

Lyric of Life
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LOL

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Terry Benson / LOL Director / Father



LIP-SYNC THEME FOR 3RD LOL BENEFIT

You're Invited!

LYRIC of LIFE is in its third year as a nonprofit, and Saturday, April 29, will mark that celebration for Lyric Marie Benson. The Valentine Room in the Uptown Theater will again welcome supporters of LOL for a meaningful and fun-filled evening.

Because of Lyric's involvement with family lip-sync parties through the years, lip-sync will be part of the evening fun. One of the videos that will be presented shows segments of Lyric's performances at those parties from as early as age six. Some of the lip-sync "veterans" will be on hand to blaze a trail of entertainment... well, hopefully, at least bring a smile. It will be interesting.

The importance of the LOL benefit will be organ donation. As a beautiful person and an organ donor, Lyric inspired many people. LOL would not

exist without the results of one horrible night. Other video tributes will be shown in honor of Lyric's wonderful life.

The historic Uptown Theater is located at 3700 Broadway in Kansas City, MO. Entrance to the Valentine Room is on Valentine Street, about a half block west of Broadway.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and event activities will begin soon after 7. DJ-style music will be played during

the evening for dancing and a cash bar plus light snacks will be available. A \$35 donation is requested by mail or at the door. See you there! Also check:



Lyric, age 7
Deck party '88

www.lyricoflife.org



Lyric, age 17
Deck party '98

Living Donation Amazing

Everyone should feel good about becoming an organ donor and a chance to give the gift of life. When a person can experience that opportunity, it stands to be the ultimate act of giving. Sherry and April Copeland are a mother and daughter example of that wondrous miracle.

Sherry received her first kidney transplant July, 1995, in hometown Joplin, MO. As can happen in transplantation, that situation failed last year. What resulted was an even stronger bond between Sherry and April. This time around, April used her match status to be the donor her mother needed. LOL was able to take care of the two round-trip flights to the Midwest that were necessary for April to complete her mission. The transplant took place August 19, 2005, at St. Luke's Hospital.

April, an avid runner who works in the aviation industry, has recovered and is back to normal. Besides the love of flying, she loves to read and is a huge music fan. As for Sherry, she can now extend beyond her Bachelor's degree in Business Accounting. With her renewed health, she will look toward a pharmaceutical degree. With the need for post-surgery meds, that just makes sense.



Sherry and April

Mourning Families

Funerals are a sad reality of life. Grief takes a toll on individuals and families at all levels. LOL has lessened the financial burden of three families in the wake of their tragic experiences by paying for all of two funerals and part of the other. In each of these terrible happenings, the families decided in favor of organ donation as a means of helping others.

The unexpected loss of infant Jazmin Lopez-Alday was more than parents Gonzalo and Rosa could handle. Jazmin sustained a traumatic brain injury. The Topeka parents, family, and friends paid respects at Penwell Gabel Midtown Chapel in Topeka.

Samuel Seda, 37, was hit and killed by a car while crossing Highway 24 in Independence, MO. He was holding his 18-month-old daughter, who was treated at Children's Mercy Hospital. Services were held at Morticians Service in Kansas City, MO.

Head trauma resulting from a gunshot wound caused the death of Dario Mendoza, 20, of Kansas City, KS. His mother, Teresa Carillo, chose Maple Hill Funeral Home to care for the funeral arrangements.

"Lyric Marie Benson helps represent why the U.S. Transplant Games exist. I will represent Lyric and LOL at the June games in Louisville, KY."

---Terry Benson



NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION
U.S. TRANSPLANT
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Third Time the Charm?

It seems that many people are dealt a bad hand in life. It's easy to see why Kevin Ballard could have thought that. After he and his mother moved from his birthplace of Pamona, CA, to Missouri, Kevin found out he had only one kidney. Not only at age 12 did he have one kidney, but it was flawed.

A popular place became Children's Mercy Hospital. Eventually, the kidney failed and it was time for dialysis at age 21. Kevin's first new kidney came at age 23, received from his mother. Soon after that he was married. Through the next nine years, a daughter and two sons, Whitney, Jake, and Hunter, comprised the family.

But as things seemed to be fine, a turn for the worse happened in the mid-90's as he got CMV (cytomegalovirus). The family was called in one night as it appeared Kevin wouldn't make it. His second transplant was in January, 1997. However, it was his marriage that next failed.

Within two years, Kevin married Tanya and they had a son, Chase. Tanya already had a daughter and son, Shelby and Thaddeus. If you're keeping track, they now had a family of eight. With many to be responsible for, Kevin suffered a second kidney failure prior to Thanksgiving, 2003.

With enough despair in his life to consider giving up, Kevin's loving family gave him strength to forge ahead on dialysis. Finally, a call came for his third transplant which took place January 31, 2004 at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Everyone hopes that the third time really is the charm. LOL helped Kevin with some initial medical costs when Medicaid guidelines changed. When healthy, Kevin works at a state correctional facility near his home.

LOL Liaisons Get "Assists"

The connection that LOL needed to help others has so far come in the form of two caring professionals. After a meeting with Ray Gabel, Midwest Transplant Network's (MTN) educational coordinator, the idea was to go straight where the stories happen. Emerging to "assist LOL assist others" were Karen Cottrell of St. Luke's Hospital and Gigi Vulgamott of MTN. Both are in a position to recommend to LOL those families that face tough financial challenges.



Karen

works with pre- and post-op needs for kidney patients and their families. As a licensed clinical specialist, Karen counsels, evaluates, and coordinates needs for those in fragile situations.

A widowed mother of five adult children, Karen loves her downtime to be outdoors. Walking, camping, and gardening help ease the job stress. Her job commitment goes to a hospital that performed 51 transplants in 2005, 21 from living donors.

Gigi has worked 4 1/2 years for an organ procurement organization (OPO) as a Hospital and Family Services Coordinator. There are nearly 60 of these OPO's representing the country as federal non-profit entities. MTN covers all of Kansas and the western 2/3 of Missouri.

Trained to support families in need of crisis intervention and decision counseling, Gigi is part of a team that locates recipients, arranges surgical recovery teams, and follows up with families. The same procedures apply to tissue/eye donation. In 2005, there were 169 organ donors at MTN and 960 tissue/eye donors.

With a speech communications degree from Wake Forest and a nursing degree from William Jewel, Gigi, a single mother, manages to keep track of her three children: Lauren 17, Dillon 15, and Blake 13.



Gigi

Inci-dentally, Be Prepared

Cleanliness is a priority in any medical facility, and transplants require the utmost preparation in that area. Dental prophylaxis (prevention) before and after transplants helps insure a decrease in the risk of oral pathogens which can cause a systemic infection. LOL had the opportunity to absorb costs in mandatory dental procedures for two pre-transplant patients.

Kidney disease was Michael Mason's disability. He completed chef school on the east coast, but the disease slowed him down. Things worsened with a marriage breakup and losing his home to fire in Brookfield, MO. The best news was the new kidney he would receive. A dental workup was needed to round out his preparation. Hope returned with that operation. He currently is staying with his brother, a teacher in St. Louis.

As a child in Carthage, MO, strep throat led to kidney failure for Sheri Stephens. That, along with a difficult family life, made the odds less favorable. Somehow, Sheri not only finished high school, but also cosmetology school. Following wisdom teeth extraction, Sheri bravely faced the kidney transplant she required on December 29, 2005. She is currently more comfortable after being taken in by her "surrogate" donor family. Now maybe with a smile, Sheri can enjoy treating clients to a great hair day... and also have a wonderful story to tell them.



Kevin and Tanya