


# UNOS<sup>SM</sup> Living Insider

Fall 2022

A close-up photograph of an older man with short, light-colored hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a bright pink polo shirt. Next to him is a young girl with voluminous, curly red hair, also smiling. She is wearing a pink and white checkered dress with white polka dots and a large pink flower accessory in her hair. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with other people.

“...there was just one small ray of light at the end of the tunnel, one miracle that I never took my eye off of because it gave me hope, strength and a reason to live — *a transplant.*”

Kirk, lung recipient

Learn what your generosity means to Kirk and the 100,000 children and adults waiting for their lifesaving transplant today.



STORY OF HOPE

*Kirk Menefee*

Every day is a gift

Your kindness gives people like Kirk the gift of more time

THE REALIZATION I WAS SOON GOING TO DIE and would not be able to live a normal life was something that I never dreamed would happen to me. I was so strong and fit that at first I didn't believe this was happening. But idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is unrelenting and like a thief in the night it slowly starts robbing your body's ability to make oxygen for yourself and to live a normal life. This disease took me down the longest darkest road I have ever been on. To not be able to do the normal things I had done all my life, like walk, climb the stairs, or just pick up my grandchildren and hug them was the lowest point in my life.

Now there was just one ray of light at the end of the tunnel, one miracle that I never took my eye off of because it gave me hope, strength and a reason to continue to live — *a transplant.*



I was given a second chance at life. The thought of a stranger losing their life yet donating a lifesaving organ so that I may return to a normal life is a debt I will never be able to repay and a responsibility that I will never forget.

I am now back to swimming two miles a day, walking 18 holes of golf and playing endlessly with my grandchildren. This miracle I've been given starts with thanking God, my donor, my family, and all the many doctors, surgeons and nurses.



*To once again be able to live a normal life is the greatest gift I have ever been given.* Sometimes you don't realize how much you have until something is taken away from you. Looking back at what you've gone through, you feel so immensely grateful.

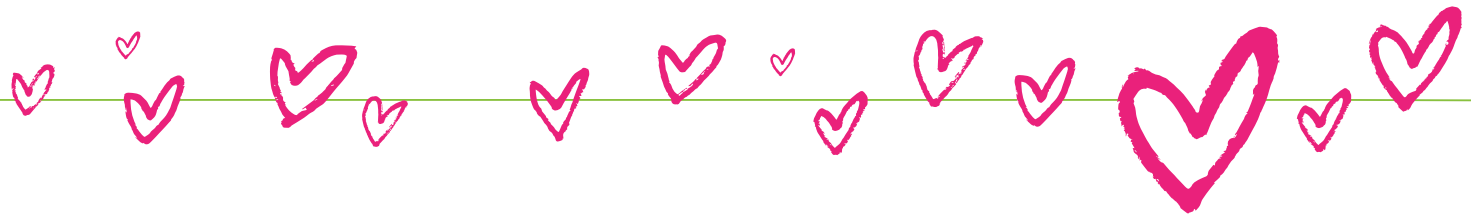
Your generosity saves lives like Kirk's. Each year, more and more people are matched to lifesaving transplants because of the innovations you invest in. You are an invaluable part of our **1 million transplant milestone!**

**Be Inspired!**

Read more stories of hope or share your connection to donation and transplant by scanning here:







This September  
the U.S. reached

1million

organ transplants,  
but it's only the beginning.

Thanks to you and the selfless generosity of organ donors, we are able to celebrate:

- 1 million second chances.
- 1 million new beginnings.
- 1 million reasons to be grateful.

### One in a million

Nicholas Peters had a heart full of love. A spirit full of joy. Always dancing, always smiling; everywhere he went, he lit up the room. Tragically, on his 25th birthday, Nicholas lost his life in an auto accident. In honoring his wish to be a donor, his mother, Maria, and her family agreed, "That's too much love and magic to bury in the ground." That love saved a grandmother in Texas, his magic helped two women see, and his joy set a young man free from dialysis. And Nicholas' heart gave 12-year-old Jean Paul the chance to be a kid again.

You can make a difference like Maria's son, Nicholas. By registering to be an organ donor, you can save up to eight lives.

Today more than 40,000 transplants are performed each year nationwide, double the number of transplants done 25 years ago, **but we still have work to do.**

Your continued support helps us reach the next 1 million transplants even sooner by investing in initiatives to improve equity and increase transplants performed year over year. Your generosity gets us closer to realizing our vision of a lifesaving transplant for everyone in need.

Join us in commemorating this milestone! Visit [LivingItForward.org](https://LivingItForward.org) to read and share stories about some of the people who have been forever touched by your generosity and discover how you can help save more lives.

In 2022, Maria and Jean Paul met for the first time. Holding her close, Jean Paul said, "It felt like I was hugging her for Nicholas."



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### Meet Curtisha Anderson UNOS Ambassador

“Receiving a kidney transplant ignited the fire that drove me to be a UNOS Ambassador volunteer. Many people are not aware that a transplant is an option for them. Although it is only a treatment and not a cure, it provides an opportunity for a better quality of life. I volunteer to help spread awareness and to educate patients. I also volunteer to share how important organ donation is and how great the need is.

Since the transplant, I am doing great. I am able to work, travel, and live a pretty healthy life. My life has completely changed because someone said ‘yes’ to organ donation. What an amazing act of love!”

