

Serenity

A newsletter for our donor families

QUARTER 1 • 2026




Join Us for Our Celebration of Heroes Events

Midwest Transplant Network (MTN) invites you and your family to join us at one of our upcoming Celebration of Heroes events. 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 the 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. 

Wichita area

Tuesday, March 24 • 6-8 p.m.
Wichita Art Museum
1400 W. Museum Blvd.
Wichita, KS 67203

Kansas City area

Tuesday, April 14 • 6-8 p.m.
Midwest Transplant Network
1900 W. 47th Place
Westwood, KS 66205



Register for Celebration of Heroes:
mwtm.org/events

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**MIDWEST
TRANSPLANT
NETWORK**



Joplin Area Celebration of Life and Rose Dedication

Tuesday, April 7 • 5:30 p.m.

Freeman Business Center


3220 McClelland Blvd.

Joplin, MO 64804

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

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.

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, no later than three days prior to the event at mwtm.org/events.

We hope to see you at one of these special events as we honor your loved ones and celebrate the legacy of all donor heroes! 

 **Register for this event:**
mwtm.org/events

Create a Quilt Square to Honor Your Loved One


At MTN, we are honored to support donor families in creating meaningful tributes to their loved ones. As part of this effort, 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 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. 

When Anger and Grief Exist Together

Grief is often described as sadness, but for many people, anger is just as present. Anger can show up unexpectedly and feel confusing or even uncomfortable, especially when others expect grief to look quiet or gentle. In reality, anger is a natural and common part of grieving.


You may feel angry at the situation, at the timing, at the unfairness of loss, at the many things that will never be the same or even toward the person you lost for leaving too soon. Some people feel anger mixed with guilt for feeling that way at all. All of these reactions are normal.

Anger in grief is often rooted in love. It comes from how deeply someone mattered and how painful it is that they are no longer here. Loss can strip away a sense of control, and anger can be the mind's way of responding to that helplessness.

It is also common for anger to surface during moments when others seem to have moved forward while you are still hurting. Well-meaning comments, changes in routine or major life events can intensify feelings of frustration and isolation. These moments can make grief feel heavier rather than lighter.

Acknowledging anger does not mean you are stuck in it. Naming it can actually soften its grip. Some people find relief through movement, journaling, talking with a trusted person or allowing themselves quiet space to feel without judgment. Others benefit from professional support or connecting with those who understand grief firsthand.

Anger may come and go, just like waves. Some days it may feel intense and overwhelming, while other days it may fade into the background. There is no timeline and no right way for these emotions to unfold.

Grief is not a straight path, and healing does not mean forgetting or letting go of strong emotions. It means learning how to carry them in a way that allows you to keep living. With time, patience and support, anger can gradually make room for understanding, meaning and moments of peace, even as love and remembrance remain. 




Donate Life Rose Parade® Recap

The Donate Life Rose Parade® float was featured in the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1, helping share the message of organ, eye and tissue donation with millions of viewers nationwide.

Midwest Transplant Network is proud to be part of this meaningful tradition, supporting the Donate Life float and helping honor donor heroes whose legacies continue to save and heal lives. The float featured floragraphs, which are detailed portraits created from organic and natural materials, each one representing a donor whose gift made transplantation possible.

This year, MTN was honored to recognize local donor hero Chad Stacy, whose floragraph was displayed on the float. Chad's participation in the parade served as a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of donation and the lives touched through his generous gift. Leading up to the parade, donor families had the opportunity to see their loved one's floragraph completed and placed on the float, creating a meaningful moment of remembrance and pride.

As the float traveled through Pasadena, it highlighted the enduring connection between donors, recipients and donor families, while raising awareness about the importance of registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor. The Donate Life Rose Parade® float remains a visible and heartfelt tribute to donors and the lifesaving legacy they leave behind. 

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 **mwtm.org**

To receive Serenity via email or to unsubscribe, please send your request to **aftercare@mwtm.org**.

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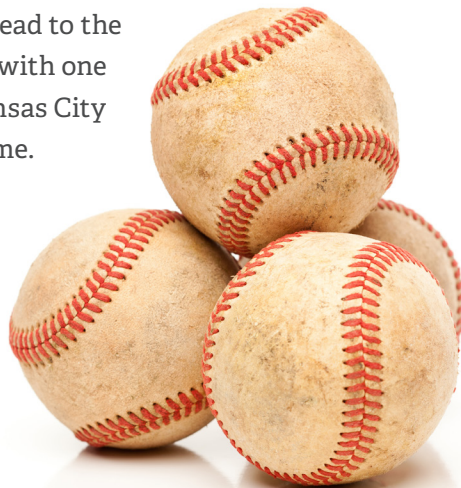
Looking Ahead: 2026 Event Updates

As we enter 2026, we are delighted to share updates and new details about our Donor Family Day and Legacy Walk events. We're excited to gather with you in new locations and on updated dates and continue creating meaningful memories together.

Take me out to the ball game! This year, our Donor Family Day events head to the ballpark, offering families a new way to come together and enjoy time with one another. We look forward to hosting families at Legends Field for a Kansas City Monarchs game, and at Equity Bank Park for a Wichita Wind Surge game.

You will also notice a change to the timing of the Donate Life Legacy Walk. Because Kansas City is a host city for the FIFA World Cup games during the summer, the Legacy Walk will move to Sept. 12, 2026. The walk will remain at the National WWI Museum and Memorial.

We appreciate the memories created at past events and look forward to building new ones together. More details and registration information will be shared in the next edition of Serenity. 





Midwest Transplant Network 2026 Event Calendar

Please visit mwtn.org for more information
and to register for events.

Celebration of Heroes

Tuesday, March 24

Wichita Art Museum

1400 W. Museum Blvd., Wichita, KS 67203

Donor Family Day

Saturday, June 6

Wichita Wind Surge Stadium

275 McLean Blvd., Wichita, KS 67213

Celebration of Life and Rose Dedication

Tuesday, April 7

Freeman Business Center

3220 McClelland Blvd., Joplin, MO 64804

Donate Life Legacy Walk

Saturday, Sept. 12

National WWI Museum and Memorial

2 Memorial Dr., Kansas City, MO 64108

Celebration of Heroes

Tuesday, April 14

Midwest Transplant Network

1900 W. 47th Place, Westwood, KS 66205

Hope for the Holidays

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Union Station

30 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108

Donor Family Day

Saturday, May 30

Kansas City Monarchs Stadium

1800 Village West Pkwy., Kansas City, KS 66111

Hope for the Holidays

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Exploration Place

300 N. McLean Blvd., Wichita, KS 67203

Frequently Asked Questions

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 mwtm.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@mwtm.org or by visiting mwtm.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 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, friendship and connection. 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 mwtm.org/ambassador. MTN will provide training.

