



Georgia Transplant Foundation

Enriching Lives Everyday

About the Georgia Transplant Foundation (GTF)

- GTF provides financial, educational, and emotional assistance to organ transplant candidates, recipients, living donors, and their families in Georgia.
- More than 10,000 Georgians have received a life-saving organ transplant.
- Nearly 3,000 Georgians are waiting to receive a transplant.
- The follow-up costs after an organ transplant procedure average about \$60,000.
- Transplant recipients must continue taking medications for the rest of their lives in order to keep their organ. The annual cost of medications after a transplant is at least \$25,000.
- The Georgia Transplant Foundation (GTF) was founded in 1992 by transplant recipient Tommy Smith, who saw firsthand the financial impact that transplantation can have on individuals and families. He gathered a team of healthcare professionals with the goal of providing emergency financial assistance, so that nobody would ever go without the medications needed to maintain a life-saving transplant.
- Today, GTF has evolved beyond its roots to become the largest organization of its kind in the country.
- GTF provided about \$750,000 in direct financial assistance to nearly 1,000 clients in the organ transplant community in 2009.
- GTF also provides educational conferences, mentoring, career counseling and training, marriage retreats, and fundraising assistance. In 2009, GTF provided about two million dollars in total services to more than 2,000 clients.
- GTF assists people like Lexi McCullough. In 2003, at the age of two, Lexi was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy and needed a heart transplant. Lexi had skilled doctors ready to perform the necessary life-saving operation, but this represented only part of the battle she faced on her path to wellness.
- The Georgia Transplant Foundation connected her family with the Access to Care program and assisted them with their fundraising efforts, providing a dollar-for-dollar match to the funds they raised leading up to Lexi's transplant.
- With the great news that Lexi had received her new heart, GTF continued to support the McCullough family by providing financial assistance to help with insurance premiums and medication costs. Today, Lexi is a healthy and vibrant transplant survivor, and represents the positive impact that contributions to GTF have on the transplant community.