american transplant foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The state of the foundation

2011 at the American Transplant Foundation can be summarized in two words: WE ACHIEVED.

Steve Farber — Founder

Simply put, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Our staff, including the newly appointed Executive Director; the board of directors, our volunteers and our community of supporters collectively worked to accomplish the tasks at hand. Together we achieved numerous programs and initiatives that contribute to fulfilling the Foundation's mission and purpose.

We believe that no one should die while waiting for a transplant. To date, there are over 114,000 people in our country waiting for a lifesaving organ; 2,000 of them are children. In Colorado alone, somebody on the organ transplant waiting list dies every three days. These lives could be saved. The American Transplant Foundation seeks to eliminate our country's shortage of human transplant organs.

We asked ourselves, "Are we doing enough to address the shortage of transplant organs?" To be effective, successful, and to aid our mission, we developed a new strategic plan with two specific goals: Save lives and save costs. In the next year, 7,000 people in the U.S. will die waiting for a life-saving transplant. At the same time, the U.S. government could save $5 billion annually if dialysis patients on the waiting list received a kidney transplant. By keeping one patient off dialysis, over the course of 10 years, we can save almost $500,000 of Medicare dollars. Half a million dollars per patient!

Anastasia Darwish — Executive Director

We conducted research to understand the gaps in the transplant field, what support is urgently needed, and how the Foundation can be the most efficient in saving lives. While the American Transplant Foundation is among 290 registered transplant non-profits in the United States, we uniquely focus on promoting living donation. Of the 2 million deaths in the United States each year, sources estimate that up to 13,000 of them yield organs healthy enough for transplanting. With less than one-third of the American population registered as organ donors, there is little hope for the 114,000 American's on the organ transplant waiting list. Our solution: promote living donation.

In 2011, the Foundation implemented two new initiatives, Tree of Life and National Donor Sabbath (see pages 7 and 14), to assist our mission. With them, the Foundation doubled the number of education and community events by hosting or participating in 23 outreach events to further our goal aimed at promoting living donation.

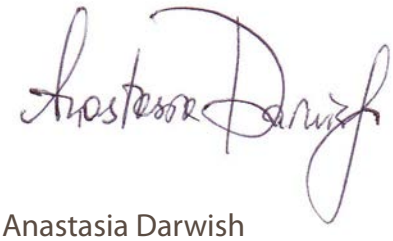
The Foundation continues to work to eliminate the financial, insurance, and educational barriers of living donation by reinventing our Patient Assistance Program (see page 6). We are very passionate about helping families through their transplant journeys, as we know first-hand how critical support can be during this time of adversity. This program helps transplant recipients pay for anti-rejection medications so they can keep their transplant, and supports living donors by providing financial assistance during their recovery, enabling them to give the Gift of Life to a transplant patient in need.

The Patient Assistance Program is run by the volunteer driven Transplant Leadership Council (TLC, page 7), a dedicated group of young professionals. TLC reviews and approves all the applications within the program's newly targeted guidelines. With an updated electronic application for applying and receiving grants, the Foundation offers a transparent, easy-to-use application process. The 2011 creation and success of TLC, the first affinity group for donors that raised $20,000, speaks directly to our objective to increase and diversify revenue streams to sustainably support the Foundation's programs and operations.

Not only did we make tremendous headway in pursuing our mission, we won awards for all of our effort! Team Transplant, the Foundation's team that competes to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation, was named the Colorado Nonprofit Project of the Year (see page 9). Team Transplant, which includes Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia, achieved the highest net earnings of any Team Transplant event to date.

On behalf of the board of directors, staff and volunteers of the American Transplant Foundation, a heartfelt thank you to our donors, corporate sponsors, and supporters. With you, we directly impacted our community. With you, we saved lives. With you, we achieved.

Steven Farber
Chairman, American Transplant Foundation



Anastasia Darwish
Executive Director, American Transplant Foundation

About us

We are saving lives

by reducing the growing list of women, men, and children who are waiting for a transplant.

