

TRANSPLANT NEWS

Akron-Canton Transplant Recipients

January 2012 Meeting

Our meeting will be January 17th at
North Canton Medical Foundation
Education Building A
6046 Whipple Ave. N.W., North Canton
6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.

**Meeting will commence at 6:30
with a meal followed by any
announcements and/or
pertinent information.**

7:00pm: Planning for 2012

**V.P Bruce Hord suggests
that you bring ideas on subjects
or activities for our meetings.**

**It is time to choose a Board of
Directors to serve for a
two year term**

**Help choose relevant
committees and encourage
more members to become
active locally and internationally.**

**Meeting will end with a
Round Table Discussion. We
must vacate the building by
8:30pm**

Celebration of Life Party 2011

**Thank you all for attending
our annual party and making it
a success. We are required to
have a minimum of 50 in order
to reserve the auditorium for
the following year. A total of
56 wonderful people attended
this year.**

**Dianne Phillips, Lifebanc
Representative is an excellent
speaker and has agreed to
come back in 2012!**

**Marti Young, Donor mother
did a superb job of telling the
heartfelt story of donating her
son's organs.**

**Ornaments were placed on the
tree in memory of donors and
loved ones.**

**Robin Pelton and Nancy Hinkel
donated some really great door
prizes.**

**Thanks to Randy Pelton for
calling out the numbers and
for auctioning off the
Aderondak Chair made and
donated by Murl Price.**

**Pat Summers was the winner
and was happy to meet the
craftsman who made it.**

Sad News from a Wonderful Courageous TRIO Member:

“Greetings from the Sunshine State” (from Cindy Hart)

I’m sorry that there is no Christmas card this year, but things have gotten rather difficult. Last year’s letter left off with a diagnosis of breast cancer. I had a lumpectomy in late December with an axillary node dissection. I was very fortunate in that the cancer had not spread to the lymph nodes. It was however a very rare and aggressive cancer. Radiation and Chemotherapy were strongly recommended. Chemotherapy posed some risk to my kidney transplant but would be more harmful to my good eye. The Zoster virus that took the site in my left eye could potentially rear its ugly head and render me blind. I opted to only do radiation. I decided to take my chances rather than risk being on dialysis and blind.

In July I went for my post radiation mammogram and got a clean bill of health. The oncologist said that I was cancer free and I was ecstatic. My joy was short-lived however because within a few weeks I started feeling a

little ill. I told the doctor I felt like I was circling the drain. My labs weren’t too bad and he really couldn’t find anything wrong but within a matter of days I started running a temperature. He sent me to the emergency room and they were expecting to find transplant rejection. The kidney was doing fine and there was no sign of infection anywhere. So they started doing MRI and CAT scans to look for something called a fever tumor. Unfortunately they found 3 tumors in my liver. A liver biopsy confirmed that the breast cancer had metastasized to my liver. They said there was nothing that could be done - so I started creating a bucket list. I soon realized that most of the items on my list revolved around food. My friends helped me cross many of these items off the list quickly. My family and friends rallied around and scheduled a cruise on the new Disney Dream. There were 11 of us and we had a wonderful time. Most of us left the ship and went directly to the Ritz Carlton on Amelia Island for the Labor Day weekend. I am so very lucky to have such caring friends and family.

I lamented to my brother Mike that I would never get to see Brazil - something I hadn't realized was even on my list. Mike made short order of making reservations so September found us visiting Rio de Janeiro and Argentina. I really loved it there. It was beautiful and the people really live in the moment.

The oncologist wasn't sure I was going to be strong enough to make the trip but I actually did quite well. He decided that I might be a good candidate to refer to a radiologist for a radio embolization where they insert radiation through blood vessels to block the blood supply to the tumors. First I needed to get a pet scan to determine that the cancer had not spread to any other part of my body. Next I needed a hepatic angiogram to map out the blood vessels in the liver so that when they later inserted the radiation it would not end up passing to any major organs. It was supposed to be an easy one day in and out of the hospital. But something went terribly wrong and the radiologist ended up damaging my liver, pancreas and gallbladder.

I was in excruciating pain and the doctor is not really sure why since they rarely do this procedure. I spent 2 1/2 weeks in the hospital and thought I was going to die there. I struggled to make it home the day before Thanksgiving and have been pretty sick most days since. I am very blessed to have Sandy right around the corner and many good friends. They even came over and decorated my house for Christmas.

**I wasn't going to write a letter this year but realized that I will die and many of you would not even know that I was sick. I hope this is not a goodbye but fear that the time may be short. Only God knows how much time I have left but I wanted you to know how special you have been in my life and I treasure your friendship. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year.
Love..Cindy and Max"**

***We thank you for being a loyal TRIO Member, former Akron-Canton Treasurer, and keeping in touch since you moved to Florida. Prayers and best wishes from all of us.**

OVERVIEW

by Hadie Bartholomew of
Lifebanc

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2011 "ABC's Good Morning America" ran a story titled "Readied to Donate Organs, 21-Year-Old Emerges from Coma" regarding Sam Schmid, a University of Arizona student who sustained critical injuries in a car accident on Oct. 19. According to the GMA story, MRI studies on Schmid revealed no fatal "injuries", leading the hospital to maintain life sustaining treatments. Further surgical interventions were taken and Schmid came out of the coma. He is presently walking with the aid of a walker and regaining his function of speech. Contrary to ABC's headline, Schmid was not being prepared to become a donor. Donor Network of Arizona, the organ procurement organization serving the state of Arizona did not discuss organ donation with the family as stated by Schmid's mother. The family, hoping for the best, decided to discuss all options should their critically injured son not survive.

Schmid was being treated at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ. Staff members were amazing in their efforts to save Schmid, as they recognized that he was not brain dead and therefore not considered to become a donor.

