

## Take A Look Inside

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- NFT announces new referral counselor, Braden Martin. See page 3
- Web based *CarePages* helps families keep in touch while loved ones are in the hospital. Article on page 3
- Author honors Dad's love of the outdoors with a story of his life after a double lung transplant. Story on page 5
- National Foundation for Transplants has a new address. Details are on the back cover.

## A FEW MIRACLES . . .



Lori Bierman and her son, Cameron

Although she's only 27, Lori Bierman knows a little something about miracles.

## MIRACLES

"I guess that I have been lucky enough to receive a few of those in my life," she explains.

## DO HAPPEN

At age 21, Lori received the miracle of a second chance at life with a liver transplant. Her body unexpectedly rejected the new organ, but Lori was able to receive a second transplant Aug. 31, 2002. At first, the second new liver worked beautifully. But several months later Lori's body began rejecting it, no matter what combination of drugs the doctors tried. When she finally received a prognosis, it was grim—something in her body kept her from absorbing the anti-rejection medications. She was told her new liver would last only about six months, and a third transplant would do no good.

Somehow, her body began responding to the immunosuppressants—her liver function improved, and Lori became stable.

Then on Dec. 15, 2005, Lori experienced what she considers the best miracle of all—the birth of her son, Cameron. Born 14 weeks early, Cameron weighed only 1 pound and 13 ounces and had to stay in the hospital for three months. But today, at 2 years old, "he is very healthy and growing fast—his dad and I can't keep up," Lori says. "He was already tested for my blood disease and it was negative, so we are again, very lucky! . . . I Love being a mom; it is the best thing in my life."

Lori's condition remains good. "I have been greatly blessed," she says.

Lori also considers NFT to be one of her blessings. Through a fundraising campaign in Lori's community, NFT was able to provide Lori with the financial help she needed for her treatment and medications.

"What a wonderful program NFT has," she says. "You will never know the comfort and support that my family and I have felt from you and the whole organization. You gave my parents hope when all roads seemed to have ended. I will always be thankful for that."

**"What a wonderful  
program NFT has"**

## Year in Review:

**2006 was a year of achievement and progress for NFT. Although our fiscal year will not end until April 30 of 2007, here are a few of the highlights for the recent calendar year:**

- **NFT spread the word** about the importance of bone marrow donation and helped make it possible for several patients to begin the search for a matching donor, thanks to a grant from The Linda Tallen and David Paul Kane Foundation for Cancer Research and Education. In 2006, NFT produced and distributed more than 26,000 brochures explaining the importance of bone marrow and stem cell donation in treating various forms of cancer. We provided grants to get searches underway for six patients fighting lymphomas or leukemias and helped fund donor recruitment programs in several cities.
- **NFT provided 62 transplant patients** and/or their caregivers with free night stays while receiving pre-transplant or post-transplant care away from home. The 128 free hotel nights were made possible through NFT's *Home Away From Home* partnership with Roche. In addition, NFT patients traveling for their transplant care also received free phone cards for calling their family at home. The phone cards also were made possible through *Home Away From Home*.
- **In the last quarter of 2006, NFT received** a \$100,000 gift from Astellas USA Foundation to provide emergency grants to transplant patients. NFT is making The Astellas Grant Fund available to patients enrolled with NFT who are required by a transplant center to show a financial reserve or pay a deposit of \$5,000 or more prior to receiving a transplant. The grants are 50 percent matching grants, with the maximum possible grant of \$2,000.
- **NFT Board of Directors developed** a new focused mission statement: National Foundation for Transplants assists those needing a transplant to create a future with hope. This succinct, clear vision statement came out of year-long work by the board, still in progress, to develop a sound strategic plan.
- **NFT's website underwent a redesign** which allows visitors friendly new ways of learning about our patients, making donations and accessing other transplant-related information.
- **NFT completed its first full year** as a member of the Program for Nonprofit Excellence (PNE), an intensive program to help the organization embrace change and reach its full potential. 2007 will mark our second year in the three-year program.



