

LYRIC of LIFE  
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# LOL

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Terry Benson / LOL Director / Father



## First Family Attends 3rd **LYRIC of LIFE** Benefit

It may not have been the *presidential* family, but the Greg Bolton family meant more to the LYRIC OF LIFE event on April 29. Greg was the first transplant recipient to attend an LOL benefit after being assisted by LOL. The entire family of six was on hand.

Greg received a kidney at St. Luke's Hospital in 2002 from his wife, Nuyrea, a fortunate match. Initially, he didn't want her to be the donor, but finally took advantage due to Nuyrea's insistence. LOL assisted Greg with medical needs to help take him to the next step of progress.

After high school dating in the Kansas City area, Greg and Nuyrea finally went different directions. They each had a son from relationships before reconnecting at church. Wedding bells were in 2001. They brought to their marriage Greg Bolton III and Deonte, now 11 and 6 respectively. Two additional boys since the marriage are Gzavel and Marquon, 6 and 5.



**Greg and Nuyrea Bolton with sons**

Currently, Nuyrea is close to finishing school in radiology. Greg is holding down the home front with the children as he awaits work opportunities. He has a graphic arts background. The altruism, determination, and family unity displayed by the Boltons are shining reasons for their attendance being so welcomed.

### More Living Donors

Joining Nuyrea as living donors at the benefit were married couple Tom and Joyce Falsey, and St. Luke's Hospital staff member, Noemi Condra. Tom and Joyce donated kidneys to anonymous individuals awaiting life-saving transplants. They eventually met their matching recipients. From that came an article in People Magazine (10-18-04) and an appearance on The Jane Pauley Show. The Falseys live in the K.C. area and remain involved within the organ donor community.

Born in the Phillipines and raised in Hawaii, Noemi was determined to help her daughter, Jo. Diagnosed with Lupus as a teen, Jo suffered kidney failure in 2000, several years after high school. Despite Noemi's high blood pressure risk, she and Jo, at age 26, went to surgery 12-12-00. All had gone well until an antibiotic problem this past spring. Jo is back on the list and looking for new hope again. Noemi will help this time in other ways.

## **Lip-sync Adds Fun, Enthusiasm**

No family lip-sync parties had taken place since 2001. Losing Lyric seemed to put that annual party on the far back burner. But with some encouragement to revive what had been Lyric's "early stage years," it was brought back to the '06 LOL event. In order:

Lyric's "g-ma," Wynne Mihura, opened the 8-song agenda as she portrayed *Sly of Sly and the Family Stone*. At age 78, her afro wig and moonwalk got things hopping with "Dance to the Music."

Probably the most well-received act of the evening was David Welch and his 11-year-old daughter, Emma. With an obvious Tina-wig, Emma wowed the crowd with Tina Turner's "Proud Mary." David's "Ike" submissively, but powerfully, backed up her stage presence.



**Proud father with Emma**

The *Fabulous Eggbeaters* wound their way through the crowd before colorfully stepping on stage with the *Sister Sledge* favorite, "We Are Family." With flaming wigs and eggbeater microphones, the dancing trio included Ann Spitz (psychedelic orange hair), Amanda Davis, Lyric's aunt (brilliant burgundy hair), and Sarah Janaicke, Lyric's step-sister (blinding blue hair).

(see "Lip-sync"...)

## **Happy Birthday, Lyric**



**Lyric's first birthday**

It's now a difficult time of year to look forward to, but September 20 marks what would be Lyric's 26th birthday. Though the celebration will basically be an introspective one by family, it can also be a time for all to remember that it is Lyric who propels LYRIC of LIFE.

Individuals are helped throughout the year by LOL funds, despite the main pledge drive occurring near and through each April. LOL welcomes contributions year round.....maybe a *Virgo's* birthday would be a reason to help a great cause this time of year. Lyric took her first steps on her first birthday. LOL is still taking some first steps toward helping others.



Lyric's beat goes on through a powerful billboard message

**Lip-sync** (cont. from p.1) Johnny Cash hit the stage next.....a.k.a. Lowell Davis. His rendition of "Folsom Prison Blues" characterized the country singer in his all-black outfit, guitar, and black hair (a marked contrast to his normal white). His wife, Loretta, came on stage in June Carter Cash's classic long dress and flowing hair for song number two, "We Got Married in a Fever."

Queen Latifah took a back seat on the next song, "When You're Good to Mama," performed by an entertaining Joan Hartung. A sidenote.....Joan sewed her own gold dress for this performance to push authenticity to the limit.

Wynne was back in action with her second stage show, this time as a Dixie Chick, with "Tonight the Heartache's on Me." She sipped Shirley Temples during this song to drown her sorrows.

Finishing up the evening were Lisa Trainer and Terry Benson doing the Brian Setzer tune, "You're the Boss." Most could probably predict with ease who REALLY was the boss.

## Sherryl Looks to Better Days

Being dialyzed for 20 years takes an extreme endurance and toll. Now at age 49 in Kansas City, MO, Sherryl is hoping to rid that encumbrance. Working only part-time for her church has made it a slower process to get in position for a kidney transplant. A medical bill that needed to be paid was taken care of by LOL. That done, Sherryl can take the next step toward the day that life becomes much easier.

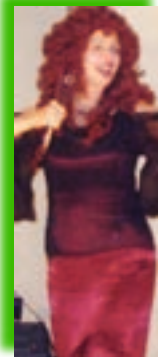
## Fall Brings Sadness, Donation

Beverly Wilson was obviously distraught as she explained that her husband, Andre, suffered head trauma in a fall. That led to a loss of brain function and ultimately he became an organ donor at Beverly's request. LOL took part in funding the funeral which was provided by L.M. Morris Funeral Chapel in Kansas City, MO. Andre was 31.



Cash?

Lowell Davis



Sledge?

Amanda Davis

## PICKETTS FENCED IN NO LONGER

Donna Kelly was familiar with Lyric's story and Web site from the Internet. She was also a staff writer for The Ledger newspaper out of Lakeland, FL. That combination started the ball rolling when her long-distance request of LOL followed on the heels of her Ledger story of May 12, 2006. Carl Pickett needed a kidney.....soon.

Carl and Kim Pickett live in rural Polk county, Florida. The churchgoing family includes three homeschooled children and the oldest, Daniel, 22, who is on his own. However, it was Stephen Summers who became the saving grace. Army Pfc. Summers is Daniel's best friend and like another son to Carl. He was the 1 in 50,000 chance to help Carl. Stationed in Alaska, Summers gave up his dream of becoming a paratrooper in order to do what he knew was right. The successful transplant took place July 21,



Carl and Stephen

2006.

At 44, the new lease on life causes optimism for Carl to one day return to his tree-trimming business. With 30 pounds of cysts removed from his bad kidneys and a new one to take their place, he at least now has hope. LOL funds helped toward dental preparation and necessary medicines for his transplant. With all the recent hurricane news out of the southeast, Carl Pickett represents some good ol' fortunate Florida feedback.

## GREAT ATTITUDE HELPS TOUGH ODDS

Sheena Essig was born into a very difficult situation. She was blind in one eye, had a heart murmur, two thumbs, and only one kidney. Her mother, Elaine Shepard, had Rubella (German measles) in her first trimester of pregnancy with Sheena.

Elaine said that Sheena has a positive personality and has maintained a wonderful outlook on life. Sheena has done so well that she has a six-year-old daughter, Alexis, who just started first grade. Sheena was also the March of Dimes poster child in 1975.

Problems with her one kidney, however, mandated necessary steps for a transplant. LOL took care of dental work that helped that process along. She is now awaiting the kidney transplant to help insure a better quality of life.