

# the LIVING BANK

continuous flow of life-giving transplants

FALL / WINTER 2014

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



Memorial Hermann transplant surgeon, Dr. Steve Bynon and wife Nancy and Ileana Treviño, CEO Memorial Hermann Foundation and husband Michael Treviño



Dr. Whitson Etheridge and wife Nancy



Kendrick Walker, living donor kidney recipient and Lisa Malosky, MC



Gavin Morgan, heart transplant recipient

## CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED A LIFESAVING TRANSPLANT

On the evening of October 24th, 300 supporters of The Living Bank listened to the stories of several young adults and one pint-size young man who received lifesaving transplants along with Cooper Hanks mom, since Cooper, a liver recipient, is only 4-years old and it was past his bedtime.

The honorees for the celebration were Houston philanthropists and dedicated volunteers, Mary Ann and David McKeithan. The honorary chair was Beth Wolff. Kathi and Bill Rovere served as the chairs and Nancy and Hans Strohmer served as the co-chairs.



Chairs, Kathi & Bill Rovere; Honorary Chair, Beth Wolff; Honorees, Mary Ann & David McKeithan; Co-Chairs, Nancy & Hans Strohmer



Jordan Merecka, heart transplant recipient



Memorial Hermann transplant surgeon, Dr. Mark Hobeika and wife Laura and Dr. Osama Gaber, Director J.C. Walter Transplant Center, Houston Methodist

## THANK YOU!

photographs, Jenny Antill

Thank you to all those that attended our 2014 Celebrate Life, Small Miracles. Your support is vital to the success of our mission. To view more photographs of the event please go to: [www.livingbank.org](http://www.livingbank.org) or visit our Facebook page: [facebook.com/TheLivingBank](https://facebook.com/TheLivingBank)





## TRANSPLANT GAMES OF AMERICA CAME TO HOUSTON







The Transplant Games of America are a multi-sport event held once every two years. Cities across the nation compete to host the games through a grant process. The Harris County Houston Sports Authority submitted a grant proposal in 2012 and were awarded the 2014 games. Houston had over 3,700 people participate in the Games, the largest number since the inception of the event.

# #ELIMINATE THE WAIT



#ELIMINATETHEWAIT #LIVB

FOR OVER

109,000 PEOPLE ON THE  
KIDNEY TRANSPLANT WAITLIST.

LEARN ABOUT LIVING DONATION AND SPREAD THE WORD!

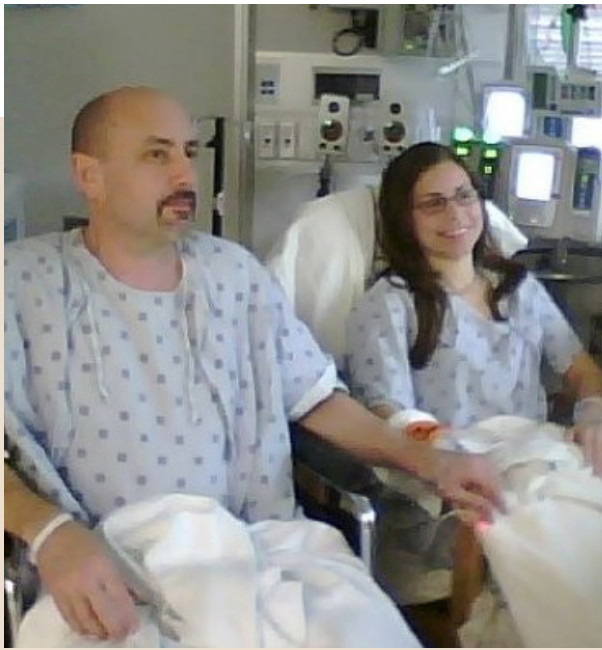
Over 81% of individuals on the National Organ Transplant Waiting List are waiting for a kidney. In response to the shortage of deceased donor kidneys, relatives, loved ones, friends and even individuals who wish to remain anonymous may serve as living kidney donors. Living-donor kidney transplantation allows an individual to donate one of two healthy kidneys to a kidney failure patient.

## National Organ Transplant WAITING LIST

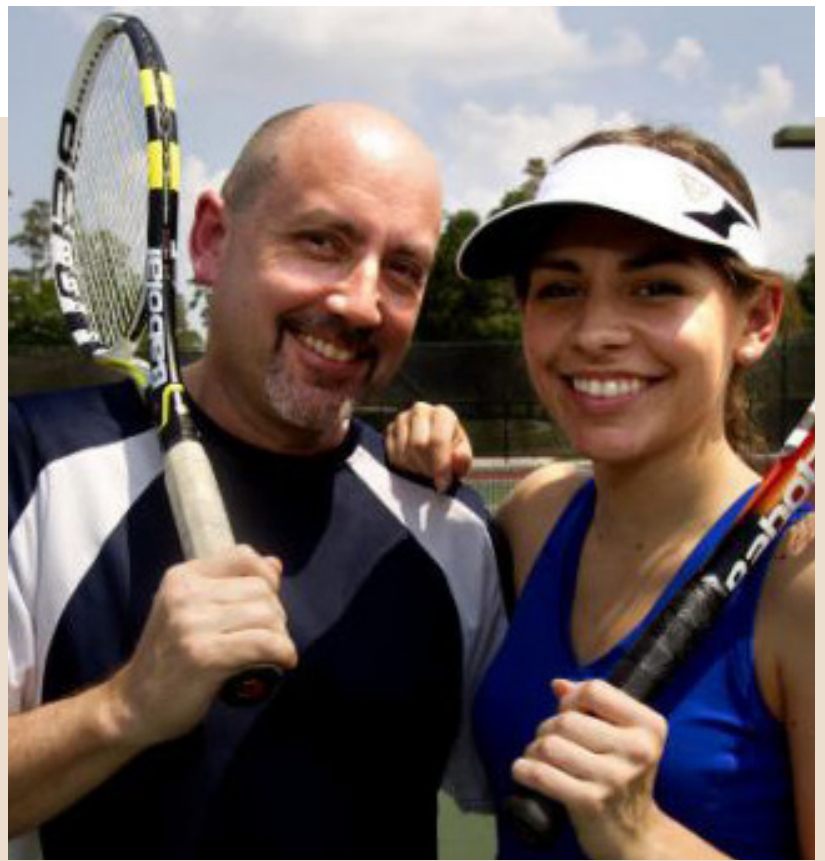
Liver	16,269
Pancreas	1,178
Kidney/Pancreas	2,099
Heart	4,053
Lung	1,682
Heart/Lung	53
Intestine	265

