



FOTA TRANSPLANT LIFE QUARTERLY



LATEST NEWS FROM FLORIDA ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION

ISSUE: WINTER 2020



FOTA Holiday Celebration... COVID EDITION

After much deliberation and keeping up with the latest COVID numbers in South Florida, the region and the nation, the FOTA Board of Directors have determined that we cannot safely proceed with our annual luncheon at Signature Grand. And your safety is our #1 priority. While we cannot gather this year in a typical way, we are excited to welcome you to the **FOTA Holiday Celebration of Life Walk-Thru** on **Saturday, December 12th from 12:00-4:00pm**. This quick, 5-minute walk-thru experience gives you a taste of our annual celebration.

Join us at the LifeCare Clinic Breezeway at **3880 Coconut Creek Parkway, Coconut Creek, FL 33066**. This covered area is outside, but the roof will shelter us from any weather elements. Expect a breezeway festooned for the holidays, with music, Santa Claus shaking his belly like a bowl full of jelly, a holiday snack pack to-go, special gifts for the kiddos, cozy photo booth, and, of course, the Tree of Life, where you may place an ornament on the tree in honor of your organ donor.

We will ask you to wear your mask and we will have PPE available to ensure a safe experience for all. The breezeway is a one-way walk-thru with a few activities—this has been designed with your safety in mind.

The FOTA Holiday Celebration of Life Walk-Thru is free, courtesy of your friends at FOTA. Donations are welcome and will benefit our Emergency Patient Services Fund. Space is limited, so please visit www.floridaorgantransplant.org to reserve your 15-minute slot. We look forward to celebrating the season with you!



Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends,

*While 2020 has brought with it many challenges, the fall has brought with it the winds of change. COVID vaccines are in sight, the holidays are upon us, and relief is seemingly imminent. FOTA has remained steadfast in supporting the transplant community throughout good times and now with COVID—**emergency patient support is up 110% year-over-year so far, while giving is down 50%. We need your help.***

We are participating in #GivingTuesday (December 1st) and are asking for dollars toward patient support. Emergency grant requests remain on an upward trend, and we have to **rally together as one transplant community**. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift with us on #GivingTuesday and/or now through end of year. Your dollars stay right here in South Florida.

Your dollars help patients like Ina, whose caregiver lost her job, and couldn't pay to keep her lights on; and Nathaniel, a kidney recipient who contracted COVID, went into rejection and needed help paying rent to keep his family safe. We can only do this together!

You can make an end of year gift by visiting www.floridaorgantransplant.org.

Thank you for your support. Wishing you and yours a healthy, safe and very Happy Holidays!

Be well,

John Venezia
Executive Director

THANK YOU

Now is a great time to consider joining the FOTA Family! When you become a member, you stand in solidarity with the 5,193 Floridians awaiting a lifesaving transplant and the thousands who have survived transplant and need help along the way. **Annual membership provides the ongoing support to keep patient programs and activities running in earnest. THANK YOU to all of our recent new/renewed members as of October 31st:**

Miriam Alfonso
Marta & Carlos Blanco
Caren Donovan
Ziomahara Infante

Donald L. Joseph
John Marangos
Trib & Jasmin Persaud
Jose Romero

Reiner & Barbara Schwebel
Dr. Marcy Weinberg
Melissa & David Wetzel

To review levels and join the FOTA family, please visit www.floridaorgantransplant.org.



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OUR GOAL

is to become a central hub of resources and fellowship for the transplant community

A Thanksgiving Blessing



For the second year, when FOTA President, Dr. Marcy Weinberg, asked the famous Hollywood Delaware Chicken Farm & Seafood Market staff to help transplant families in need, they answered the call and provided FOTA with ten (10) \$25 gift cards for Thanksgiving meals. THANK YOU for your continued support!

For more information about this establishment, please visit: <https://www.delawarechicken.net/>.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

SPRING	'21	Transplant Topics Forum
SPRING	'21	FOTA's Inaugural Online Auction
SPRING	'21	Virtual Bike-a-Thon for the Cause
FALL	'21	4th Annual Transplant Wild Adventure Run/Walk
FALL	'21	3rd Annual Adam Straub Memorial Golf Tournament

FOTA's 2020 Virtual Wild Adventure Run/Walk a Real Success



COVID tried to slow us down, but transplant prevailed! This year's FOTA's 2020 Virtual Wild Adventure Run/Walk race was small, but mighty with 70 participants who raced 800 miles in the name of transplant over two weeks (August 15-August 30)! To increase visibility of the virtual event, we held weekly raffles on Facebook Live hosted by event chair, Lissette Linares, for five (5) weeks that resulted in 15 prizes for either registrants or donors who were automatically entered to thank them for their participation. Together, we raised over \$20,000 for the transplant community!

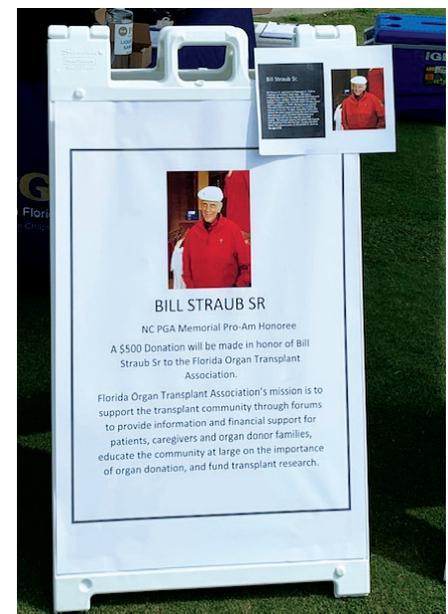
A BIG thanks to our sponsors: Global Reach Health, Broward Health, South Florida Small Business Accounting, Lawton Properties, Veloxis, Heal the Planet Foundation, and Wetzel & Associates. And of course, THANKS to all participants, donors, and committee members to made this virtual race a reality!

The Northern Chapter PGA Remembers Bill Straub

By Matt Borocz, PGA

We had a very successful Memorial Pro-Am at Jacksonville Beach Golf Club a few months ago. A total of 32 teams participated in the event. On behalf of our PGA Members/Associates and Amateurs who participated, the Northern Chapter PGA is going to make a \$500 donation to FOTA in the memory for Mr. Bill Straub, Sr.

One of my favorite memories of playing golf with Mr. Straub; he had such a positive attitude; he just pushed forward and played golf. It's the same thing in the world today, it's not easy, but you have to keep pushing forward, keep a positive attitude and help our communities.





FLORIDA ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION
 Helping Organ Donor and Transplant Families

934 N. University Dr., #451, Coral Springs, FL 33071
 www.floridaorgantransplant.org

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Join over 11 Million Floridians to give the Gift of Life

A single organ/tissue donor can save the lives of more than 50 people. For more information and to sign up, please visit www.donatelifeflorida.org.

While a signed donor card and a driver's license with an "organ donor" designation are legal documents, your family will ultimately give consent when the time has come. It is important to share your decision to donate life with your family. Once you've made the decision to become an organ/tissue donor, please share this card with your family and start the conversation today!



Name _____ Date _____
 Dear _____ (next of kin)
 I have made the important decision to sign up to become an organ/tissue donor. Although I have _____ signed an organ donor card and/or _____ signed up through my state's registry, and it's legally binding, the medical team may ask your for permission at the time of my passing to proceed with this gift. Please honor my wishes and allow me the chance to make a difference in up to 50 lives by becoming an organ tissue/ donor.
 _____ I signed up to donate everything I can
 _____ I signed up with donation limitations that include _____
 Let's talk! With love, _____
 (donor signature)



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