

TRIO-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

APRIL & May 2010



Hello fellow TRIO-Pittsburgh members and I hope you are having a pleasant Spring Season,

April, designated as “Donor Awareness Month”, has been a very busy month for most of us. There have been many events and activities to attend during April. At the opening flag ceremony at UPMC, Frank Holby, a donor family representative, gave a very emotional speech regarding the death of his high school daughter. His wife, Judy, presented the Greater Pittsburgh Area Army ROTC with the Donate Life Flag. It waved beneath our United States Flag. Denise Bursey, a transplant recipient, read a very moving poem.

Tables were staff by volunteers at AGH and UPMC to pass out literature regarding becoming a donor. I witnessed a young man sign up to be placed on the paired kidney exchange program when I staffed a table with other volunteers at AGH. He told me that he has a friend that needs a kidney and he was willing to donate a kidney to him but he was not a match. He was not fully aware of the kidney exchange program. Kate Zetler, who works for CORE, was at the table. She explained the program to him and he signed the donor card right there! WTAE News covered a story on April 14 regarding the largest paired kidney exchange in the nation, which involved Allegheny General Hospital. The exchanged began in early February and included 24 surgeries! Twelve donors, who were not a match for the original person they wanted to donate a kidney to, donated a kidney to twelve recipients. The surgeries were in nine different transplant centers and went from one coast to the other. You can read more about this amazing story at

<http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/health/23149977/detail.html>

We held our “Celebration of Life Dinner” at a new location this year. The dinner was at the University Club. The dinner was well attended with over 100 guests, and the food was delicious. Stat MedEvac and LifeFlight were honored. Over 40 awesome baskets were graciously donated and raffled off. There was even an Irish “wannabe” tenor present who sang “Dear Old Donegal”.

AGH held a “Gift of Life” parade and UPMC held a “UPMC Transplant Donate Life Parade”. Fellow TRIO members, Carol Foglia, Barb Talackine, and Rich Wegrzyn got their picture taken by a photographer of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. You can see it at <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10112/1052368-490.stm> photo #4. View photo #5 to see Rob Whittington, a perfusionist for UPMC, sign Barb Talackine’s t-shirt, which was in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette Local Section on April 22. Congratulations to Georgene Thomas for getting the most signatures on her donor awareness week t-shirt.

Allegheny General Hospital closed out their scheduled events for “Donor Awareness Month” with their “Third Annual Rose Bush Dedication Ceremony” while UPMC closed out their events with their “Celebration of Life Ceremony”.

Fellow TRIO member, Lora Ward Wilson, had a letter to the editor published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette regarding donor awareness on Wednesday, April 28. It read as follows:

Many are waiting

Your story on the paired kidney donation chain involving Allegheny General Hospital couldn't have come at a better time ("[Doctors Praise Organ Matching.](#)" April 15). April is National Donate Life Month -- a good time to ask every American to take a moment to be counted as an organ and tissue donor after death and to consider living donation, which is today's best available treatment for kidney failure.

About 26 million Americans have chronic kidney disease and more than 80,000 are waiting for a lifesaving kidney transplant. These are your family members, your co-workers, the guy at your gym and, as a recent reality show revealed, the woman who makes the coffee for your morning commute. While the number of people who need dialysis grows each year, the number of living kidney donors has declined from an all-time high of only 6,647 donors in 2004 to fewer than 6,000 last year.

As part of the new Living Donor Council Executive Committee of the National Kidney Foundation, I hope to help remove barriers to donation by advocating for a national paired exchange registry, and to inspire others to follow the example of the AGH living donors who cared enough to give the gift of life. Learn more at www.kidney.org by clicking on "Be an Organ Donor."

LORA WARD WILSON
Churchill

The writer was a nondirected kidney donor at UPMC in November 2006.