Founded in 2005, the American Transplant Foundation started as a result of Denver attorney Steve Farber's transplant experience. This journey inspired the creation of a national non-profit that would bring added value to the transplant community. We believe that no one should die while waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

We act

with a strategic approach to fulfill our mission through three main objectives:

1. Increasing awareness of living donation as a viable and life-saving option.
2. Eliminating the barriers for living donors by providing pre and postoperative resources and financial support.
3. Providing access to anti-rejection medication for transplant recipients to prevent organ rejection.

We are needed

to eradicate our country's shortage of human transplant organs by collaborating efforts between the public, private and voluntary sectors to promote the advancement of organ and tissue donation.

We are going further

than other organizations that promote organ donation and awareness around specific organs. Our focus is wider, encouraging the donation of all organs and actively promoting living donation as a viable option. By working with the public toward our goals, we create a positive, personal journey for future transplant recipients.

Furthermore, our work includes policy improvements to help eliminate the gap between the critical need for organs and their supply.

Board of directors

Harlan Abrahams
Rick Abrams
Norm Brownstein
Larry Chan
William Cotter
Walt DeHaven
David Ehrlich
Don Elliman
Steve Farber
Gregg Farber
Phil Haag
Barry Hirschfeld
April Jones
Igal Kam
Chris Klug
Donald L. Kortz
Troy Lowrie
Jimmy Lustig
Charlie Lyons
Bill MacMillan
David McReynolds
Geoff McFarlane
Carolyn Meske
Chuck Morris
Dick Robinson
Dan Scherer
Janice Sinden
Jim Sullivan
Brian Wilson
Estelle "Sissy" Wolf
Daniel Yohannes

Lifesaving Patient Support

American Transplant Foundation provides vital support for transplant patients and living donors in order to reduce the number of people waiting for transplants and to ultimately save lives.

Patient Assistance Program

The Patient Assistance Program provides lifesaving financial assistance to transplant patients in need with grants up to $500 available on a case-by-case basis.

We aid:

- Transplant recipients paying for anti-rejection medications, helping recipients keep the organ that keeps them alive.
- Living donors taking on considerable financial burdens during their donation and recovery period, thus eliminating barriers faced by those who wish to give the Gift of Life.

By working closely with transplant centers, the Foundation takes case referrals. Then, we provide assistance to those most in need based with the funds availability and patient eligibility.

The Foundation's Patient Assistance Program is the *only* program that provides funds to those in need of a lifesaving transplant, no matter what the legal status of the recipient is.

>> New in 2011, the Patient Assistance Program went electronic! The application process is now available on the Foundation's website with a simplified process. All applications are now reviewed and approved by volunteers made up of the Foundation's young professional group, the Transplant Leadership Council.

Lifesaving made easier.

The Patient Assistance Program is funded exclusively through donations made in honor or in memory of loved ones and funds raised by the Transplant Leadership Council.

Keith, kidney recipient (right), and his wife Michele.

Testimonials

"At the beginning of 2011, one of my patients had a kidney transplant and due to several complications with the transplant, was out of work much longer than expected. Without any income, he was unable to make his insurance premium payments. After a few months, his insurance was terminated and he was unable to obtain his anti-rejection medications. Once back at work and able to pay his monthly insurance premiums, his insurance company would not reinstate him unless he was able to pay the prior months' premiums. Unable to afford this, he had no hope of reinstating his insurance. The American Transplant Foundation was so responsive and caring and they were able to bridge the gap during his emergency, which resulted in the patient being able to reinstate his insurance, continue on his anti-rejection medications, and keep his transplant."

Heather Alvarez
Transplant Center Social Worker
May 27, 2011

>> 2011 saw a 56% increase in patient assistance funding. As the number of applications continued to increase, the Foundation was able to provide more lifesaving financial assistance to transplant recipients and living donors across America.

"Thank you for your support. Your kindness will never be forgotten. Foundations like yours and people like you serve as a beacon of light in times of darkness for those like us who truly need help."

