

# FOTA TRANSPLANT LIFE QUARTERLY



LATEST NEWS FROM FLORIDA ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION

ISSUE: WINTER 2021

## Double Your Impact and Give Now Through December 31st

Thanks to our friends at Global Reach Miracle Foundation, **ALL gifts received now through December 31st will be DOUBLED.** Yes, your gift will be matched 100% toward our mission of supporting the South Florida transplant community.

How do you get started? Become a FOTA member, save the date for #GivingTuesday on November 30th and give, or reserve your spot for the Annual Celebration of Life Holiday Picnic, on Saturday, December 4th at Tradewinds Park, Coconut Creek. Whichever way you choose, thanks to Global Reach Miracle Foundation, you can DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT.

Global Reach Health, the corporate arm of Global Reach Miracle Foundation, has sponsored the FOTA Wild Adventure Fun Run/Walk for the past three years. Their staff attends with friends and family and brings a fun atmosphere to the event.

“Wayne, Sergio and the Global Reach Health team have shown their passion for transplant from day one,” said John Venezia, FOTA Executive Director. **“Both organizations have kept the focus on the patient experience throughout the pandemic, and we are grateful to Global Reach Miracle Foundation for making this commitment.”**

For more information, please visit our website at [www.floridaorgantransplant.org](http://www.floridaorgantransplant.org).



GLOBAL REACH  
MIRACLE  
FOUNDATION



## Bells are Ringing for the Annual Holiday Celebration of Life Picnic Join us on Saturday, December 4th

We are pleased to share the good news that we are bringing back the Annual Holiday Celebration of Life event! As the pandemic persists, we have proceeded with an outdoor venue to ensure a safe environment (your health is our #1 priority). Here are the details:

Please plan to join us on **Saturday, December 4th from 12:00-3:00pm** at the **Grandiosa Shelter at Tradewinds Park (South Entrance) in Coconut Creek.** This picnic includes a boxed lunch, whimsical décor, lawn games, raffle, auction, festive music, Santa Claus with toy giveaway, and, of course, the Tree of Life ceremony where you may place an ornament on the tree in honor your organ donor.

The FOTA Holiday Celebration of Life Walk-Thru is **free to FOTA members or \$30 per person, with a family 4-pack (two adults and two children) for \$60.** Space is limited, so please visit [www.floridaorgantransplant.org](http://www.floridaorgantransplant.org) to reserve your spot.

We look forward to celebrating the season with you!



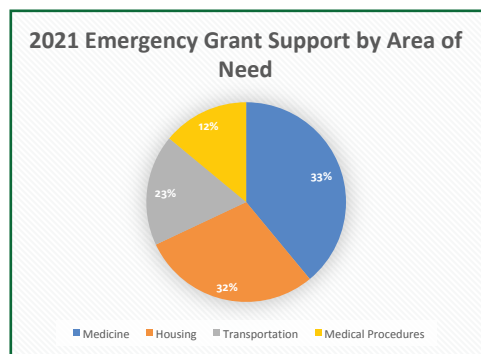
## Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,



We have a tremendous opportunity this fall to raise much-needed support for the South Florida community. I want to take a moment to personally thank our friends at **Global Reach Miracle Foundation** for this gift challenge. And I ask you to consider making a gift—join and/or renew your FOTA membership, make a gift during #GivingTuesday, use the code FOTA at Essentials Spa of Davie between 11/1-30 or register for the Holiday Celebration of Life Picnic.

Why do we need the help? The onset of the pandemic has brought on a renaissance here at FOTA. We have expanded our programs to include virtual monthly support groups and quarterly Transplant Topics: a Virtual Education Forum. **We have served more patients and families this past 18 months than we had served in the previous five years.** Emergency grant requests were up 110% last year and are on pace this year—check out the graphic below that shows grant support by area of need:



It's incredible to show our impact on the South Florida transplant community. And all of this good news is coupled with a 50% shortfall in revenue from 2020. We are making strides in 2021, but we need your help. Please take a moment and double your impact—as they say, #GivingTuesday was created in an effort for the world to “do good”. We ask you to join us, so we may **“do good together.”**

You may make an end of year gift by visiting [www.floridaorgantransplant.org](http://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



## FOTA Board of Directors

**Marcy Weinberg, PhD**  
President

**Betty Ann Straub-Ruotolo**  
Vice President

**Elizabeth S. Harris**  
Treasurer

**James Cohen**  
Secretary

**Lisette Linares**  
Board Director

**Elizabeth Ruotolo**  
Board Director

**John Venezia**  
Executive Director

## CONNECT WITH US

Florida Organ Transplant Association  
934 N. University Drive, #451  
Coral Springs, FL 33071

Direct: 954.282.9808  
[www.floridaorgantransplant.org](http://www.floridaorgantransplant.org)

[f/florgantransplant.org](https://www.facebook.com/florgantransplant.org)  
[@floridaorgantra](https://www.twitter.com/floridaorgantra)

## Relax Before the Holidays with Essentials Spa of Davie

Book an appointment for ANY Essentials Spa of Davie service and/or purchase gift cards between November 1-30th, use the code FOTA and they will donate 25% to our organization!