**Our Mission:**

**National  
Foundation for  
Transplants  
assists those  
needing a  
transplant to  
create a future  
with hope.**

# NFT Offers New Services

## Welcome Braden Martin

NFT is pleased to introduce Braden Martin as our new Patient Referral Counselor. Braden is the first contact for patients and transplant professionals seeking information and assistance from NFT.

Prior to joining NFT, Braden was a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services. She holds a master's degree in counseling and a bachelor's degree in educational psychology from Mississippi State University.

In addition to her counseling background, Braden has insight into the concerns of patients calling NFT because her grandfather received a liver transplant from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1996. Today, she says, he is "doing great."



Braden Martin

"Our family was fortunate in that his insurance covered most of his needs, but I know personally of the stress that a family goes through while waiting for the transplant," she says. "I remember being pulled out of school twice because doctors didn't think he would make it. That first-hand experience helps me relate to what patients and their families are going through."

Braden and husband, Brett, were married last summer and are the proud owners of two Rottweilers. Having grown up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, she enjoys wakeboarding as well as hiking and camping.

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through . . .**

## NFT Offers *CarePages* Services

NFT now offers a convenient, easy way for families and friends to communicate while a patient is in the hospital, through *CarePages*.



Visitors to NFT's home page [www.transplants.org](http://www.transplants.org) can simply go to the *CarePages* icon at the bottom right of the screen and click to learn how they can build a free, easy-to-use Web page that will help families stay connected, informed and supported while a loved one is hospitalized or receiving care.

Or they can directly access the service by going to:

[www.carepages.com/transplants](http://www.carepages.com/transplants).

With *CarePages*, the patient or caregiver can post photos and daily updates on the patient's treatment. Friends and family, who can access the page through a password, not only can stay abreast of the patient's progress, but also can post their support and encouragement.

In our special partner program, *CarePages* will donate \$10 per "active *CarePage*" created over a 3 month period to NFT as a way of saying "thanks."

"*CarePages* helps patients and their loved ones remain close when they most need it," says Jackie Hancock, Jr., NFT president. "We are happy to help provide this important service."

# New Patient Campaigns

## Welcome New Patients

*NFT welcomes the following patients who have enrolled with us for assistance since our fall newsletter.*

**Tracey Backus, North Carolina – liver**

**Mary Louise Barnes, Oklahoma – liver**

**Theresa Barnes, Georgia – liver**

**Crystal Brown, Georgia – kidney**

**Cynthia Curtis, Missouri – double lung**

**Myrtle Downen, Oklahoma – liver**

**Tamara Feris, Washington – autologous stem cell**

**Julius Ford, North Carolina – kidney**

**April Gower-Cooper, Oklahoma – pancreas**

**Walter Hill, Georgia – liver**

**Carmen Huskamp, South Carolina – double lung**

**Roger Jaco, Tennessee – liver**

**Naomi Lawson, Oklahoma – liver**

**Dennis Privett, Oklahoma – heart**

**James Reese, North Carolina – kidney/pancreas**

**Douglas Sanders, North Carolina – kidney**

**Sylvia Scales, Virginia – kidney**

**Hector Vargas, Texas – liver**

**Stanley Zeigler, Georgia – kidney**

**John Zoellner, Oklahoma – liver**



Crystal Brown



Myrtle Downen



Carmen Huskamp



James Reese

# Life After A Double Lung Transplant

## MY DAD'S LIFE AFTER A DOUBLE LUNG TRANSPLANT: A SPORTSMAN'S STORY

By Denise Chambers



Donald Wilson

If you ask Donald Wilson of Metamora, Indiana when his birthday is, you will get three different answers. His actual physical birthday in 1949, his Christian re-birth in 1967, and his “second chance at life” when he received his double lung transplant on March 3, 2005 at the Cleveland Clinic.

Like many others, my Dad loves the outdoors. He is an avid hunter and fisherman. After being diagnosed with COPD, we never thought he would ever again be able to enjoy his passion for the outdoors. I was about seven months pregnant with my second daughter when my Dad had been admitted to the hospital for the second time and almost lost his battle with COPD. We prayed that the Lord would

**God answers prayer. My Dad got better and was released from the hospital.**

allow him to stay with us to see the birth of his second granddaughter, watch both girls grow up, and introduce the outdoors to them. God answers prayer. My Dad got better and was released from the hospital. He was then put on the lung transplant list and received his new lungs in March of 2005. It was an uphill battle, but he landed on top.