To read the letter online visit: <http://www.pittsburghpost-gazette.com/pg/10118/1053800-110.stm>

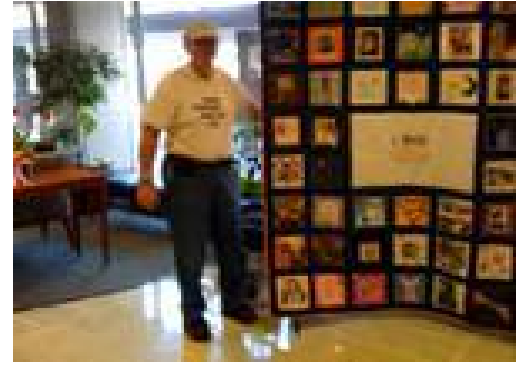
Nice job, Lora!

I hope that you had an opportunity to staff a table or attend an event during Donor Awareness Month. If you did, I'm sure that you received more from it than you thought you would have. It may have brought a smile to your face and even a tear to your eye. Thanks to the staff at AGH, UPMC, CORE and the TRIO Celebration of Life Dinner Committee for all of your time and hard work coordinating these special events during Donor Awareness Month.

Some Pictures Taken During Donate Life Month



Rich Koper, John Schurer, Elaine Sico & Paul Armbruster
at the Thomas E. Starzl Biomedical Science Tower



Jack Silverstein at Montefiore Hospital



AGH Gift of Life Parade



Jack Silverstein at the AGH Gift of Life Parade



Candlelight Celebration
Of Life Ceremony at the
Capital Building in
Harrisburg, PA

2010 TRIO-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

There has been a change in the TRIO-Pittsburgh Board Membership. Due to personal reasons Rich Koper, Donna Wolfson and Michele Barnes have resigned. Mary Alice King has become the new President of the TRIO- Pittsburgh Chapter. She has appointed Patty Dippold as the new Vice President and Chris Armbruster as a new board member. Following is a note from the new TRIO-Pittsburgh Chapter VP, Patty Dippold:

Hi,

My name is Patty Dippold and I received a heart transplant at UPMC Presby on February 18, 2008. I am a born and raised Pittsburgher and currently live north of the city in the Leechburg-Vandergrift area. I would like to get to know all of you better and hopefully TOGETHER we can have a successful year. I was asked to be the Vice President by Mary Alice King at the volunteer brunch for CORE and obviously, I accepted. I am still not sure what my duties are but I would appreciate any and all input and guidance. I volunteer for CORE and do some speaking to nursing students and local business people.

My email address is: bobandpatdippold@yahoo.com please feel free to contact me with any ideas or criticism you may have.

My cell phone number is 724-882-0633. You may also call me but please no calls after 9PM. I go to bed early.

I hope this answers any question about who I am and how I got to be vice President. I am looking forward to a productive year.

Thanks,

Patty

As of 4-16-2010 TRIO-Pittsburgh has 74 members.

Ten members are also Individual International Members and twenty members are Family International Members.

2010 TRIO-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Alice King (President), Patty Dippold (Vice President), Rudy Molnar (Treasurer), Paul Armbruster (Corresponding Secretary), Chris Armbruster, Anna DiPilato, Shannon Flynn, Kathy Jacobs, Carol Foglia, Janice Glidewell, Lisa Hoff, Tracie Sabatine, Jo Anne Schwarz, Georgene Thomas, Robb Wilson and Colleen Yost.

2010 TRIO-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER HONORY BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Kareem Abu-Elmagd, Dr. Thomas Cacciarelli, Dr. Robert Kormos, Dr. George Mazariegos, Dr. Dennis McNamara, Dr. Srinivas Murali, Dr. Obaid Shakil Shaikh, Dr. Ron Shapiro, Dr. Thomas Starzl, Susan Stuart, Dr. Ngoc Thai, Dr. Kusum Tom and Dr. Steven Webber.

WELCOME NEW 2010 TRIO-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER MEMBERS

Ellen Kerber (Liver Recipient 7-26-09) and Bill Connelly (Heart Recipient 9-5-08)

We now have eight new members to TRIO-Pittsburgh Chapter in 2010.

