

# Serenity

*A newsletter for our donor families*

**QUARTER 1 • 2025**



## Join Us for Our Celebration of Heroes Events

**M**idwest Transplant Network (MTN) invites you and your family to join us at one of our upcoming Celebration of Heroes events in Kansas City and Wichita. These heartfelt gatherings are held annually to honor the incredible organ, eye and tissue donors and the families who have made such a profound impact through their generosity.

This open house-style event allows you to attend at your convenience between 6 and 8 p.m. MTN will provide a meal as we come together to celebrate and remember.

During the celebration, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Participate in a memorial sand pouring ceremony.
- Honor your loved one by bringing your quilt square and pinning it on the donor memorial quilt.
- Receive a beautifully handcrafted stained-glass heart as a tribute to your loved one.
- View a touching video tribute celebrating the heroes who gave the gift of life.

If you'd like to include a photo of your loved one in the video tribute, please upload the photo at the time of registration. To ensure your loved one's photo is included, please register no later than three days before the event.

We hope to see you at this special gathering as we honor your loved ones and celebrate the legacy of all donor heroes. 

**Kansas City area**  
**Wednesday, March 26 • 6-8 p.m.**  
Midwest Transplant  
Network  
1900 W. 47th Place  
Westwood, KS 66205

**Wichita area**  
**Tuesday, April 15 • 6-8 p.m.**  
Equity Bank Park,  
*formerly Riverfront Stadium*  
275 S. McLean Blvd  
Wichita, KS 67213

## In This Issue

Our quarterly newsletter features inspirational stories of organ, eye and tissue donors as well as resources for Midwest Transplant Network's donor families.

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**MIDWEST  
TRANSPLANT  
NETWORK**



**Register for Celebration of Heroes:**  
[mwtm.org/events](https://mwtm.org/events)



## Joplin Area Celebration of Life and Rose Dedication

Tuesday, April 29 • 5:30 p.m.


**Mercy Hospital**

100 Mercy Way  
Joplin, MO 64804

**M**TN is proud to partner with Freeman and Mercy Hospital for a Celebration of Life and Rose Dedication to honor organ, eye and tissue donors in the Joplin area and their families.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. During the celebration, families are encouraged to participate in our sand ceremony and to honor their loved ones on a donor memorial quilt by pinning their personalized quilt square. Additionally, each family will receive a beautifully handcrafted stained-glass heart to honor their loved ones.

No registration is required for this event. If you wish to include your loved one's photo in our donor video tribute, please email a photo by Friday, April 18, to [clucchi@mwtm.org](mailto:clucchi@mwtm.org).

For more information or questions, please contact Cathy Lucchi at 620-231-6056 or [clucchi@mwtm.org](mailto:clucchi@mwtm.org). 

## Create a Quilt Square to Honor Your Loved One


**A**t Midwest Transplant Network, we are honored to support donor families in creating meaningful tributes to their loved ones. As part of this, we offer free quilt square packets to help you craft a square for our Donor Memorial Quilt.

To request a packet, please email [aftercare@mwtm.org](mailto:aftercare@mwtm.org) with your name and mailing address. Each packet includes:

- A quilt square template
- Photo transfer paper
- A photo release form
- A return envelope

If you decide to create a quilt square in honor of your loved one, please follow these guidelines:

- **Size:** The quilt square must measure **8 inches** by **8 inches**, with the design contained within the center **7 inches** to leave a half-inch border on all sides for stitching.
- **Fabric:** You may use any fabric color, including sentimental materials such as a baby blanket, tie, or shirt that belonged to your loved one. However, avoid using jersey or stretch fabric, as they are unsuitable for quilting.
- **Design:** Personalize your square with paint, permanent markers, glitter, thread or other materials. You are welcome to include poems, quotes, symbols and your loved one's name. If you add trinkets or embellishments, please securely sew them to the square rather than using glue, as glue may degrade over time.
- **Photographs:** If you would like to include a photo, you can:
  - Have the photo transferred onto fabric by a copy shop.
  - Use the photo transfer paper provided in your packet with an inkjet printer.
  - Please avoid laminating photos, as laminated squares may not be suitable for the final quilt due to issues the lamination creates during the quilting process.
- **Finishing:** Do not quilt, back or otherwise "finish" the square.
- **Submission:** Only one square is permitted per donor. You may mail your completed square using the envelope provided or bring it to one of our Celebration of Heroes events, where you can pin it on our donor memorial quilt.

We hope this project brings you comfort and provides a meaningful way to celebrate your loved one's legacy. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us. 

# Introducing MTN's Open Communication Policy

**M**idwest Transplant Network values the healing and connection that can happen when donor families and recipients choose to communicate with one another. With this in mind, we are updating our policies to support open communication between donor families and recipients in a way that respects individual preferences.

As part of this change, MTN will no longer require correspondence to be written anonymously, nor will we remove identifying details or contact information you share in your letter. This approach empowers both donor families and recipients to share their stories and connect in the way that feels most meaningful to them.

## *Here are a few key aspects of this new policy:*

- **Respecting Choices:** If personal or identifying information is included in correspondence, MTN will forward it exactly as written, and the individual is doing so with the knowledge that the correspondence will be forwarded as written.
- **Maintaining Privacy:** If a donor family or recipient prefers to remain anonymous, MTN will fully support their decision and ensure their personal information is not shared.
- **Thoughtful Sharing:** We encourage you to carefully consider how much personal information you wish to include. You may opt to share limited details, such as only providing an email address or phone number. Please note that once personal information is shared, MTN cannot take responsibility for how it is used or the outcomes of direct communication.
- **Understanding Identifiers:** Even if you do not explicitly share contact details, certain information — such as your name, city or state, employer, school affiliation, date of birth or names of relatives — could enable recipients to identify you online. In such cases, these individuals are acting independently, and MTN cannot assume responsibility for the outcome.
- **Collaboration with other Organ Procurement Organizations (OPO):** Depending on the recipient's location, written communication may be facilitated through the OPO in the recipient's area. Some of these organizations have different policies regarding the sharing of personal information. In such cases, MTN will work closely with them to ensure all necessary steps are taken for open communication to proceed. This may include completing a consent and release form.

