



In the fall of 2012, the Tampa General Hospital Foundation began a campaign to raise just over \$1 million to support the Transplant Program at TGH. With your generous help, we finished the campaign early in 2014, raising over \$1.3 million. Your contribution has been put to very good use and we are excited to update you on the progress made on the projects and programs that have been impacted by your gift.

## **Current/Ongoing Projects**

### **Transplant Houses**

The main focus of the fundraising campaign was to raise money to support the Transplant Houses. In May of 2014, we opened the first house, and in November, the second Transplant House. To say the houses have been a success is a huge understatement. They have been overwhelmingly well received and lifted the burdens of many of our patients and their families. Below are a few quotes from those who have stayed in the houses. We thought you would appreciate reading what they have said.

*“Integral to our recovery is the gem and blessing of the Transplant House. Not only did I receive world class care while in the hospital, but TGH provided a home to allow for optimal recuperation. We are here with two other families who have touched and enriched our lives tremendously. There aren’t enough words to express the level of gratitude my husband and I have for the TGH family and all you continue to do to help us reach the top of our mountains.”*

*“The Transplant House was such a needed reprieve from the goings on at the hospital. It provided me a safe haven where I could recharge and rest which simply was not possible in the hospital. I didn’t even know how much I needed the respite of a place like The Transplant House until I was given the generous opportunity to stay there.”*

In our original Case for Support for the fundraising campaign, we stated that the houses would be a home away from home, that they would not be a medical facility in any way. We are pleased to inform you we have created just that, a home away from home, and the patients we serve, the patients that you have helped, appreciate you and your generosity more that we can tell you.



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## **Research**

Another important part of the fundraising effort that you have supported was to add staff to assist with the collection and organization of data that will assist the medical professionals with research. Three decades plus of data is available and is now being utilized to help conduct studies and provide important information to physicians who specialize in organ transplantation. Below is a small sample of things that are happening due to your generous support.

- Reviewed and mined report data with from the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) for the purpose of applying for grant funds.
- Submitted an abstract to the American Society of Transplant Surgeons for Dr. Victor Bowers, Dr. Heidi Pearson and Dr. Jacentha Buggs.
- Drafted and put forward an Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission for Dr. Nyingi Kemmer and Dr. Michael T. Care.
- Met with the regulatory team regarding UNOS data collection/submission and provided coordination of student researchers with UNOS data.
- Submitted abstracts and case studies for Dr. Angel E. Alsina.
- Assisted with the expansion of project data from the summer student research program.

In addition, the positions will allow Tampa General Hospital to submit multiple grants to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), have published reports in partnership with USF Health, other reports such as a financial impact study in partnership with the University of Tampa and an abstract with the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Geriatrics & Gerontology in Toronto, Canada, presented by Drs. Victor Bowers and Jacentha Buggs.

## ***Future Projects***

### **Education**

Money raised through this campaign has been earmarked for Tampa General Hospital to sponsor a regional or national conference.

Attracting a high profile regional or national conference and bringing it to Tampa will highlight to the nation that Tampa General Hospital is one of the busiest transplant centers in the United States and will bring much needed awareness of this fact to the residents of West Central Florida.



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## **Awareness**

Money received through the Transplant Campaign was also earmarked for funding a position to assist in the creation and delivery of a program intended to raise awareness of the “Living Donor” Program which educates the community about the need for donated kidneys and the opportunity for people to become a living kidney donor for those on the wait list. This life-saving program will assist the growing number of people joining the list every day by providing valuable awareness to those who may make perfect matches to people in such great need.

The Transplant team will begin looking to fill this position soon and we look forward sharing with you the progress made during this process.

## **Conclusion**

Your gift is making life better for patients. It is making a difference to the current patients and families who stay at the Transplant Houses, and future patients who will benefit from the education, awareness and research being conducted. How do we say thank you for that kind of gift? We hope you feel good about how your dollars are being used and we look forward to continuing to make progress and providing the highest level of care to patients in need of organ transplants, both now and in the future.

Please contact the TGH Foundation Office for more information on how you can still be involved:

***Robin DeLaVergne***

*Executive Director*

*TGH Foundation*

*1 Tampa General Circle • Suite H-149*

*Tampa, FL 33606 • (813) 844-3528*

*Thank you!*



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