We applaud the Schmid family for their compassion in considering donation to save lives if their son did not live.

Additional Information:

*Individuals, who are in "persistent vegetative states," or comas, are not candidates for organ donation because these patients are not deceased. Only patients who are declared dead or patients who are approaching death whose families wish to withdraw care are considered candidates for organ donation.

*The connection made between organ donation and those in a "persistent vegetative state" further enhances the false notion (that many in this country espouse incorrectly) that one may recover from a clinical declaration of brain death.

Medical science has proven that this is simply not the case and that brain death is not only fatal, but finite. *There has never been a documented case of recovery from brain death under circumstances where all confirmatory and clinical tests, which are legally required, have been performed accurately.

***note* The above is a response from Lifebanc regarding an email I received from Richard Samoila :
Readied to Donate Organs,-
21-Year-Old emerges from Coma- Yahoo!
"This news story is sending a negative message about organ donation and will probably scare some potential donors away. It's also not a good message for recipients who may start to wonder if their donor could have been saved."**

**Please let Mary know if you ever run across such false information!
We definitely want to set the record straight and Lifebanc is always willing to answer any questions..**

**Congratulations to
Rosie Price & Susan Golden
Akron Children's Hospital
Holiday Tree Festival 2011**

Each year they do an even more spectacular job of decorating and donating a tree. I am hoping to get a photo of the Humming Bird Tree and accessories which sold the second day for \$350.00! Many people admired the tree and were disappointed that it was already sold.

**Please continue prayers
for our esteemed President
Dick Becherer and his wife
Joan**

**....."It helps more than you will ever know. Some days, it is the only thing that gets us thru the day. We wish you a happy and safe New Year. Please add to your prayers, his brother, Joe, a patient at Aultman and his brother, Mike, a resident at Rose Lane Nursing Home. Another reason he worries.
Love, Joan"**

In Memory of:
Connie Armour:

Akron-Canton TRIO received \$895.00 in donations from Connie's friends. By a majority vote, Akron-Canton TRIO added \$105.00 and sent a \$1,000.00 check to TRIO for a Scholarship to be awarded in memory of Connie Armour.

We received a very nice "Thank You" letter from Elizabeth Rubin, Chair, Scholarship Committee Vice President, Board of Directors

I think you will all be pleased with the person they chose to receive the scholarship..

THE FOLLOWING IS
BETH GORALSKI'S 500
WORD PERSONAL
STATEMENT:

I remember growing up and always being amused with fancy hotels and then for the longest time, I wanted to go into hospitality management. That all changed during my junior year at Naperville North High School. My Dad had gotten really sick and during that year, 2010, he spent more than forty days in the hospital with pneumonia, a seizure, gall bladder problems, kidney stones, and then starting dialysis. I thought that maybe one of the many reasons why my Dad was in the hospital for two weeks and then three days later had a seizure and then five days later had gall bladder problems was because God was trying to tell me something. Maybe God was trying to tell me that I should go into the medical field and be a nurse.

Maybe the reason I kept denying it was because I thought it was too late to change my major and that nursing school would be too hard. Maybe God was right. During one of my Dad's summer hospital visits with a kidney stone, I decided that I wanted to be a nurse. Seeing my Dad be sick and in and out of the hospital was nothing new or unordinary for me, he battles Crohn's Disease and has for over thirty years and growing up, I spent a lot of time watching him be sick in the hospital.

I have been accepted and I have committed to Bradley University's School of Nursing in Peoria, Illinois. Ever since I decided that I wanted to be a nurse, I have been so super excited to be one. Just seeing what the nurses did when my Dad was in the hospital made me even more excited and the nurses even let me take his vitals (that was seriously the coolest thing ever!) Whenever my Dad was sick, especially when I was younger, the nurses in the hospital made me feel really special whether they gave me crackers or donuts or laughed with me, I felt blessed.

I will graduate Bradley University in 2015 and hopefully come back to Chicago to work in a hospital. Ever since my Dad's kidney transplant on March 3, 2011, I have wanted to work in the transplant ward at Northwestern Memorial Hospital where my Dad had his transplant done. I really want to work with children though, so I want to work at Northwestern's Children's Hospital in the Pediatric Transplant Ward. Through watching my Dad's transplant in which my older brother, Josh, was the donor, I was opened to a new idea of being a doctor or a surgeon. My Dad went from feeling horrible before the transplant to him feeling awesome after the transplant and just seeing how a new kidney saved his life, it was a miracle and I want to be able to create miracles for others. So, maybe one day, I will become a Nephrologist or a Transplant surgeon, but for now, I want to create miracles by being a nurse.

***note* Bethany also wrote 500 words on "How transplant has affected my life statement" which I do not have room to print. Please let me know if you want copies.**

**About Transplant Recipients
International Organization**

Website: www.trioweb.org

TRIO's MISSION

TRIO is a non-profit organization improving the quality of lives touched by the the miracle of transplantation through support, advocacy, education and awareness.

Support

We provide support to transplant candidates, recipients and their families, donors and donor families to help alleviate the stresses and problems associated with the process.

Advocacy

We make the concerns and needs that affect the welfare of transplant candidates, recipients, and donor families known to federal government bodies. We also effectively communicate the views of transplant candidates, recipients and their families, donors and donor families to the general public.

Education

We provide current information (with respect to developments in organ and tissue donation, transplantation, medications, social issues, and finances) to transplant candidates, recipients and their families, donors and donor families about initiatives and protocols in the field of transplantation.

Awareness

We promote organ and tissue donation as an important social responsibility. We develop and support mechanisms to improve the availability of organs and tissues on an equitable basis to meet the need of transplant candidates.

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