Our Mission

Georgia Transplant Foundation (GTF)

The mission of the Georgia Transplant Foundation is to help meet the needs of organ transplant candidates, living donors, recipients and their families by providing information and education regarding organ transplantation, granting financial assistance and being an advocate for sustaining and enriching lives everyday.

For more information, please visit www.gatransplant.org.
About GTF

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. The Georgia Transplant Foundation impacts more than 2,000 individuals each year, supplying more than $1.5 million in direct financial assistance annually.

GTF works hard to keep administrative costs down — 85 cents of every dollar donated to our organization goes directly to support client services.

Georgia Transplant Foundation provides a complete range of services to all members of the organ transplant population in Georgia, including:

- Financial Assistance
- Educational Conferences, Seminars, and Retreats
- Career Counseling and Training
- Mentoring

In addition, GTF works in partnership with the five transplant centers in Georgia to ensure that services are coordinated with medical care and follow up:

- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
- Emory Healthcare
- Georgia Health Sciences University
- Piedmont Hospital
- Saint Joseph’s Hospital

Thanks to GTF services, more people in Georgia are living longer with transplanted organs and are resuming healthy, productive lives.

As Georgia’s organ transplant population continues to increase, GTF remains the only organization providing critical, non-medical assistance.

Contact us today:

Georgia Transplant Foundation
500 Sugar Mill Road, Suite 170-A
Atlanta, GA 30350

Email: gtf@gatransplant.org
Toll Free: 1-866-428-9411
Telephone: 770-457-3796
Fax: 770-457-7916
Financial Assistance

The Georgia Transplant Foundation’s Financial Assistance Program offers transitional, short-term support to individuals and families affected by transplantation.

Transplant Fundraising

The Transplant Fundraising Program (TFP) is offered by GTF to assist transplant candidates and recipients in preparing financially for the ongoing costs of transplantation, specifically prescription medication costs.

JumpStart Program

JumpStart helps organ transplant candidates, recipients, and their families accomplish a successful transition to employment through services, strategic partnerships and educational resources.
Support Programs

Various support programs are offered by GTF, including: Trends In Transplant (TNT) conferences, a marriage retreat weekend, and several academic scholarships.

The Mentor Project

A mentor can be the “face of hope” for someone facing transplantation.

Events & Happenings

In an effort to diversify funding and raise awareness, GTF regularly holds special events, which are open to all members of the transplant community.
Fact
The follow-up costs after an organ transplant procedure average $60,000

Financial Assistance Programs

Kara - Liver Recipient
Georgia Transplant Foundation’s Financial Assistance programs offer transitional, short-term support to individuals and families affected by transplantation. Our goal is to assist during financial emergencies and give clients the opportunity to recover and resume self sufficiency.

GTF’s Financial Assistance programs are available to applicants who have demonstrated an acute financial need related to their transplant — one that cannot be met through other resources. All programs are limited to Georgia residents. Programs serve solid organ transplant recipients, UNOS-listed candidates, and living donors. Applicants may access these programs through their transplant center social worker.

To apply for any of our Financial Assistance programs, please contact your transplant center social worker or visit www.gatransplant.org for more information.

**Financial Assistance**

**Emergency Assistance**
Aids in a crisis situation by offering transitional support for emergency needs that are not medical in nature but have a direct impact on the survival, health and well being of the transplant recipient.

**Housing Assistance**
Helps with transplant housing costs while away from home and seeking transplant-related care. This must be pre-approved and is subject to a daily maximum.

**Temporary Medication Assistance**
Helps recipients obtain medications by providing financial support on a limited basis, giving the recipient time to implement a permanent plan for medication needs. No recipient should go without transplant medications due to an inability to pay.

**Insurance Premium Assistance**
Provides financial assistance for insurance premiums. Assistance is available for a limited time.

**Living Donor Assistance**
Provides need-based assistance to living donors for financial hardships created by their donation. This must be pre-approved prior to donation. Living donors can work with their transplant coordinator or living donor advocate.

