



Transplant & VAD Update

The University of Minnesota Medical Center (UMMC) recently transplanted HEART NUMBER 1054. Additionally, the UMMC currently supports over 200 VAD patients. Second Chance for Life is proud to assist patients and families as they proceed through these life changing events. Thank you to our members and donors!

In Touch

Spring 2022
Membership Update Edition

Message from our Board President

As the saying goes, “Spring is the time of plans and projects.” That motto truly embodies our organization these days. We continue to serve our mission of supporting heart transplant and VAD patients and their caregivers through emotional, educational, and financial support. We are also expanding the ways we do these things.

As part of National Heart Month in February, we announced our new relationship with Mended Hearts. If you are not familiar with the organization, it focuses on all heart disease patients and caregivers, with over 75,000 members and chapters in over 380 heart hospitals throughout the US. Through its resources and our affiliation, we can begin to leverage more educational opportunities for you and develop a structured approach to hospital visiting. The Mended Hearts partnership is non-financial, thus any financial donations made to Second Chance will remain with Second Chance to directly serve our heart transplant and VAD patients and their families.

We are busily at work planning the Summer Social and Golf Tournament scheduled for Friday, July 15th at Majestic Oaks Golf Club. In addition to our signature 18-hole tournament, we are planning an expanded Summer Social event for the non-golfers to include appetizers, expanded activities and more special guests. Last year Dr. Cindy Martin was a co-host and social workers Natalia and Angela and other faculty also attended. We will be doubling our tent size for socializing and dinner, and also adding a 9-hole, par-3 tournament that will conclude just in time to attend the Summer Social!

Later this year we will offer another series of educational webinars on relevant topics for heart transplant and VAD patients and caregivers. If you have a requested topic, drop us a quick email or give us a call.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue’s patient stories. Our newsletter co-editors, Jim Berg and Cheryl Lachelt really enjoyed hearing the stories of Lisa Casper and the Manley family. Enjoy and thank you for reading,



Mark your Calendars

- ♥ April is National Donate Life Month | Register at www.life-source.org
- ♥ SCFLF 32nd Annual Golf Tournament & Summer Social | Friday, July 15th
- ♥ Oklee Hero Hustle 5k | Saturday, August 13th
- ♥ VAD Support Group | Zoom Call | Tuesdays, 1pm – 2pm
- ♥ Transplant Support Group | Zoom Call | Thursdays, 12pm – 1pm



Lisa Casper: Celebrating 31 Years!

Lisa Casper's transplant journey began 53 years ago when she was born with a hole between the main pumping chambers of her heart, plus a leaky valve. She had surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical Center to repair the congenital defect when she was ten years old. This allowed her to have a normal childhood, even though her heart wasn't quite strong enough for her to play sports, such as running track.



*Lisa Casper and her 30 year
transplant award*

At age 20, Lisa married her husband, Troy. A year later, in 1989, she started feeling sick and returned to UMMC where she was told that she needed a heart transplant. Then, on July 15, 1990, Lisa became the 236th heart transplant recipient at UMMC.

Lisa is grateful for the support and encouragement she received from Second Chance members throughout her transplant recovery. In fact, she even attended the inaugural Second Chance golf tournament two weeks later, albeit in a wheelchair. She appreciated UMMC's patient support group and continued to pay it forward by promoting organ donation at local high schools, distributing brochures provided by Second Chance. She was uniquely able to connect with the students since she was young herself.

Now 31 years post-transplant, Lisa is leading what she describes as a very normal life. She and Troy live in Arlington, South Dakota, near Sioux Falls. Lisa owns her own business making custom boat covers. In her spare time, she loves taking her Honda Shadow motorcycle on the road with her husband. She also takes pride in tending her flower garden, especially her colorful peonies which bring her great joy.



*Lisa Casper #236 heart
transplant recipient*

When asked what advice she would give other transplant patients, Lisa said:

- Take one day at a time; there will be good days and bad days.
- Know your limits.
- Know your body, take it easy if you have a bad day
- Don't take anything for granted.

Words for us all to live by!
Congratulations, Lisa!

Mother & Son Bond Through Shared Transplant Journeys

To celebrate National Donate Life Month in April, we are featuring the unique story of Karen Manley, heart #729 and her son Dennis Manley, heart #1028. Not only do they have the same cardiologist, Dr. Rebecca Cogswell, each has received a lifesaving heart transplant at UMMC. Visit our website for the inside story!



Amazon Smile

If you are an Amazon.com shopper, please consider going to smile.amazon.com and designating Second Chance for Life as your charity of choice. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Our Mission

The mission of the Second Chance for Life Foundation is to help individuals and their caregivers navigate the challenges that come with a heart transplant or heart implant (VAD) at University of Minnesota medical facilities. Our goal is to help provide what is needed when it is needed whether it is for emotional, financial, or educational needs. Historically, SCFLF has supported eligible patients with financial assistance for medical care, housing, and transportation. We also provide educational seminars focused on heart health and living with a heart transplant or VAD.

Check Out Our Website

We have a few updates to our website, www.secondchanceforlife.org. There you can find short bios of our board members, an exciting article about the three heart transplants in 36 hours at the UMMC, and more!

As we phase in on-line resources from Mended Hearts you will begin to find lifestyle tips and suggestions such as handy ideas for nutrition and emotional health.

Beginning in April we will open on-line registration for the Summer Social and Golf Tournament. In addition, you will receive a brochure in the mail. If you haven't attended before, this would be a great year to start. We look forward to seeing you there!

2022 Membership Update

Dear Member, Since 1986, the Second Chance for Life Foundation (SCFLF) has helped countless patients and their families through the challenges of a heart transplant and/or heart pump implantation. Thanks to the ongoing support from members like you, we can continue our mission of “patients helping patients” through:

Friendship and Fellowship

Members support each another through personal experiences and camaraderie. In addition to participation in the Heart Transplant and VAD support groups, we host an annual Holiday Celebration, educational events, the annual Golf Tournament and now have added the Summer Social.

Financial Assistance

Throughout the year, in conjunction with the University of Minnesota Medical Center and University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital, SCFLF provides financial support to those in need as determined by hospital social workers. Our grants help alleviate the expenses of lodging, travel, medications, parking, and some of those unexpected life expenses that can happen when we least expect them.

In-Patient Outreach

Historically, SCFLF Members have visited patients and families at both the University of Minnesota Medical Center and the University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital, letting them know SCFLF is an available resource – truly a “patients helping patients” organization. During the pandemic we’ve been able to pivot to connect directly with patients through both telephone and video calls.

Education

SCFLF, along with the faculty at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, hosts educational events to address topics of interest to patients and their families. Last year’s series included a specific session for caregivers; this year we are planning new topics to better empower both heart transplant and VAD patients and their caregivers.

Please use this form to update your membership (especially email!). Information will not be shared with other organizations. If you would like you can also select the Membership Update button at www.secondchanceforlife.org

I wish to continue as a member of SCFLF **or** Remove my name from the list

Patient Name: _____ Heart # | VAD | Waiting: _____

Spouse | Parent | Caregiver | Contributor (please circle): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Code: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to make a donation in support of SCFLF and its mission of “patients helping patients”.

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other: _____

Make checks payable to: **Second Chance for Life Foundation or SCFLF.**

Second Chance for Life Foundation – P.O. Box 131462 Roseville, MN 55113

SCFLF is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.



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"Patients helping patients"