–Marcella Harmon
Patient Assistance Program grant recipient,
June 5, 2011

Transplant Leadership Council

Transplant Leadership Council (TLC) is a leadership network of young professionals in the Denver-metro area and beyond who support the lifesaving mission of the American Transplant Foundation through investments of their time, talent, and treasure. This dynamic group of emerging young leaders assists the Foundation in its mission to reduce the growing list of men, women and children who are awaiting a lifesaving transplant. TLC's core purpose is to offer financial support to transplant patients in need through the Foundation's Patient Assistance Program.

TRANSPLANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

FROM LEFT: Liz Pistentis, Brad Farber, Matt Weiss, Karen Dean, CJ Chapman, Anastasia Darwish and Nicole Lang enjoy chatting at a July 2011 Transplant Leadership Council function.

>> Transplant Leadership Council was first launched in 2011. This young professionals group began with a celebration at the Jet Hotel on June 28th. More than 40 young professionals showed up to support the Foundation and to learn how they could help people in need of a lifesaving transplants. Twenty-three individuals became the founding board members and pledged to raise $15,000 for the Patient Assistance Program in 2011.

FROM LEFT: Transplant Leadership Council members Jeanni Barnthouse, Brandon Tabata, Emily Briggs and Chris Hennesy enjoy an evening at the Jet Hotel.

"Over the last year, my participation in the Transplant Leadership Council has brought me such joy and a newfound appreciation for my current profession as a transplant coordinator. Interacting with others involved in the transplant community and having the chance to share about what a wonderful gift transplant can be, has been a very thrilling experience for me that I could have never reached if it weren't for TLC."

-Amanda Treharne
University of Colorado Hospital
TLC Marketing and Program Committee Member

Tree of Life

The Tree of Life is the Foundation's newest initiative. The program, which began in December, aims to help make the holidays a little brighter for transplant and dialysis patients in need. Decorated with stories about patients and their needs, the Tree of Life is a simple way for someone to make an impact during the holiday season. In 2011, supporters donated funds to help provide gift cards to super markets and department stores for over 40 families!

American Transplant Foundation's Kyle Pietari (right) helps make the holidays a little brighter for dialysis patients.

From the Tree of Life...

>> *"Lori H. is a single mom who takes care of a high school senior, as well as a grown daughter with 3 grandchildren–all living with her. She has been on dialysis for several years and is often unable to afford anything extra for herself. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated!"*

Support group for kidney transplant patients and families

With the help of the American Transplant Foundation, the University of Colorado Hospital established a support group for kidney transplant recipients and family members of kidney recipients. Sessions began in July of 2011 and proved to be a great opportunity for individuals to develop a support system with others who have journeyed through the transplant process.

Education and Community Outreach

The Foundation participates in several community events each year to inform the public about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

March

American Diabetes Association EXPO

The American Transplant Foundation partnered with Donate Life Colorado in order to exhibit at the American Diabetes Association EXPO on Saturday, March 5th. Volunteers helped inform more than 8,000 attendees of the importance of issue and organ donation to combat our nation's shortage of human transplant organs.

Did you know?

>> Diabetes is one of the leading causes of kidney failure.

April

National Donate Life Month Awareness Programs

In April, the American Transplant Foundation partook in National Donate Life Month. The Foundation participates in this effort to raise awareness for the importance of organ and tissue donation through hosting events, press conferences, and donor registration drives.

DONATE LIFE

June

Team Transplant

Team Transplant is a group of supporters, transplant recipients, living donors, and donor families who cycle to raise awareness. Both transplant recipients and living donors cycle with Team Transplant to prove that it's possible to lead a healthy, active lifestyle after a transplant!

Team Transplant participated in its third-annual cycling event — the Subaru Elephant Rock Ride — on June 5th to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation. Donor recipients also participated in the event as volunteers. Altogether, the event raised more than $60,000 for the Foundation.

Team Transplant celebrated their efforts at an after party on June 9th. Riders and their families came together for dinner at TriBella's. They learned more about the Foundation's work and raised more funds to support its mission to save lives.

>> On July 19th, we invited Team Transplant volunteers to a special get together at Rack and Rye Gastropub to thank them for dedicating their time to make the 2011 event such a success. The value of their 150 volunteer hours was worth more than $3,200 to the Foundation!