\*as of October 24, 2014

PLEASE REGISTER AS  
AN ORGAN DONOR



Leslie Meigs and father, Jody Neal Meigs, at Texas Children's Hospital after her transplant.



Father and daughter enjoying a game of tennis

## LIVING KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT'S REMARKABLE STORY

Leslie is a beautiful young woman who came close to dying when she was a child. She was not a sick child, rarely ever missing a day of school. One morning when Leslie was 8-years old she became gravely ill and was transported by a Life Flight helicopter to Texas Children's Hospital where she was diagnosed with meningococcal meningitis.

Fighting the battle to live, Leslie spent two months in the hospital, where she was in a coma and on life support. Slowly her body began to recover from the meningitis everything that is, except her kidneys.



Leslie was originally told that she would need a kidney transplant at age 16, but with a very strict diet and positive lifestyle choices, Leslie was able to hold off transplantation for an additional two years. At 18, Leslie began the pre-transplant tests. She learned that her dad was an excellent match and he donated a kidney to her, which they affectionately named Neal after her father's middle name.

Today, Leslie is a student in Health Communications, Biochemistry and Pre-med at the University of Houston. Her long-term goals include medical school and a master's in public health,





*There are places in your heart you don't even know exist until you love a child.*

Two of the small miracles whose stories were told at our October 24th event were Gavin Morgan and Cooper Hanks. Both received their lifesaving transplant at Texas Children's Hospital.

♥ Cooper Hanks is a miracle baby. Cooper was diagnosed with Biliary Atresia a life-threatening condition. At 16-months, Cooper needed and received a liver transplant. He is now a healthy 4-year old who has lots of energy. Cooper's mom, Kristen shared with our audience, "I still check his eyes every day to see if he's okay. I think I'll do that forever! At first his Dad and I asked why this was happening. Transplant saved Cooper's life and what a miracle that is. We believe that Cooper will grow up with an appreciation of organ donors and life."



Gavin Morgan, holding a cow bell led the way to the stage opening the event stating, "please be seated, thank you." His mom and dad, Heather and Wade, learned that Gavin had a life-threatening hole in his heart before he was born. At the age of 3 months, he received a heart transplant at Texas Children's Hospital. Gavin is now 8 years old and his mom says, "it's hard to keep up with him."



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Denman Moody, one of America's most knowledgeable wine authorities and Elizabeth Stone, Silver Stone Events contributed our silent auction wine tasting experience.

TUTS Humphreys School of Musical Theatre delighted the audience with their spirited musical performance.



Elizabeth Stone, Silver Stone Events,  
Marcie Tautenhahn, and Denman Moody





## INDEPENDENT LIVING DONOR ADVOCATE NETWORK (ILDAN)

ILDAN is an online networking community of clergy, nurses, professional counselors, psychologists and social workers who work as independent living donor advocates

### THANK YOU TO PRESENTERS



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Sherry Grogan  
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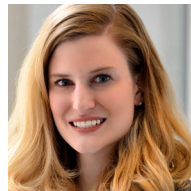
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## THE LIVING BANK'S LIVING DONOR FORUM

The Living Bank's Living Donor Forum will be launched in 2015. The Forum is dedicated to maintaining an online community where living donors will communicate areas of interest that are unique to only their lives. The Forum is being developed as a secure forum and moderated by professionals in the field of living donation.

#### FUNDED BY:

Alkek and Williams Foundation  
The Brown Foundation  
The George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation

THE LIVING BANK  
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# GIVE THE PRICELESS GIFT OF LIFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Skip the crowds and hectic shopping. We offer a meaningful present for someone on your list who has everything. Honor them with a donation to The Living Bank. Simply complete the form below and we will send a card to your honoree acknowledging your thoughtful gift and a card to you acknowledging your donation.

- ☐ In Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ On the Occasion of \_\_\_\_\_
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- ☐ Contribution (We appreciate your kind support of our work.)

## SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

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Name(s) to appear on card \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

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## THANK YOU

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### INDEPENDENT LIVING DONOR ADVOCATE NETWORK (ILDAN)

The Living Bank's Independent Living Donor Advocate Network (ILDAN) is an online networking community of social workers, psychologists, physicians, nurses and clergy who work as independent living donor advocates. ILDAN offers professional development, solutions, collaboration and peer support through live webinars, videos of instruction and forums.

If you would like to participate, please register with us at [livingbank.org/ilda-network](http://livingbank.org/ilda-network)

### THE LIVING BANK PROGRAMS

#### ILDAN

Living Donor Advocacy  
(assessment, counseling and  
resources for living donors)  
Stipends for Lodging  
Public Education and Outreach  
Telehealth Program

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