Essentials Spa of Davie is a family-owned spa that you will definitely love. Owners Kristi & Keith Laguna have been in business for over five years, and their professional staff deliver top-notch therapeutic treatments and a broad range of massage, waxing and facial treatments at affordable rates, with no memberships or contracts required.

A 50-minute European massage, facial or foot massage is only \$45.00. Take advantage of a treatment for yourself or give the gift of #selfcare to your friends and family by buying gift cards. Call 954.765.6512 and make sure to mention FOTA!



### Essentials Spa of Davie

4401 S Flamingo Road  
Davie, FL 33330  
[www.essentialsofdavie.com](http://www.essentialsofdavie.com)






**Your transplant now comes with its own app.**

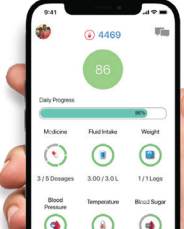
**AlloCare™**

**Stay on track, with everything at your fingertips.**

- + Manage medications
- + Track blood pressure, weight, fluids, steps and more
- + Schedule your transplant labs
- + View your AlloSure® test results
- + Chat with other patients in the transplant community
- + Stay current with articles and upcoming events

Learn more and download the app at [CareDx.com/AlloCare](http://CareDx.com/AlloCare) or scan the QR code below:





**Now is a great time to consider joining the FOTA Family!**

When you become a member, you stand in solidarity with the 5,296 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. Plus, all dollars between now and December 31st will be matched by Global Reach Miracle Foundation.**

**THANK YOU to all of our recent new/renewed members as of October 31st**

Craig Black	Janice Odom
Marta & Carlos Blanco	Trib/Jasmin Persaud
Eileen Manno-Caballero	Patricia Ross
Caren/Sean Donovan	Barbara Russell
Rupert French	Reiner/Barbara Schwebel
Ilene Gross	Shawn Scott
Ilene/Brian Hamilton	Louis/Alice Soskin
Liz Harris	Randi Swersky

Longtime FOTA member, Reiner Schwebel, added this note to his renewal, **“I am eternally grateful and honor my donor family for the gift of life. I am now 20-years post-transplant.”**

We wish you well, Reiner, and appreciate you making your membership gift in honor of your donor family.

To join Reiner and the FOTA Family, please visit [www.floridaorgantransplant.org](http://www.floridaorgantransplant.org).



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

## Walk/Run Recap

What a wild and glorious return we made for the FOTA's Hybrid 2021 Wild Transplant Adventure Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, September 25th at Zoo Miami (or anywhere).

Despite the challenges surrounding the pandemic, the transplant community persevered and **with the support of 120 participants, volunteers, and sponsors, we raised over \$18,000 for the South Florida transplant community!**



A special nod of thanks to our top fundraiser, Kristen Quinn, and our sponsors: CareDx, Global Reach Miracle Foundation, Memorial Transplant Institute, South Florida Small Business Accounting, Veloxis Pharmaceuticals, Heal the Planet Foundation, Straub Family, Wetzel & Associates and Kidney Beans team.

Check out the photos on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/florgantransplant](http://www.facebook.com/florgantransplant).

UPCOMING CALENDAR	
NOV 1-30	Essentials Spa of Davie Fundraiser
NOV 13	NKFF Ft. Lauderdale Kidney Walk
NOV 30	#GivingTuesday
DEC 4	Annual Holiday Celebration of Life Picnic
DEC 9	Holiday Virtual Support Group
DEC 31	Last Day to Give and Double Your Impact through Global Reach Miracle Foundation matching gift





**FLORIDA ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION**  
 Helping Organ Donor and Transplant Families

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

First Class Mail  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Boca Raton FL  
 Permit No. 676

## 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](http://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)



934 N. University Dr., #451, Coral Springs, FL 33071  
**954-282-9808**  
[www.floridaorgantransplant.org](http://www.floridaorgantransplant.org)  
 f /florgantransplant.org t floridaorgantra