The difference in my Dad after the transplant was amazing.

People who hadn't seen him since he was very sick were in awe. They could not believe how wonderful and healthy he looked.

Today, Dad is doing wonderfully. His granddaughters are now five and two, and they love being with their “Papaw.”

**My dad has a second chance at life.**

For the first time in a long time, Dad is able to do the things he loves, including pursuing his passion for the outdoors. Although he has to be aware of his limitations, he fishes and hunts whenever possible. On November 18th 2006, he shot an 11-point buck with his bow, an amazing task considering a couple of years ago he was so weak he couldn't even pull back the bow string.

Dad has a new found enthusiasm for life and the outdoors. Thanks to the organ donor, the Cleveland Clinic, NFT, friends, family, and God, my Dad has a second chance at life. Our prayers were answered.

# Congratulations!

## Recent Transplants

*NFT is happy to announce that 15 patients we are assisting with fundraising received their transplants in the months of October 2006 through January 2007.*

*Congratulations to:*

### October

Tracey Backus, liver



Tracey Backus



Authur Potter



Gregory Thompson

### November

Claudie Akins, heart

Johnny Brown, liver

Naomi Lawson, liver

Harry Panagopoulos, kidney

Arthur Potter

autologous stem cell

Kevin Roulain, liver

Gregory Thompson, kidney

John Zoellner, liver



Shelia Kahl

### December

Jerald Dunn, kidney

Cheryl Easton, liver

Matt Griffin, lung

Sheila Kahl, double-lung

April Roberts, double-lung



David Rubenstein

### January

David Rubenstein,

autologous stem cell



5350 Poplar Avenue  
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800-489-3863 • 901-684-1697  
FAX 901-684-1128

Comments: Connie Gonitzke  
cgonitzke@transplants.org

## Need More Information?

Are you or a loved one facing

large transplant-related bills

that will not be fully covered

by insurance? To talk with

someone directly about how

National Foundation for

Transplants assists patients

and their families,

call us toll-free

at 800-489-3863.

## Memorials and Honorariums

Following are the donations specified as memorials or honorariums received by NFT during the months of October 2006 through January 2007.

### In Honor of:

**Joseph & Terry Berardoni**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Koury

**Coldwell Banker, Verdae Staff**  
Anne Marie DeFronzo

**Brenda Elmore**  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott W. Hall, Jr.

**Jane Erickson**  
Sue Rametta

**Missy Fraser**  
Lynn A. Lowmaster

**C. Dan Joyner**  
Prudential C. Dan Joyner Co.,  
Realtors-Greer Office

**Joseph & Anne Kottler**  
Lisa Scheinkopf

**Amy Mockabee**  
Mr. & Mrs. David F. Proctor

**Tuck, Tommy & John McAfee**  
Thomas McAfee Funeral Home  
Associates

**Terry McGee**  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy G. McVay

**Ilene Norma**  
Phyllis & Marty Bloom

**Mike Owens**  
Dennis Strecker

**The Family of Vinnie Parisi**  
Suzanne Lerner

**Gary & Merely Popiel**  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter R. Spickenagel

**Lori & Brian Robinson**  
Mrs. & Mrs. William C. King

**Rosemary Van Horn**  
Diane L. Kleckner

**Ruth Wallace**  
Carol C. West

**Benjamin White**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles White

**Pauline M. Woodside**  
Carolyn Edwards  
Sarah R. Fischbach  
Harry Stephens  
Lucie S. Townsend

**Marguerite Wyche**  
Elizabeth Cox

Brenda Elmore  
G.M. & Felicia Griggs  
Kelly J. Kelly

**Mr. & Mrs. Doyle R. Yates**  
Sarah R. Fischbach

### In Memory of:

**Louis Alpert**  
Dan Alpert, M.D.

**Doris Louise Hines Andrew**  
Mary H. Bishop  
Mr. & Mrs. V. Dale Blickenstaff  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Gene Chandler  
Martin Gauby  
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall I. Guiles  
Linda Kelpin

