2023 Colorado Media Kit
Steve’s difficult transplant journey inspired him to help families navigate difficult organ transplant issues and the challenges that come with it. He wanted to work towards new legislation to create better policy around transplantation in America. It is only when the gap between the need for organs and their supply is eliminated will Steve Farber’s mission be complete.

American Transplant Foundation was founded 18 years ago by Steve Farber, Heidi Heltzel, and Dr. Laurence Chan. After struggling with kidney problems when he was a toddler, Steve became the founder of a successful law firm. His success did not help him when, at age sixty, his kidneys began to fail for the second time. After facing many obstacles throughout his transplant journey, Steve was given the gift of life from his eldest son Gregg. Steve passed away in March of 2020, but his legacy carries on through the foundation and initiatives like the Steven W. Farber Transplant Award Fund.

American Transplant Foundation (ATF)’s mission is to save lives by reducing the growing list of women, men, and children who are waiting for a transplant. We do this by maximizing living organ donation, which is the most effective way to fulfill our mission. ATF provides a three tiered approach with educational, emotional, and financial support for living donors, transplant patients, and their families across the country, with a specific focus on Colorado.
American Transplant Foundation is a grassroots organization that does not receive any funding from the government nor organ recovery fees and relies on individual and community donations. We believe that simply increasing awareness of living donation is not enough. There needs to be educational, emotional, and financial services in place to support living donors before, during, after the surgery. We make our impact by:

**CREATING COMMUNITY**
American Transplant Foundation strives to be inclusive and treat everyone with empathy and compassion. We value and engage volunteers and supporters to collectively move the organization towards the mission.

**AWARENESS AND INSPIRATION**
American Transplant Foundation is inspired because we believe in what we are doing and who we are serving. By raising awareness of our mission programs, we help more people receive lifesaving transplants.

**MISSION FOCUSED FUNDRAISING**
American Transplant Foundation continuously shares our mission through all fundraising events to inspire and educate our partners.

**INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT**
American Transplant Foundation strives to be the premier national organization addressing the shortage of organs for transplant through increasing awareness of living donation while providing lifesaving support to transplant patients in need.
## American Transplant Foundation Core Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1+1=LIFE Mentorship Program</strong></td>
<td>Free peer mentoring in 12 languages for anyone who needs help during their transplant journey.</td>
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<td><strong>Patient Assistance Program</strong></td>
<td>Lifesaving assistance for the most vulnerable transplant patients across the nation. By offering grants to living donors, American Transplant Foundation is able to remove financial barriers from giving the Gift of Life.</td>
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<td><strong>Potential Living Donor Database</strong></td>
<td>The first of its kind. It fills a gap in the system by providing a mechanism for those interested in saving a life to register and learn more about the specific steps to take in order to become living donor.</td>
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<td><strong>Patient Advocacy</strong></td>
<td>American Transplant Foundation goes beyond awareness by successfully advocating for living donors' and transplant recipients' rights on the state and federal level. We proudly led the passage of two new laws in 2018 &amp; 2019.</td>
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Impact Stories

Kristen Marshall, Liver Transplant Recipient, Patient Assistance Grant Recipient

The following are words from Kristen from Colorado Springs:

"I was in high school when I was first diagnosed with Primary Sclerosis Cholangitis (PSC). From that point on, my life was filled with doctor’s appointments, medication, lab work, biopsies, banding procedures, skin issues, blood transfusions and more. This spring, after spending half of my life waiting, I got a new liver.

Most people would see this financial assistance from the Patient Assistance Program as a way to help with hospital bills, recovery costs, and the burden of missing paychecks during hospitalization. While that is theoretically how the funds will help me out, the impact goes beyond that. This money represents people who are partnering with and supporting me in my exciting new stage of life: where I don’t have to worry when the next trip to the ER will be, and all the results of a failing liver.

I now have a new lease on life! Amazing people- some I know personally and some I don’t- have impacted me through this time by donating time, lifting prayers, speaking healing words, and now... contributing financially.

Thank you for the blessing you’ve brought by partnering with me in this journey and showing interest in my story."

Travis Atwood, Living Donor, 1+1 Mentorship Program Mentee

Travis knew that during his journey on this Earth that he wanted to give back someway somehow. After finding out about living organ donation, Travis asked himself, "What kind of community, state, country, and world do I want to live in? He answered, "I want to live where people care about the people around them". Travis then made the decision to donate one of his Kidneys, and taking part in helping someone get their life back.

Travis is thankful for his experience with the American Transplant Foundations 1+1=LIFE mentorship program. All his questions were answered by his mentor, and they helped his transplant process run smoothly and comfortably.

Click here to watch a video from Kristen!
The Journalist’s Guide to Living Donation

Donating a kidney is a dangerous procedure and extremely painful. Most donors only spend 1-4 nights in the hospital and are able to return to work in 2-3 weeks. The risk of complications from a donation is low, but as with any major surgery there are risks involved. Most donors say that seeing their recipient’s improved health after transplant more than outweighs the pain and inconvenience of donating. The American Transplant Foundation’s trained Mentors can provide specific support and guidance as well as share about their personal journeys as living donors if you or someone you know is considering living donation.

Out-of-pocket expenses for the donor will be too high. It is the recipient’s insurance policy that covers the transplant and transplant-related follow-up. Lost wages and medical treatment post-transplant are NOT covered by recipient’s insurance. The American Transplant Foundation can provide financial assistance to donors to help cover lost wages.

Donating a kidney reduces the donor’s life expectancy. Donating a kidney does not reduce the living donor’s life expectancy. As living kidney donors must undergo rigorous health checks, they tend to be healthier and outlive the average person.