HAPPY APRIL & MAY TRANSPLANT ANNIVERSARIES

Tom Wilson (Heart 4-30-97), Michele Barnes (Kidney 5-26-06),

James Caserta (Heart 5-23-98), Kim Krebs (Kidney, Bone Marrow & Islet Cells 5-25-94),

Traci Plate (Kidney 5-5-08), Wesley Rogers (Received a kidney from his father, Randy, in May of 1993 and received a kidney from his mother, Sherry, in May of 2007), David Simpson (Heart 5-7-02)

and Herbert Wollstonecraft, Jr. (Heart 5-21-87)

TRIO-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR MAY

The meeting will be held on Sunday, May 16 at 1:30 at Allegheny General Hospital, Snyder Auditorium that is on the first floor of the South Tower. The guest speaker will be Marlene Martin, a financial aid coordinator. The topic will be "Changes in the Health Care System". Free parking is available when parking at the AGH James Street Garage.

WESTERN PA KIDNEY SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS in MAY

May 9 – Pittsburgh West, King's Restaurant, Imperial, 2:30-4:30 PM.
Contact: Rich Koper 724-222-2582

May 19 - Northwestern (Pediatric), Panera Bread, Hermitage, 7:00-9:00 PM.
Contact: Lori Bible sbible6@msn.com 724-981-0368

May 23 – Westmoreland, King's Restaurant, Youngwood, 2:00-4:00 PM.
Contact: Jack Silverstein silverjacki@yahoo.com 412-427-2969

For more information about kidney disease and support groups visit www.wpakidneysupport.org

LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS for LIVER DISEASE SUPPORT

GREATER PITTSBURGH PBC (PRIMARY BILIARY CIRRHOSIS) SUPPORT GROUP
Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Panera Bread – Waterworks Mall – Fox Chapel
For more information contact Ellen Kerber or email at kerber@kerbers.com

LIVING WITH HEPATITIS SUPPORT GROUP
Meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at
330 South 9th Street, Main Bldg., Room 182 Pittsburgh, PA 15203
For more information contact Jen Warner at 412-535-2670

PITTSBURGH AREA SUPPORT GROUP
Meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month at St. Catherine of Sweden Church
2554 Wildwood Rd. Allison Park, PA 15101
For more information contact Adele Breen at 412-992-1633 or email at Adele711@msn.com

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SUPPORT GROUP
Meets every other month on the 3rd Monday (Jan, March, May, July, Sept and Nov) at
Hempfield Church of Christ 144 Hugh Black Rd Greensburg, PA 15601
For more information contact Antonia or Mike Redigan at 724-423-5948 or email at
antoniaredigan@hotmail.com

CIRROHOSIS ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP
New and free online cirrhosis support group at www.mdjunction.com/cirrhosis

For more information go to: AMERICAN LIVER FOUNDATION - WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
at www.liverfoundation.org/chapters/westernpa/

TEAM PITTSBURGH – www.teampittsburgh.org

U.S. Transplant Games in Madison, Wisconsin - July 30th through August 4, 2010!!! Less than 85 days!!!
Team Pittsburgh fundraising for 2010: “Selling Sarris Candies” If you can donate 4 to 5 hours on either
Thursday (UPMC Presbyterian) or Friday (UPMC Montefiore) to help with this fundraising event, please call
Georgene Thomas at 412-481-5473.

Another fundraising event is being conducted online: “Tastefully Simple Fundraiser” to benefit the athletes of
Team Pittsburgh through May 10th. Team Pittsburgh will earn 27% of the products ordered (before shipping)
through this online fundraiser. It ends on May 10th.

Go to www.TastefullySimple.com

Then "shop our products"

Then host/party search

Then "Team Pittsburgh"

The party will pop up and you can click on it to begin shopping! It will be open until the 10th!