**Willy Apfel**  
Jenny Apfel

**Jim E. Butler**  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Burch

**Gary Christenson**  
Mr. & Mrs. James Allison  
Bridget Amore  
Bruce & Ellen Bartlett  
Patricia Benhmida  
Bettie Tiller  
Milena Pavlovich-Caldwell  
Mrs. & Mrs. C. H. Carpenter  
Aileen Christenson  
Rakel I. & Arnulf Dahlberg  
Fredric & Judith Delein  
The Ed Dowdle Family

Jean Harger  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hovland  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Jensen  
Mohammad & Mary Jo Ozmai  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary W. Powell  
Marilyn Schalge  
Rose Skarie  
Christin Treuer  
Jeanne M. Tucker  
Helen C. Vaggalis  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Walsh, Jr.

**Sue Dick**  
Mustang Masonic Lodge No. 407

**Wilbur Eyler**  
Patricia Eyler

**Ronald Franklin**  
Estella Clasen

**Kerry Hunt**  
Whitestone Missionary Baptist Church

**Barbara Kilborn**  
Mr. & Mrs. Royce L. Moore

**Carl Lindemann**  
Marion E. Waugh

**Katherine H. Manouzi**  
Sonya E. Friedrich  
John W. Modaff  
P. R. Standefer

**Dorothy K. McKinney**  
R. J. McKinney

**Henry B. Mercier**  
Tangela & Darrell R. Weimer

**Flora Pretti**  
Nancy McGlocklin Laycook

**Joyce G. Reed**  
Dr. & Mrs. James Hallock  
Rodney J. Hassler  
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Hoffman  
Gail King  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kragel  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary R. Vanderpool  
Kathryn Wetherington

**Sheryl Rogers**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Addison  
Fidelity Information Services  
Mr. & Mrs. Garry P. Haggerty  
Mrs. JoAnn Harding & family  
Courtney Kahle  
Sherri Lauritsen  
Mr. & Mrs. John Kangas  
Linda Petterson  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Raice  
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Veyon & family  
Anthony Villani  
Mr. & Mrs. Max Warnack

**Judy Schultz**  
Elbert Thomas

**Raymond Silva**  
Lisa Silva

**Janice Skinner**  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Minton

**Steve Sutton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Ooten

**Mike Torres**  
Ruth Ferron

**Dub Wells**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack England

**Roy & Evelyn Williford**  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Amon

## Patient Deaths

*NFT extends sympathy to the families and friends of the following patients who died in the months of October 2006 - January 2007:*

**October**  
George Steppe  
Joyce Reed  
Donna Whitgrove

**November**  
Sheryl Rogers

**December**  
Gary Christenson

## Your Donation to NFT . . . Imagine what your gift will do...

*Imagine that your life hinges on receiving a transplant, but you can't afford it because your insurance isn't good enough...*

*Imagine you have received this wonderful gift of life, but have to choose between paying for your anti-rejection medications or putting food on the table...*

*Imagine needing a bone marrow transplant before you come out of remission for leukemia, but being told that your insurance isn't going to pay for the search for a donor...*

*Your gift to NFT enables us to provide financial assistance, advocacy and support to transplant patients in need. When you give an undesignated gift to NFT, your donation will go to help NFT patients, wherever the need is greatest. If you prefer, you may direct your gift to NFT's appropriate state organ/tissue fund benefiting a specific patient(s).*

# NFT Has a New Address . . .

We have moved our offices to a new location:

**5350 Poplar Avenue, Suite 430  
Memphis, TN 38119**

Only our mailing address has changed. All e-mail addresses and our web site remain the same, as do our phone and fax numbers:

**901-684-1697**

**800-489-3863**

**Fax: 901-684-1128**



- NFT has a staff of 11 with 65 years of combined experience in serving transplant patients.
- NFT has a single purpose: helping patients overcome financial hurdles to their transplant.
- NFT has raised from \$5,000 to \$600,000 in community fundraising campaigns from Maine to Guam.

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Suite 430  
Memphis, TN 38119



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