



TRIO Greater Cleveland Quarterly Newsletter

Spring, 2020 - Revised

President's Message

Hoping everyone is remaining safe and healthy in light of the COVID-19 challenges we face during this time. Amid the restrictions that have been placed upon our community to control the spread of the virus, we find ourselves with an opportunity to think about things differently and slow us down to appreciate the blessings in our lives. You, our members, are a blessing to the members of the TRIO Board, our chapter, and a tribute to our transplant community. We will continue to communicate with you as we plan and/or are notified of virtual events and opportunities that meet our mission within our transplant community. We want to stay connected with each of you!

Your TRIO Greater Cleveland Board of Trustees continues to meet and discuss ways to meet our chapter mission. In addition to expanding collaborations with our community transplant partners, we will work to expanding a diverse membership and becoming educated and more involved around advocacy initiatives. If you have interest in any of these items and/or would like to work with us to achieve our goals, please reach out with questions, comments, or ideas to Chris Shay-Downer, Chapter President, @ 216-644-6747.

Our prayers are with you all to stay safe and healthy during this time.

Sincerely,
Chris Shay-Downer



The Kidney Foundation of Ohio is dedicated to providing a broad program of direct assistance to persons with kidney disease and promoting and providing educational programs for the general public, renal professionals, patients and their families. The Foundation is one of the few health and human services agencies in Northeast Ohio to provide direct dollars to patients. All of the funds raised in Ohio, stay in Ohio.

The following programs are free of charge to qualified kidney patients within the Foundation's service area:

- Medication Assistance
- Transportation Reimbursement
- Emergency Grants
- Supportive Services

In addition to the direct assistance programs, the Foundation is committed to providing education on kidney disease to the general public, professional, and youth communities. To learn more, contact Molly Debrosse, Client Services Manager @ 216-771-2700 or mdebrosse@kfohio.org or check out their website at www.kfohio.org.

2020 Upcoming Events

World Kidney Day - POSTPONED

March 12

Donate Life Month

April 17 – Wear Blue & Green Day

April 19-25: National Pediatric Transplant Week

April 25: Celebration of Life - POSTPONED

American Liver Foundation

Virtual Liver Life Walk Cleveland 2020

May 30, www.liverlifewalk.org

THoC Walk & Run

June 14 – look for details @

www.transplanthouseofcleveland.org

Transplant Games of America

July 17-22

The Meadowlands, New Jersey

For more information,

visit www.teamohio4life.org or

email info@teamohio4life.org.

Gift of Life Walk/Run

Saturday, August 15

Kidney Foundation of OH

Annual Renal Symposium

September 24-25

Heart Transplant Support Group Dinner

September 24, Cleveland Clinic

TRIO Annual Razzles Fundraiser

September 26, 7-9p

Kidney Foundation of Ohio

October Harvest Walk

October 4, Mapleside Farms

Brunswick, OH

Donor Sabbath Observance

November 14

Strongsville United Methodist Church



TRIO Greater Cleveland Sponsors 2 Competing Athletes on Team Ohio

Congratulations to **Kathy Iliff** and **Meredith Velez**! Their registrations are being sponsored by TRIO Greater Cleveland to compete at The Transplant Games of America in July at The Meadowlands in New Jersey. Kathy received a heart transplant followed by a living related kidney from her husband and has competed in bowling at several Games. Meredith received a heart transplant 2 years ago. This will be her first time at the Games and will also compete in the bowling competition.

If you live in Ohio or were transplanted in Ohio, we would love for you to be a part of our Team Ohio family. Team Ohio doesn't just celebrate the Transplant Games together, but we spend time together outside of the games to promote organ, eye, and tissue donation and make life-long friendships. Team Ohio also works to raise money to provide apparel to team members and to offset the costs of attending the games for our participants. For more information, visit www.teamohio4life.org or email info@teamohio4life.org.

Team Ohio Contacts:

Tricia Fliehman
Board President
614-905-2170

Tonya Gomez, Team Manager
419-572-6301
Double Lung Transplant Recipient 5/25/04

TRIO Sponsors Dinner for Transplant House Residents

On January 21, 2020 TRIO Greater Cleveland sponsored a dinner for the residents at the Transplant House of Cleveland. A delicious chicken dinner with all the fixins' was provided and we met approximately 16 transplant candidates, recipients, and their families. They learned about TRIO from us and we were truly inspired by their transplant journeys exhibiting such love, strength, and perseverance. Thank you Board Members **Amy McFarlin** and **Chris Shay-Downer** and Chapter Members **Kay Merchant** and **Margie Walker** for attending and hosting the event!!



www.transplanthouseofcleveland.org



How much do you know about eye donation, transplantation and research? Chances are you know one of the 80 million Americans affected by a blinding eye disease—unable to see loved ones, drive to work or read the newspaper. Established in 1947, Eversight is the largest nonprofit eye bank network and a proud partner with LifeBanc, TRIO, the Greater Cleveland Transplant Collaboration and the rest of the donation/transplantation community.

Operating in Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey, Michigan and South Korea, we work with the families of donors to provide eye tissue for transplant patients around the world and benefit research to improve patient outcomes and cures for blinding eye diseases. Last year, 946 Northeast Ohio residents gave the gift of sight, providing nearly 1,300 individuals a second chance for sight through a cornea transplant.

In Cleveland, the Eversight Center for Vision and Eye Banking Research engages in research partnerships with leading institutions like the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and the University of Melbourne Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA). Eversight also produces innovations to enable surgeons to improve cornea transplant techniques and patient outcomes, and works with international medical communities to build capacity and develop solutions where the need for sight restoration is most critical.

Facts and opportunities to get involved are at eversightvision.org.

For any comments or inquiries, contact TRIO Greater Cleveland Chapter Board of Trustees:

Email: triocleveland@triocleveland.org or President Chris Shay-Downer cell: 216-644-6747

Or by US mail: PO Box 22333, Cleveland, OH 44122

www.triocleveland.org / Facebook: @TRIOGreaterCleveland