**Dental Assistance**
Provides grants to both pre- and post-transplant clients to assist in accessing appropriate dental care directly related to transplant needs. All dental care must be pre-approved.
Fact
More than 11,500 Georgians have received a life-saving organ transplant

Transplant Fundraising Program

James - Heart Recipient
Transplant Fundraising Program

The Transplant Fundraising Program (TFP) assists transplant candidates and recipients in preparing financially for the ongoing costs of transplantation, specifically prescription medication costs. GTF offers matched and unmatched personal accounts, account management, fundraising classes, and a personal webpage to be used for fundraising. Financial contributions are overseen by GTF staff and an Advisory Council, providing fiscal accountability to clients and their contributors.

An application and approval is required to be enrolled in this program. Transplant candidates must either be listed with UNOS through their transplant center, or have completed an evaluation for solid organ transplant and have been determined a suitable candidate for transplant who will be listed once fundraising goals are met. To apply for a matched or unmatched Transplant Fundraising Program account, please visit www.gatransplant.org and click on the “Fundraising Accounts” tab.

**Matched account**
- Account must be opened prior to transplant
- Provides up to $10,000 maximum match, which is primarily intended to be used for prescription medication costs
- Only $1,000 can be used for post-transplant related expenses other than medications
- Must exhibit financial need or insurance gap to be eligible for match
- Funds are disbursed after transplant
- Account is subject to a 3% administrative fee
- Must be a Georgia resident for six months prior to submitting application

**Unmatched account**
- Account may be opened pre- or post-transplant
- Funds are not matched
- Money may be used for expanded transplant costs other than medications
- Funds can be used for both pre- and post-transplant expenses

**Both accounts offer**
- Ongoing fundraising advice
- Monthly fundraising workshops
- GTF-based personal web page for fundraising
- Online donations by credit card*
- Reimbursements processed within 30 business days from the time they are received
- Option of having post-transplant medication and/or medication co-pays directly billed from a GTF-approved pharmacy to your account

* There is a minimum bank fee charged to the client’s account for credit and debit card donations.
Fact
More than 3,200 Georgians are currently waiting for an organ transplant

JumpStart Program

Melissa - Kidney Recipient
JumpStart Program

JumpStart provides the tools and information necessary to obtain part-time or full-time employment. JumpStart works in conjunction with community resources that can provide training, help obtaining health insurance benefits, maintaining Social Security benefits while working, and governmental work programs.

Since healthcare benefits are a primary contributor to post-transplant well being, JumpStart makes every effort to support clients in meeting insurance needs through full-time employment. Additionally, JumpStart can assist clients with working part-time and maintaining their Social Security benefits.

Contact JumpStart at 770-457-3796 or toll free at 1-866-428-9411, or visit us online at www.gatransplant.org and click on the “JumpStart” tab.

Our services include:
• Identifying career options
• Defining job search goals
• Utilizing skills assessment tools
• One-on-one coaching to help launch a successful job search
• Referral to educational programs and training
• Navigating Social Security Administration work incentives
• Identifying transferable skills to allow transition to a new field of work
• Information on the Americans with Disabilities Act and worksite modification protection
• Partners with Department of Labor Rehabilitation Services
• Pre-employment skills analysis
• On-the-job training opportunities
• Job readiness - preparing for the interview process (resume and interview skills)

Apprenticeship Program

The JumpStart Apprenticeship Program provides clients the opportunity to receive on-the-job training in a variety of work settings. These apprenticeships also allow clients to develop new skills, address gaps in employment, and improve the strength of their resumes, all while increasing their opportunity to receive permanent employment.

Eligibility Guidelines
To qualify, you must be a resident of Georgia, at least 16 years of age, and meet one of the following criteria:
• Organ transplant recipient
• Organ transplant candidate, UNOS listed
• The spouse of one of these individuals
• The parent of a transplanted child under the age of 21
Trends In Transplant

Trends In Transplant (TNT) Conferences offer the transplant community an opportunity to learn about current health updates and wellness tools from leading health professionals. Additionally, these one-day conferences offer a chance for attendees to network with one another and gain knowledge of resources available to help them through their transplant journey.

