Donor Family Day at Deanna Rose

Mark your calendar for Donor Family Day at Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead on Saturday, June 3 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Deanna Rose is located at 13800 Switzer Road, Overland Park, KS. Doors will open to MTN families at 9 a.m., and your tickets will be held for you at the main gate. You are free to enjoy Deanna Rose for the entire day. MTN events will begin in the Pavilion at 11 a.m. with lunch being served from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Complimentary photo memory buttons - Bring a photocopy of your favorite picture of your loved one, and we will make it into a button. Buttons are 2 ¼-inch in diameter.

Frames of Hope photos - Get your group together to be photographed in our blue and green Frames of Hope! Many families like to bring along a photo of their loved one to include in their group photo.

Please register for this event, no later than May 22 at mwtn.org or contact Bailey Swanson at (913) 261-6144, BSwanson@mwtn.org.

Midwest Transplant Network invites you
to attend the
Celebration of Heroes
Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Botanica Gardens, Lotus Room • 701 Amidon, Wichita, KS 67203

Please join us as we celebrate those that have given gifts of life through organ, eye and tissue donation. You and your family are invited to join MTN staff and fellow donor families for a Celebration of Heroes at 6:30 p.m. in the Lotus Room at the Botanica Gardens. Admission is free and you are welcome to tour the beautiful gardens from 4-6 p.m. After the celebration, we will have a candle lighting to honor our donor heroes on the Lotus Room patio.

A video tribute to these heroes will highlight the celebration. If you are attending the event and wish to share a photo of your loved one, please email a high-resolution photo and the photo release form* to photos@mwtn.org no later than Friday, April 21. Be sure to include your name and address, along with your loved one’s name and date of donation. If you prefer, you may mail a high-quality photo no larger than 5x7 to MTN with the same vital information. All photos will be returned. If your loved one’s photo has appeared in a previous video tribute and you will attend the Celebration, please email or call to let us know so that we can include the photo in this year’s tribute. Each family can pin their quilt square on the MTN quilt during the Celebration of Heroes. For more information about how to make a quilt square, go to mwtn.org.

Please register for this event at mwtn.org or contact Bailey Swanson at (913) 261-6144, BSwanson@mwtn.org no later than Friday, April 21.

* A copy of the photo release form can be found at mwtn.org/donor-families.

Inside
Linderer Retiring, Fin Promoted .......... 2
April is National Donate Life Month ...... 2
Blue-Green Day ....................... 2
Donor Memorial Quilts ................. 3
Healing Tears ........................ 3
Legacy Walk  ......................... 4
Wichita Thunder  ...................... 4
**Linderer Retiring, Finn Promoted**

Midwest Transplant Network today announces that Rob Linderer, chief executive officer and president, will retire at the end of June 2017. Jan Finn, currently chief operations officer, has been selected as new CEO beginning July 2017.

“MTN had a record breaking 2016 and that takes a dynamic team and great leadership, including a strong and effective CEO,” said Gary Duncan, MTN Governing Board chairman. “Rob has set the bar high as an exceptional servant leader using his knowledge, skill and strength of character as MTN’s second CEO.”

Linderer has served as CEO of MTN for 20 years and has been an integral part of the organization for the last 28 years. He dedicated his 38-year career to caring for others and saving lives through donation and transplantation.

At a special meeting with staff and the board chairman, Linderer was proud to announce the selection of MTN’s third CEO, Jan Finn.

“When beginning the search for the next CEO, we knew we had the most qualified, capable and well-prepared person to assume the role already here at MTN,” said Linderer. “Jan’s 26 years of service to the organization have given her the knowledge and experience to continue to move this organization in the right direction.”

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**April is National Donate Life Month**

For more than a decade, the month of April has been dedicated to saving and healing lives as National Donate Life Month. MTN and other donation organizations across the country fill the month of April with powerful stories that share the lifesaving message of donation and transplantation. The goal of National Donate Life Month is to make LIFE possible by educating and motivating individuals to register their decision to be organ, eye and tissue donors. Though signing up to be a donor is an individual choice, community awareness is essential to ensure the public has knowledge to make an informed decision.

A variety of events will take place within MTN’s service area to mark National Donate Life Month. Please visit the calendar on mwtn.org for a complete listing of hospital and community events open to the public.

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**PHOTO CONTEST**

**YOU COULD WIN A $100 AMAZON GIFT CARD!**

1. Show your creativity in blue & green Donate Life colors! Send in your best blue & green photo* to the Donate Life America Facebook page starting Friday, April 21 through Tuesday, April 25 at 11:59 pm ET, in one of six categories:
   - Outfitted for Life (Adult Fashion)
   - Colorful Kids (Kid Fashion)
   - Pets for Donation (Pet Fashion)
   - Get Together for Blue & Green (Group Photos)
   - Blue, Green & Delicious (Food and Drinks)
   - Donate Life Décor (Places and Decorations)

   *Please send in your original photos without collages, borders or filters. Thank you!

