN-PERSON + TELEHEALTH**

**70% INCREASE**

from prior year

Responded to

**OVER 1,500 INQUIRIES**

via email + telephone about  
living + deceased +  
whole-body donation

Offered

**36**

**ON DEMAND  
WEBINARS**

Continuing Education for  
Transplant Professionals

Awarded over

**600**

**CREDIT HOURS  
OF CONTINUING  
EDUCATION**

Social Workers + Nurses + Other  
Healthcare Professionals

**AT NO COST TO OUR ATTENDEES**

# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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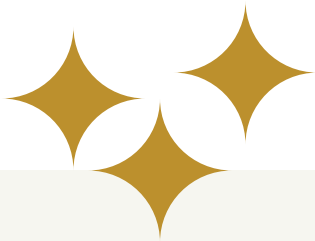
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CUSTOM DESIGNED SILK GREEN KIDNEY TIE



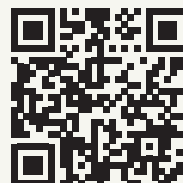
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donation  
saves lives

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