

FOTA TRANSPLANT LIFE QUARTERLY



LATEST NEWS FROM FLORIDA ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION

ISSUE: SPRING 2021

Join Us for the Inaugural FOTA Bids for Transplant Online Auction Wednesday, April 14th through Saturday, April 17th



What better way to celebrate National Donate Life Month (April) than to gather virtually with your fellow transplant community and shop for the cause! **Check out the Inaugural FOTA Bids for Transplant Online Auction, kicking off Wednesday, April 14th and make sure to put in your bids before time runs out on Saturday, April 17th.** There are items big and small with values of \$15 to \$\$\$, with proceeds benefiting the South Florida transplant community.

Who else is counting down till we can meet and travel safely?! Check out featured items like an at-home wine party with our friend, Natalie Johnston, from Wines for Humanity or a spa outing to Essential Spa of Davie. How about a trip to Waco, Texas to visit Chip and Joanna Gaines' Magnolia, from HGTV's Fixer Upper, or the ruins of Machu Pichu; fun in Boston, Montana or San Francisco? **We have housewares, books, electronics, jewelry, gift baskets, memberships, golf gadgets, day trips, family vacations, and more.**

This event is a "blind" auction that means you will see the value of the item and can write-in your bid without seeing what others have bid. Consider what you would pay for the item to support transplant and make those bids. Our goal is 124 bids and \$5,000. Why? **These dollars go toward FOTA's mission of serving transplant and donor families in need.** Your fellow transplant families need help and you can help us grant emergency support for basic necessities like housing, transportation, medicine and food.

Visit www.yourcharityauction.com/FOTA to register and start bidding!



Donate Life Florida Specialty License Plate Now ONLINE!

Donate Life Florida, the non-profit coalition that runs the state's organ, eye and tissue donor registry, announced in December the launch of a specialty license plate promoting organ, tissue and eye donation, the sales of which will benefit donation education in Florida and Florida's donor registry.

Before the plate goes into production Donate Life Florida must presell 3,000 vouchers to Florida motor vehicle owners. You may purchase a voucher online for \$33.

- Voucher purchasers will get a certificate to redeem for the actual plate, which will be produced once Donate Life Florida has sold 3,000 vouchers.
- Vouchers can only be purchased online or at tax collectors' offices at this time. Many offices are taking customers via appointment only, so please check with your county office for rules: www.FLHSMV.gov/locations.
- Vouchers are only available for motor vehicles only, and commercial vehicles weighing less than 26,001 pounds.

For more information check out www.DonateLifeFlorida.org.

Executive Director's Message



Dear Friends,

April is typically a big month of celebration for us at FOTA. **National Donate Life Month is a time to shine a spotlight on the transplant community**, celebrate together at the FOTA Transplant Wild Adventure and table at various events around town. While things aren't back to normal, we are excited to celebrate virtually for now. **As the vaccine becomes more readily available, we are hopeful that we may be able to gather later in 2021.** I recently received my second vaccination shot/booster, and I can say that I had no real side effects—just a sore arm for a few days. If you are a transplant recipient and are interested in getting the vaccine, make sure to contact your transplant coordinator before your vaccination to them know and for you to receive any special instructions.

Until we can gather, join us online for the FOTA Virtual Support Group, held every fourth Thursday of the month; check out Transplant Topics Virtual Education Forum in March and April; and shop for the cause for the Inaugural FOTA Bids for Transplant Online Auction April 14-17th.

The work continues as we get requests weekly to support transplant families in need. Thanks to YOU for empowering the FOTA family to make a difference every day.

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 5,363 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 March 15th:**

James & Amy Birr
Gilbert Chediak
Mirta & Gilbert Chediak
Susan Chediak
Eric Copelan
Eileen Manno-Caballero
Magda Estela
Foley Family
Jeffrey George

Ilene Hamilton
Ziomahara Infante
Jessica Jones
Kesti Family
Anthony Krzeminski
James R. Lawton
Vivian Lerner
Lissette Linares
Ziomahara Linares

Luke & Ann Lukomski
Sharon & William MacFarlane
Richard/Joan Marciano
Alicia Perez
Barbara Pippinger
June Ranofsky
Barbara Russell
Phyllis/Scott Shamis
Stanley & Louise Swersky