Academic Scholarships

Realizing that transplantation poses financial hardships on the entire family, GTF annually awards academic scholarships to selected students who are transplant recipients, dependents of a transplant recipient, living donors, or the sibling of a transplant recipient under the age of 22. The scholarships are awarded to students who are presently enrolled in a post-high-school accredited institution or beginning such a program.

Scholarships are awarded for tuition, fees, and books and may include room and board costs. Scholarships are in the amount of $1,000 and are renewable for a period up to four years depending on educational program requirements and the ability to meet grade point average standards. Applications are available online. The deadline to apply is June 1.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

The Marriage Enrichment weekend, A Step Together, is designed for post-transplant couples who value their relationship and want it to be strong and enduring while they adjust to the changes related to transplantation. The retreat is open to organ transplant recipients and their spouses/significant others, or the parents of a transplant recipient. The recipient must be more than six months post-transplant.

For more information on TNT’s, the Marriage Enrichment Weekend, Academic Scholarships or The Mentor Project, please visit www.gatransplant.org and click on the “Support Programs” tab.
Mentors can help at any stage of the process — from the moment of finding out that you or a family member needs a transplant, through the evaluation process, to waiting for the call, having surgery, recovering, and readjusting to life after transplant.

While the transplant process is a time of great hope, it can also create stress and anxiety. Our mentors know this; they've been through the process before.

The Mentor Project matches people living successfully with a transplant or living donation with people who are waiting for a transplant or are still adjusting to transplantation.

The Mentor Project provides:
• One-to-one support
• Trained mentors representing all organ groups and transplant centers in all areas of Georgia
• The matching of mentors and mentees by common experiences and situations
• Complete confidentiality

Our Mentors
All GTF mentors attend a full-day training workshop and are approved by both the transplant team and GTF staff.

Mentors can be recipients, living donors, caregivers, parents of pediatric recipients, or patients on ventricular assist devices. What they have in common is a desire to help support others through the transplant process.

All mentors answer questions privately and confidentially. Most importantly, they are good listeners, and can provide a “face of hope” to those affected by transplantation.

To talk to or to become a mentor, please complete the “I would like to request a mentor” or the “I would like to be trained as a mentor” form online at www.gatransplant.org, or you can ask your transplant center team member to refer you.
The Georgia Transplant Foundation, in an effort to diversify funding and raise awareness, regularly holds special events.

All members of the transplant community are invited to be a part of these events, either by attending, providing auction items and in-kind goods and services, or by asking your employer to become a sponsor. For more information about upcoming special events, please visit www.gatransplant.org and click on the “Happenings” tab.

**Tom Glavine’s Spring Training**

This signature event is hosted by former Atlanta Braves pitcher, Tom Glavine, and has been held annually since 1992. The fun-filled evening has raised more than $5 million since its inception for Georgia’s transplant community.

**Countdown to Kickoff**

More than 1,000 University of Georgia (UGA) football fans gather in Athens each year to interact with their favorite current and former players, to play games, and help cheer on the team prior to the season.

Hosted by former UGA players Matt Stinchcomb, Jon Stinchcomb, and David Greene, this event is a unique experience for families who love UGA.

GTF has different volunteer opportunities available with fundraising events, office help, and healthcare events. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please call 770-457-3796 or email us at volunteer@gatransplant.org.

**Community Partner Groups**

Community Partner Groups have the unique opportunity to work in their own communities by raising funds and awareness for GTF and the various services they provide.

Community Partner Groups plan and carry out fundraising events within their own communities in order to benefit GTF. No fundraiser is too big or too small; all ideas are great ideas!

For more information about Community Partner Groups in your area or how you can be involved, please visit www.gatransplant.org and click on “Community Partner Groups” at the bottom of the page, or call 770-457-3796.
Contact Us

Georgia Transplant Foundation
500 Sugar Mill Road, Suite 170-A
Atlanta, GA 30350

General Email: gtf@gatransplant.org
Transplant Fundraising Program Email: tfp@gatransplant.org
Volunteer Email: volunteer@gatransplant.org

Web: www.gatransplant.org

Toll Free: 1-866-428-9411
Telephone: 770-457-3796
Fax: 770-457-7916

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