We are honored to facilitate these connections and remain committed to supporting donor families and recipients as they navigate their unique journeys.

If you have any questions or need assistance, the Aftercare team can be reached at [aftercare@mwn.org](mailto:aftercare@mwn.org) or by calling MTN at 913-262-1668. 

## Mission

Saving lives by honoring the gift of donation with dignity and compassion



1900 W. 47th Place, Suite 400  
Westwood, KS 66205

## Vision

Leading organ and tissue donation through excellence, quality and partnerships

## Contact Us

For more information or questions, call **913-262-1668** or visit **[mwtn.org](http://mwtn.org)**

To receive Serenity via email or to unsubscribe, please send your request to **[aftercare@mwtn.org](mailto:aftercare@mwtn.org)**.

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## 2025 Donate Life Legacy Walk

**S**ave the date! Midwest Transplant Network will host the Donate Life Legacy Walk on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 6-9 p.m. at the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City. The free community event is a celebration and remembrance of organ, eye and tissue donation.

Join us for an evening of music, food trucks to purchase snacks, Tribute Trail signs to honor donor heroes and transplant warriors, a bubble remembrance ceremony, and of course, making new memories for families.

What's different in 2025? The Donate Life Legacy Walk will be in a new spot on the National WWI Museum and Memorial grounds. We'll gather on the south lawn for a new view, more sharing and a more intimate space. More details to come.

### Key Dates:

- **Thursday, January 23:**  
Walk registration opens with T-shirt sales and Tribute Trail submission links sent to registered walkers.
- **Sunday, March 16:**  
Tribute Trail submissions close
- **Sunday, May 11:**  
Final date to order 2025 Legacy Walk Shirt 



**For more information or to register:**  
**[mwtn.org/legacy-walk](http://mwtn.org/legacy-walk)**



## Midwest Transplant Network 2025 Event Calendar

Please visit [mwtm.org](https://mwtm.org) for more information  
and to register for events.

### Celebration of Heroes

**Wednesday, March 26**

Midwest Transplant Network  
1900 W. 47th Place, Westwood, KS 66205

### Donor Family Day

**Saturday, July 19**

Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium  
6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132

### Celebration of Heroes

**Tuesday, April 15**

Equity Bank Park, formerly Riverfront Stadium  
275 S. McLean Blvd, Wichita, KS 67213

### Donor Family Day

**Saturday, July 26**

Tanganyika Wildlife Park  
1000 S. Hawkins Ln., Goddard, KS 67052

### Joplin Area Celebration of Life and Rose Dedication

**Tuesday, April 29**

Mercy Hospital  
100 Mercy Way, Joplin, MO 64804

### Hope for the Holidays

**Tuesday, Dec. 2**

Union Station  
30 W. Pershing Rd, Kansas City, MO 64108

### Donate Life Legacy Walk

**Saturday, June 7**

National WWI Museum and Memorial  
2 Memorial Dr., Kansas City, MO 64108

### Hope for the Holidays

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**

Exploration Place  
300 N. McLean Blvd, Wichita, KS 67203

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## How do I communicate with my loved one's recipients?

Midwest Transplant Network (MTN) recognizes that open and direct communication between donor families and recipients can be both healing and meaningful. As part of our commitment to supporting these connections, we now allow open communication between donor families and recipients. This means individuals are no longer required to write anonymously, and we will no longer redact identifying details or contact information from correspondence. If you would like to write to your loved one's recipient, please visit [mwtn.org/donor-families](http://mwtn.org/donor-families) for more information.

## What is the Donor Memorial Quilt and how do I make a quilt square?

The Donor Memorial Quilt is a collaborative tribute created by donor families to honor those who have given the gift of life through organ, tissue and eye donation. Families can create a quilt square to celebrate their loved ones anytime. Please note that there are specific size guidelines that must be followed. For detailed instructions, you may request a quilt square packet by emailing [aftercare@mwtn.org](mailto:aftercare@mwtn.org) or by visiting [mwtn.org/quilt](http://mwtn.org/quilt).

## What should I expect at a Celebration of Heroes event?

Celebration of Heroes is held each year to honor organ, eye and tissue donors and their families. These heartfelt gatherings are held annually to honor the incredible organ, eye and tissue donors and the families who have made a profound impact through their generosity. During the celebration, you'll have the opportunity to: participate in our memorial sand pouring ceremony, honor your loved one by bringing your quilt square and pinning it on the donor memorial quilt, receive a beautifully handcrafted stained-glass heart as a tribute to your loved one and view a touching video tribute celebrating the heroes who gave the gift of life.

## What should I expect at a Donor Family Day event?

Donor Family Days are a time for you and your families to meet for a day of fun and friendship. These events take place at family-friendly locations and offer a variety of activities for all to enjoy.

## What is an MTN Ambassador?

MTN Ambassadors are volunteers from Kansas and Missouri whose lives have been personally touched by the gift of donation. These individuals share their stories of hope and inspiration at public speaking events, health fairs and other community activities to raise awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation. If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador in your community, visit [mwtn.org/ambassador](http://mwtn.org/ambassador). MTN will provide training.