Colorado Nonprofit Project of the Year

We are so excited that Team Transplant was honored as "Colorado Nonprofit Project of the Year" at the 2011 Golden Leaf Awards, hosted by Colorado Healthcare Communicators!

>> The Foundation held a party at Que Bueno Mexican Grill to celebrate and to thank Team Transplant members for all their hard work. At the event, participants learned about the Foundation's initiatives and entered for a chance to win more than $1,500 worth of raffle prizes and silent auction items donated by event sponsors. All of the funds raised at the event went to the Paitient Assistance Program.

Katie Cicerchi (center) and Kyle Pietari (right) accept the award for Colorado Nonprofit project of the year.

Earth, Wind & Fire Benefit Concert

On June 7th, a special benefit concert was held featuring Earth, Wind & Fire at Red Rocks Amphitheater. An electric guitar was auctioned off by one of the band members. Thanks to supporters and participants, more than $63,000 was raised for The Foundation.

Earth, Wind & Fire shook the Red Rocks Amphitheater for the American Transplant Foundation June 7. The evening included a VIP reception and an auction.

Denver Juneteenth Celebration in Five Points

In 2011, the Foundation hosted its first both at Denver's annual Juneteenth Celebration. Volunteers helped educate attendees about organ and tissue donation and encouraged the community to register to become donors. More than half of the people on the waiting list for an organ transplant are racial or ethnic minorities. The chances of receiving a transplant increase if the donor and recipient share the same racial and ethnic background.

July

Donor Dash

On July 17th, the 12th annual Donor Dash occurred in Denver's Washington Park. A team of participants represented the Foundation in the in the 5k run/ walk that honors and promotes tissue and organ donation.

RIGHT: Volunteers James Lustman and Terri Redman tend to American Transplant Foundation's booth at Donor Dash.

BELOW (FROM LEFT): Anastasia Darwish pauses for a photo with Missy and Chris Klug —as well as their daughter Bali — after completing the five-kilometer Donor Dash.

August

DaVita Kidney Rock

The American Transplant Foundation was proud to sponsor the DaVita Kidney Rock 5k on August 6th. At the Foundation's booth, volunteers provided information about organ transplant and renal failure in order to promote organ donation to participants.

Founding Members Reception

Transplant Leadership Council members gathered on August 10th for their first Founding Members Reception. During this reception, the members set goals for the council and discussed their strategies for raising funds to support the Foundation's Patient Assistance Program.

FROM LEFT: Transplant Leadership Council members Angela and Russ Cupps, Brian Cerise and Charlie Chriction enjoy dinner together at the Founding Members Reception.

September

Mixing and Mingling with the Transplant Community

American Transplant Foundation held its first mixer at Denver's Pizza Republica on September 19th. The event was held so that volunteers and participants of various transplant organizations could meet and share their stories. During the event, attendees created cards thanking organ donors for giving the Gift of Life.

Steve Farber (left) meets with heart transplant recipient Conrad (right) and Conrad's sister (center).

"Sometimes, I feel like I'm in my 60s, as I always think and talk about insurance coverage and medications. What a relief it is to be at an event where I can just have fun and meet people who went through similar experiences and to see how happy, outgoing and welcoming they are now."

Conrad (at September 19th event)
Heart transplant recipient

October

Celebrate Life

Denver Police detective, Danny Veith and Community Corrections Technician, Laura Altobelli hosted Celebrate Life. Detective Veith, head of the Denver Police Department's Employee Assistance & Wellness Unit, donated a kidney to his fellow police officer, Ed David. The event raised funds for the Patient Assistance Program and promoted organ and tissue transplant.

Rock 'n' Roll Denver Marathon

For this first time ever, a team of 13 Transplant Leadership Council founding members (see page six) and supporters ran in the Rock 'n' Roll Denver Marathon on October 9th. Several transplant recipients and living donors participated in the event, showing that it is possible to lead a healthy, active lifestyle after a transplant. The group raised over $4,000 to support the Foundation's programs.

Gavin, a double lung transplant recipient, takes to the Denver Marathon.