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



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



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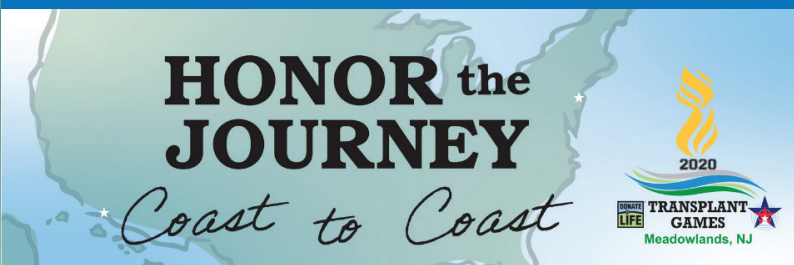
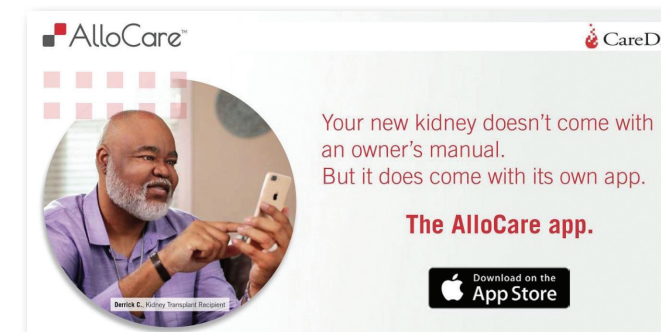
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Back in 2019, the FOTA Board of Directors started planning a 2020 Education Forum to bring South Florida medical professionals, pharmaceutical companies and transplant families together to learn about the latest advancements in transplantation. While all in-person plans continue to be pushed out for the time being, we could wait no longer to offer educational programming, so we are proud to announce **Transplant Topics: Virtual Education Forum**.

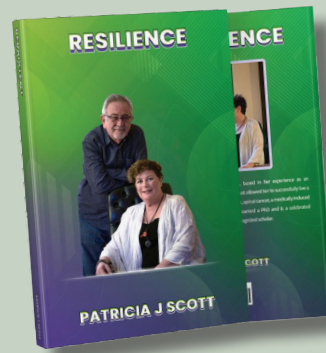
Every quarter, you can expect an educational offering through Zoom. We kicked things off with **Audra Hutton Lopez, Transplant Coordinator of Memorial Transplant Institute on March 31st** as she presented about "Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle Post-Transplant". Audra offered a simple, no-nonsense approach to taking care of your transplant for the long-term. **Now for Donate Life Month, we are featuring CareDx and how to utilize their AlloCare App to track the care of your organ post-transplant.** While the focus of the app began for kidney patients (84% of Floridians awaiting a transplant need a kidney, #kidneyawareness), the functionality lends itself across all transplanted organs. **Save the date for Saturday, April 24th at 10am.**



Transplant Life Foundation, Transplant Games of America organizers, announced recently that the 2020 Transplant Games will be held virtually between April-July. The new format, "Honor the Journey... Coast to Coast", will take place in hometowns across the country, providing the Transplant Games of America with a unique opportunity to reinforce its mission to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation. Signature events will be produced and aired from New Jersey at their regularly scheduled times with no live audience planned.

The following competitions will be offered with registered athletes competing in their hometowns and submitting scores. Competitions can take place between April 1, 2021 and July 1, 2021. They will be awarding a gold medal for every completed competition for which a valid score is submitted (a maximum 4 gold medals per participant).

Transplant Recipient, Patty Scott, Writes about Resilience



Patty Scott is a familiar name to many in the South Florida transplant community. She was member of Team Florida for the Transplant Games, a regular at support group meetings, and coordinator of past Transplant Education Forums from 2002-2007, before moving to Indiana.

She has written a book about her transplant and overall health journey. *Resilience: The story of surviving major medical challenges and living life to the fullest* was published last July. The book started out as an evidence-based account of her research to help individuals facing the same sorts of medical challenges and persistent problems as she did (spinal cancer, two liver transplants, a medically induced coma and Cryptogenic Organizing Pneumonia). It became a memoir. It is a treasure for transplant candidates, recipients, and their families about how to weather the storms and emerge at the other end. It is available through Amazon, or through her website at www.patriciajscott.com.

- Singles Bowling
- Singles Golf
- Track (times events only)
- Swimming
- Lyrics for Life (semi-finalist)
- Ballroom Dancing
- Trivia Challenge
- Youth Olympiad
- Cycling
- Texas Hold'em
- Tx Tok
- "5k to the Meadowlands"

Future registrations will be offered at a reduced rate and individuals already registered will receive a partial credit toward the 2022 Transplant Games in San Diego. Every individual registered will receive a commemorative gold medal in celebration of this unique one-of-a-kind event. Registrants will also be shipped a SWAG box that will include a souvenir credential, a modified program (TransplantNATION magazine), official 2020 commemorative t-shirt, TGA pin, and additional surprises as well.

For the latest details, please visit the TGA website, www.transplantgamesofamerica.org, or the Team Florida Facebook page, www.facebook.com/teamfloridatgagames.



FLORIDA ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION
Helping Organ Donor and Transplant Families

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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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