Surgery will affect the donor’s ability to have children. There is no evidence to support that kidney donation impacts the ability to have children. Donors should be open and upfront about their donation when consulting obstetricians or gynecologists.

No one will volunteer to be a donor, especially for a stranger. Since the first successful donation in 1954, over 175,000 people have become living donors, with an average of 6,000 happening annually. Also, 1 in 3 of these donors aren’t biologically related to the recipient. If your family members/friends are not a match, they can still save your life through paired exchange programs.

Not all religions support living donation. All major religions in the U.S. support living and deceased organ donation.

Other Helpful Resources:
- Organ Donation Dictionary
- 17 Facts and Myths about Organ Donation
- Living Donation FAQs
- Living Donor Laws
FAQs

What is organ and tissue donation?

There are two types of organ donation: deceased donation and living donation.

- Deceased organ, eye, or tissue donation is the process of recovering organs or tissue at the time of the donor’s death for transplantation to save another’s life.
- Living organ donation occurs when a healthy person donates a kidney or part of the liver, lung, intestine, pancreas, or bone marrow to save another’s life.

Who can donate an organ?

Living donor candidates should be:

- In good physical and mental health
- At least 18 years old
- Be willing to donate: No one should feel that they MUST donate
- Be well informed: A good donor candidate has a solid grasp of the risks, benefits, and potential outcomes, both good and bad, for both the donor and recipient
- Have a good support system

Which organs can be transplanted from living donors?

Living donor candidates should be:

- Kidney – most common type of living donation
- Liver – individuals can donate a segment of the liver, which has the ability to regenerate and regain full function
- In very rare cases, individuals can also donate portions of their lungs, intestine, pancreas, heart, or uterus.
Organ Donation in Colorado FAQs

What is the current situation in Colorado?

While the waitlist in Colorado has decreased by 51.5% from 2018, there are still 1,288 Coloradans in need of a transplant.

The number of Coloradans in need of a kidney is 1,116 people. Last year, 52 Coloradans died while waiting for a kidney, an organ that could have been safely donated by a living person with little risk to their health (a serious complication rate of less than 1%). There are 41 children (under the age of 18) on the transplant wait list.

Despite the large number of patients still waiting for transplant, 2022 set an annual record for with 778 Coloradans receiving a transplant.

How can we best address the critical shortage of kidneys in Colorado?

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<tr>
<th>1,288 Coloradans are Waiting for a Lifesaving Transplant</th>
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The chances of dying in a way that allows for deceased organ donation are less than 1%. Since 87% of Coloradans on the list are waiting for kidneys, focusing on live kidney donation seems to be the only immediate solution for maximizing transplantation in our state. Even with minimal awareness campaigns, last year in our region, 121 living donors saved lives compared to 239 deceased donors. Imagine how many more potential live kidney donors would step forward if there was more education and awareness. If just 1 out of every 3,500 Coloradans donated a kidney, the kidney waiting list would be eliminated.

AmericanTransplantFoundation.org
Who addresses living donation in Colorado?

The American Transplant Foundation (ATF) is the only nonprofit in the state of Colorado that provides three tiers of support for living donors, transplant recipients, and their families. We proactively reduce the transplant wait list by enabling living donation through educational, emotional, and financial support. We work with all Colorado transplant centers.

Coloradans who participate in the Foundation’s 1+1=LIFE mentorship program can receive help either finding a living donor or becoming a living donor, increasing the number of transplants that take place. Additionally, living donor’s who qualify for our Patient Assistance program may receive financial assistance for lost wages that occur during donation.

Donor Alliance is an organ procurement organization and our valued partner. It is not focused on living donation and doesn’t offer specific programs for living donors. It refers living donors or people who are in need of a living donor to the American Transplant Foundation.

Policy Change

American Transplant Foundation has also led the efforts for better legislation in order to protect the rights of living donors and transplant recipients. As of January 2020, two bills the American Transplant Foundation fought to get passed have taken effect: Colorado Living Donor Insurance Act and Living Donor Support Act.

Living Donor Insurance Act

This bill prohibits discrimination of living donors from insurance providers (health, life, disability income, and long-term care insurance). It states that these providers may not deny coverage or increase premiums based on living donor status.

Living Donor Support Act

This bill supports living donors by allowing them to take a leave of absence for the purpose of their organ donation. Employers can claim an income tax credit equal to 35% of their expenses incurred from:

- Paying an employee during his/her leave of absence, equivalent to 10 working days or hourly equivalent; and
- Temporary employee replacement costs, if applicable.
What are the benefits of living donation?

In 2014, the American Society of Transplantation stated that living kidney donor transplantation is the best option for most kidney transplant candidates. It is critical that more Coloradans have access to it. The average 5-year survival rate for those who receive a kidney from a living donor is 85% compared to 72% from a deceased donor and 35% for those on dialysis.

There are tremendous economic benefits for live kidney donation as it eliminates substantial “transplant acquisition fees” charged to hospitals by organ procurement organizations which are ultimately paid by Medicare/Medicaid and other insurance plans. On average, for each transplanted patient taken off dialysis, Medicare saves over $500,000 over the course of 10 years.
About the American Transplant Foundation

At the American Transplant Foundation, we believe no one should die while waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

As a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we strive to save lives by reducing the growing list of women, men, and children who are waiting for a transplant.

The American Transplant Foundation is the only nonprofit in the country that provides educational, emotional, and financial support to living donors, transplant recipients, and their families nationwide. Our passion for helping patients through their transplant journeys drives our efforts to support living donors as they give the Gift of Life. We do this by maximizing living organ donation, which is the most effective way to fulfill our mission.

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