After a long morning of running, the team gathered to celebrate their success in helping transplant patients across the country through the Foundation's Patient Assistance Program. The social gathering brought together transplant recipients, living donors, donor families and supporters.

November

National Donor Sabbath

For the first time, the American Transplant Foundation participated in National Donor Sabbath. This three-day observance in November aims to encourage faith leaders from all denominations across American to raise awareness about the precious gift of organ and tissue donation. While National Donor Sabbath typically focuses on education and donor registration, American Transplant Foundation takes a new approach by working with faith groups to spread the word that living organ donation is viable option that helps address the national shortage of organs. In 2011, the Foundations organized the participation of eight faith groups and got significant media coverage for this groundbreaking initiative.

Council of Nephrology Social Workers

American Transplant Foundation Executive Director Anastasia Darwish presented at the Council of Nephrology Social Workers on November 9th. Her presentation to dialysis community workers focused on bridging the gap between transplant centers and dialysis centers.

Living donor and Transplant Leadership Council member Danny Veith (second from left) enjoys drinks with Yvette Meredith (left), Foundation board member April Jones (second from right) and Anastasia Darwish (left) at a Transplant Leadership Council event.

Living donors and transplant recipients spend time with Foundation board member Barry Hirschfeld.

Special Initiatives

Colorado's Donate Life License Plate

Back in 2009, the American Transplant Foundation successfully ran legislation to create a Donate Life specialty license plate in our home state of Colorado. In 2011, the Foundation continued to support this effort. In order for the State to continue producing the Donate Life plates, the new law requires that a minimum of 3,000 plates must be in circulation by July 1, 2013. As of 2011, Colorado residents have purchased nearly half the number of needed plates.

Increasing Opportunities for Donor Registration

Throughout 2011, the Foundation supported the State Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) efforts to increase opportunities for registering as an organ donor through Colorado.gov. One of the American Transplant Foundation's main goals is to make donor registration more mainstream and accessible.

In the past, the Foundation worked with the Colorado Department of Revenue to add a donor registration form to the Colorado State income tax booklet, making the opportunity to register as an organ donor easy and annual. The Foundation also succeeded in creating more accessible links to the online donor registry through the Division of Motor Vehicles page.

>> More than 114,00 Americans are waiting for organs. More than 2,000 are children. 18 people die every day. Their lives could be saved.

Pushing For Policy Change

As part of a national coalition, American Transplant Foundation helped gather more than 4,000 signatures on an electronic petition that advocated for federal policy changes that would benefit transplant patients.

Under current law, Medicare allots three years of coverage for immunosuppressive medications that help prevent organ rejection. The average cost of immunosuppressive drugs is $19,000 a year, which transplant patients must take for the entirety of their lives. *The Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act* will extend Medicare coverage of anti-rejection medications for the rest of the patient's life. This will help patients to keep their kidney transplants, shorten the transplant waiting list, and lower Medicare costs.

In an effort to support this petition, the Foundation reached out to elected officials in 30 states with personal testimonies from individuals in their respective location.

>> *American Transplant Foundation connect people to life by raising awareness, supporting transplant candidates, organ recipients and living donors, and improving public policy.*

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2011

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	$170,079
Furniture, fixtures, art, equipment	$659
Total assets	$170,738

Liabilities & equity

Unrestricted (retained earnings)	$139,934
Net income	$30,804
Total liabilities & equity	$170,738

We made a difference

By providing financial assistance to transplant recipients and living donors through our Patient Assistance Program.

By engaging young professionals through the Transplant Leadership Council in the lifesaving mission of the American Transplant Foundation.

By educating people, families and communities on the importance of organ and tissue donation.

By supporting policy changes that will eliminate the gap between the critical need for organs and their supply.

Video plays with Adobe Reader 9 or above
Download Adobe Reader

Celebrating Life: Team Transplant Rides the Subaru Elephant Rock for Organ and Tissue Donation

Through the support, encouragement and commitment of our supporters, the Foundation continues to impact in the transplant community across the nation. We look forward to the years to come and the many great acheivements that will be made.