2. COMMUNITY CHOICE AWARD
   The photo with the most Votes will be the Community Choice Award winner! Vote for your favorite photos submitted for the contest from April 21 through April 27, 2017, at 11:59 pm ET.

3. THE BEST OF EACH CATEGORY
   The winner for each category will be selected by a panel of Donate Life America judges and announced with the Community Choice Award winner - on Tuesday, May 2. The winner from each photo contest category will be awarded a $100 Amazon gift card!

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Facebook.com/DonateLife  ·  DonateLife.net/Blue-Green-Day
#DonateLife  ·  #BlueGreenDay
Donor Memorial Quilts

Midwest Transplant Network’s Donor Memorial Quilts are a work in progress. There is no deadline, and it is never finished, as we know there will always be other families who face the death of a loved one and make the decision to donate. This allows every family, past, present or future, to honor and remember their loved one by participating in this special project.

If you are interested in making a quilt square in honor of a donor, it is important that your square meets these requirements:

• Your quilt square must be 8 inches on each side. Your design must be within the center 7 inches.
• You may use any fabric color or type including sentimental materials such as your loved one’s baby blanket, high school jacket, tie, or favorite sweater.
• You may use crayons, paint, permanent markers, glitter, thread, or any other medium to design the square. You may adorn the square with poems, quotes, or symbols of your loved one’s life.
• We encourage you to include your loved one’s name and dates of birth and death, if you wish. Whenever possible, please sew everything on the quilt square securely (avoid using glue, if possible, since it does not last over time). The quilt travels frequently, so make sure everything is as secure as possible.
• Do not “finish” the square with quilting or backing.
• If you would like to include a photograph of your loved one, you can purchase photo transfer paper at any craft store. You can also laminate a photo your loved one, and have it sewn onto your quilt square.
• You may want to take a photo of your quilt square before you mail it in, so that you’ll always remember your design.
• Please complete the quilt release form and send it with your quilt square by mail to Midwest Transplant Network.

Why Haven’t I Heard From My Loved One’s Recipients?

Adapted from “Healing Tears” by Dr. Lani Leary

The process of donation follows an anonymous path. Many times, donor families do not receive a letter from the recipient. This may be due to many factors: the recipient may feel that writing will bring you feelings of grief; they may not have the life experience or words to express the enormity of their gratitude; there may be some feelings of survivor guilt; there may also be a long period of adjustment back to health and full functioning; or they may not have the guidance from their doctor and are unaware of how to write or the importance of writing. Tissue recipients may not even know or understand that the gift of human tissue was used in their life-enhancing surgery.

However, this anonymity can be part of your healing. You may not know right now who has received your loved one’s donation, but you can imagine the “ripple effect” of you and your loved one’s generosity. For every person now having a second chance, imagine an additional 100 people, whom they love, being affected by this amazing gift. You can correctly assume that the gifts have given newer, bigger, and better lives to countless people.

Nevertheless, we understand that you want to hear from your loved ones’ recipients. You want what we all need during this long period of grief, when your life has been turned upside down and it is difficult to make sense of what the world should look like. The words of acknowledgement of your pain are important. You want to know that someone else knows how important and loved your loved one was, and continues to be. Words of acknowledgement can soothe, and silence can hurt. All of this is a natural part of grieving and can help make meaning out of the loss and find solace for our pain.

Knowing that contact with the recipient may or may not happen in the future is hard to accept, but in the absence of contact, can you find the strength to accept solace from friends and family who know and understand what the gift of donation means? Can you allow them to be “stand-ins” for the recipients who, for whatever personal reasons, are not yet ready or unable to make contact in the way you desire? Can you share your loved one’s story and let those around you know how important donation is to you? Finding comfort in the knowledge that your loved one is and always will be a donor hero, regardless of hearing those words from the recipients, can bring peace during your grief journey.
Mission
Saving lives by honoring the gift of donation with dignity and compassion.

Vision
Leading organ and tissue donation through excellence, quality and partnerships.

Contact Us
Follow us on Twitter @MwTransplant
“Like” us at Facebook.com/MidwestTransplantNetwork

For more information or questions, call (913) 262-1668 or visit www.mwtn.org

To receive Serenity via email or to unsubscribe, please send your request to Dfamily@mwtn.org.

Midwest Transplant Network will sponsor the Wichita Thunder vs. Allen Americans hockey game on Sunday, April 9 at 4:05 p.m. at Intrust Bank Arena Wichita, KS. Tickets to the event are 50 percent off with coupon code DONOR. Please visit selectaseat.com to purchase tickets. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Megan Maciel at mmacie1@mwtn.org.

Join MTN as we kick off National Donate Life Month on April 1 with our first Donate Life Legacy Walk at Theis Park, Kansas City, MO, to honor donor heroes and celebrate life. This event is an opportunity for everyone with a connection to donation and transplantation to come together. To register for this event, please visit mwtn.org/legacywalk.