## SAVING LIVES TOGETHER

UNOS’ mission is to unite and strengthen the donation and transplant community to save lives. The passion, wisdom, and lived experience of our volunteers and supporters continuously improves our nation’s transplant system, making it the best in the world! You, along with hundreds of others in our community, help save more lives by being an advocate of organ donation and transplant in your everyday life. You heighten visibility and amplify the importance of this critical work.

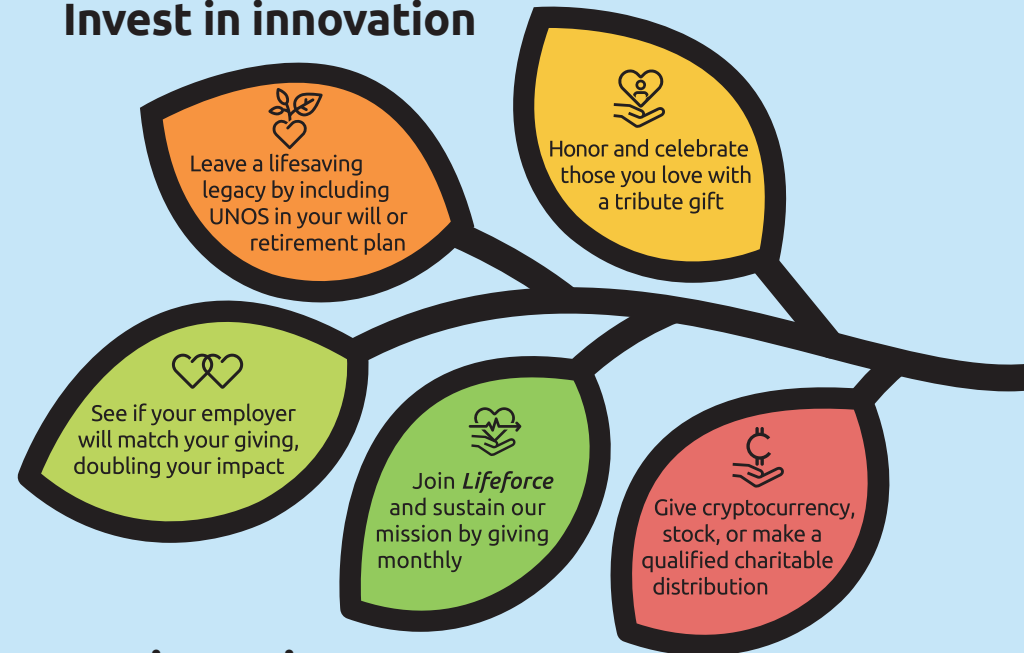
*Thank you for being a part of our community!*

Learn more about how to get involved by visiting:  
[unos.org/community/get-involved/](https://unos.org/community/get-involved/)

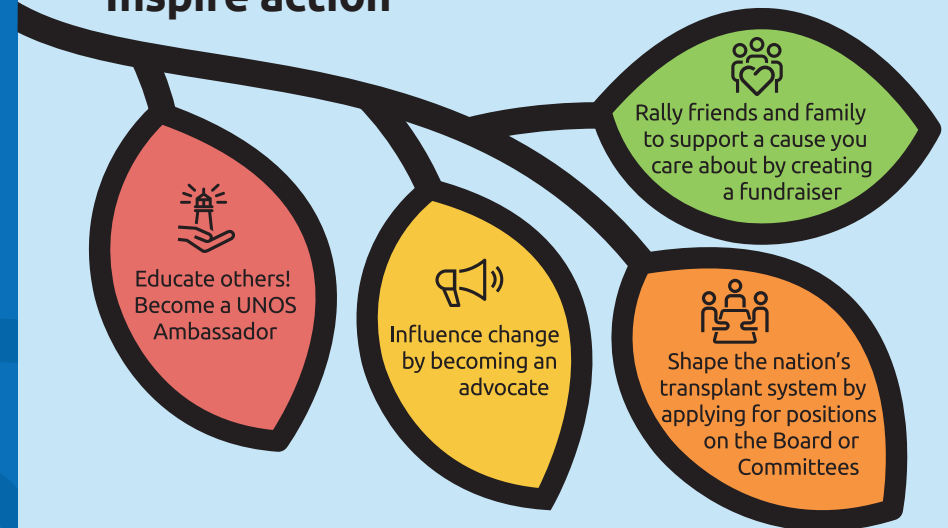
## YOUR GIVING MATTERS

Discover all of the ways you can make a difference and save more lives by dedicating your time, investments, and talents! *Learn more at [unos.org/give](https://unos.org/give)*

### Invest in innovation



### Inspire action



### Save the Date!

#LifeGivingTuesday is November 29th

# THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SPONSORS!

Our member sponsors and corporate partners support collaborative solutions developed from **UNOS Labs™** to improve the transplant system; maintenance of the **National Donor Memorial**, located at UNOS headquarters in Richmond, VA; and **Transplant Living**, our free education resource center relied on by tens of thousands of patients and their caregivers. We deeply appreciate each organization for their investment in UNOS private programs and we are proud to recognize their annual support.



## BENEFACTORS

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*Please scan QR code to learn more:*



**UNOS**<sup>SM</sup>

UNITED NETWORK FOR ORGAN SHARING

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[www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org)