Elena Carter

Tastefully Simple Team Mentor

(412) 798-1973

emcarter3@verizon.net

Consultant ID# 0044477

www.TastefullySimple.com/web/emilicarter

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday, May 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Open House to Benefit Family House – Family Assistance Fund

Hosted by **Silpada Designs** Independent Representatives Gerri Giles and Kara Ionadi

Firehouse Lounge - 2216 Penn Avenue - Pittsburgh, PA 15222

20% of retail sales will be donated to Family House!

Hors D'oeuvres will be served - Cash bar

All items will be shipped directly to your home.

Check out the jewelry online:

mysilpada.com/gerri.giles or mysilpada.com/kara.ionadi

Pre-sales are welcomed – call or email:

Gerri Giles

gilesgerri@yahoo.com

412-913-7629

Kara Ionadi

kionadi@gmail.com

412-596-8910

Sunday, May 30, 2010: “Kidney Day” at Kennywood Park

FREE Kidney Health Risk Assessment Pavilion #3 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

For more information contact: National Kidney Foundation Serving the Alleghenies at 1-800-261-4115

Saturday, June 5, 2010: “Izzie’s Dash” in memory of Isabelle Christenson.

This fun, family oriented event will celebrate the “Gift of Life” & raise awareness for the need for Organ
Donation. Registration 8:30 AM Walk begins at 9:30 AM

The walk will take place at North Boundary Park, 1171 North Boundary Rd., Cranberry Township, PA

For more information: Phone: (724) 591-6009 Website: www.izziesgifts.org Email: izziesgifts@gmail.com

Sunday, June 6, 2010: "American Liver Foundation Liver Life Walk" at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
Registration: 7:30 a.m. Walk begins: 9:00 a.m.
Can register online at www.liverfoundation.org/walk

Thursday, June 10, 2010: "American Liver Foundation 2010 Update"
Featuring the latest information from the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD), the Digestive Disease Week (DDW) & the Joint American Congress ATC
Held at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association (PAA) in Oakland
Patient Session 4:00-6:00 pm Free to attend. Light refreshments will be served.
Provider Session 5:30-9:00 pm \$20 Registration Dinner will be provided.
This session is intended for PCP's, GI physicians, hepatologists, nurses, nurse practitioners and other healthcare providers. Patients are also welcome to attend. CME & CEU credits are available.
For more information contact: Kara Hartner-Events Manager American Liver Foundation
Phone: 412-434-7077 E-mail: khartner@liverfoundation.org

UPMC E-CARDS

Go to: <http://ecards.upmc.com> . Choose a category - Select a design - Get Well, New Baby, Birthday & Holidays. Fill in the blanks and send it electronically. This includes the UPMC facilities - Bedford, Horizon, Montefiore, Passavant, Presbyterian, Shadyside, and St. Margaret.

PROGRAF VALUE CARD PROGRAM

Astellas has a Prograf value card program available to you if you qualify. All you have to do is complete the enrollment process in 3 easy steps. Once activated, this card may be used to instantly save up to \$200 on each of your next 12 prescriptions for a total savings of up to \$2,400. Please note that you are not eligible to participate in the Prograf: Value Card program if your prescriptions are paid for in part or full by any state or federally funded benefit program including but not limited to Medicare or Medicaid, Medigap, VA, DOD or Tricare or where prohibited by law. Visit www.transplantmedsavings.com or call 1-866-790-7659.

TO CONTACT TRIO-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER:

TRIO-PITTSBURGH CHAPTER – www.trio-pittsburgh.org
Office - Falk Building, Room 601, 200 Lothrop Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-647-7461 or 1-877-647-3439.

TRIO website has a calendar listing of meetings & events. Go to www.trio-pittsburgh.org and click on Calendar.

TRIO Members without email addresses call the TRIO Office (1-877-647-3439) about Support Group Meetings.

In Closing:

*Always remember to forget
the troubles that pass your way.
But never forget the blessings
That come your way each day!*