



NEWSLETTER

Stan Smith – President/Editor (205)655-3151
Judy Burch – Secretary

Stephen Foster – Vice President/Chaplain
Lori Higginbotham - Treasurer

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING FOR OCTOBER 2017

This month's dinner/meeting will be at Brio Tuscan Grille, 591 Brookwood Village, at Brookwood Village, on Saturday, October 14th at 4:45 PM. Please RSVP by 12 N on the 13th so I can make seating arrangements at the restaurant (a day ahead) – call and leave a message at 205-655-3151, or email to *heartlungkid1@gmail.com*.



*The new heart & lung transplant recipients
No new release forms*

HAPPY HEART AND LUNG DAY!

(October)

(H) Jerry Overstreet	'88
(H) Sara K. Stoddard	'95
(L) Jonathan Cope	'96
(H) Rex W. Smith (1 st 4/96)	'96
(H) Kelley Hawkins	'97
(H) Paul H. Davis	'97
(L) George Arnold	'98
(H) Jared T. Franklin (Ped)	'99
(L) Richard P. Mantooth	'99
(L) Bettie J. Miller	'99
(H) Jolene Younger	'01
(H) Richard J. Phillips	'03
(H) Lee (Ronnie) Parker	'03
(H) Michael Tillery (2 nd 3/11)	'03
(H) B. R. 'Bob' Tatum	'06
(L) Linda Y. Warren	'06
(H) Erskine Wilder	'08
(L) Lucille Williams	'08
(L) Mary B. Onderdonk	'08
(L) Charles L. Payne	'10

(L) John Spalding	'10
(L) Justin McNair	'11
(H) Sheri Wilkinson	'12
(H/K) Huey Collins (H 12/99)	'12
(L) Sheryl 'Jeanie' Cobb	'14
(H) Brad Rosenwald	'14
(H) Claude Preston	'15



*The new liver transplant recipients are:
No new release forms*

HAPPY LIVER DAY!

(October)

Tommy Fortenberry	'91
Cindy P. Knighten	'92
Lyric Brogden	'95
Cindy Gibson	'95
Megan Gibson	'95
Carter Lloyd (Pediatric)	'95
Jim Stedman	'96
Regina Austin (2 nd 6/10)	'98
Michael Haggerty	'99
Clarence 'Sonny' Burchfield	'01
Mary McGreger	'01
Ellen Burks	'01

Jan Nichols	'02
Mar Yi Than	'02
Annette Feister	'04
Timmy Wenndt	'04
Breanna Jane Richardson (Ped)	'05
Larry T. Works	'06
Sandra Lapham	'07
Walter Gary Blackmon	'07
Don Morgan	'08
Lonnie R. Davis	'09
Debbie Russaw	'10
Greg Mitchell	'11
Robert T. Hughes (1 st 3/98)	'11
Janet L. Pace	'16

HAPPY Kidney DAY!

(October)

Julia Murray	'06
Dalton Riley	'12

HAPPY Transplant DAY!

(October)

Sara Ultz (6 organ recipient)	'06
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Message from Stan Smith, President

I hope that all our transplant family that live in the Houston, Texas area, and in Florida, have fared well from the flood and wind damage of two devastating hurricanes – Harvey and Irma.

Check out the anniversaries this month. There are 36 people that are 10 years or more post-transplant – fantastic! Remember the ones listed are only those who have turned in a release form! If you have sent in a release form, there is no need to send another unless you have a change in your contact information.

'A sign from heaven': Why American Girl gifted two families with dolls

By Terri Peters, TODAY Contributor – 9/26/17

The Alabama Center shared a story on their Facebook page with the above title.

The story begins with the tragic loss of seven year old Logan Martinez, and the difficult decision that his mother, Susan Fortson, faced - whether or not to donate his organs.

After the drowning accident during a family vacation in Alabama in August 2015, Logan passed away in the hospital several days later. His mother said that a family member suggested donating Logan's organs. She immediately knew that was the right thing to do. *"It was the most horrific experience, and there is an empty hole left in our family,"* said Fortson. *'But I knew that if we made this choice - to donate Logan's organs - he would be a hero, and he would have wanted to be a hero.'*

"Several weeks after Logan's death, Fortson received contact information for two of the four

UAB HEART, LUNG AND LIVER TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP

Release Form

I give permission for my name, transplant number and transplant date to be used by the UAB Heart, Lung and Liver Transplant Support Group for inclusion in the monthly Newsletter and Support Group Scrapbook. I understand that this information will be used only for official Support Group activities.

Name _____

Transplant Type _____ Transplant Number (If known) _____ Transplant Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

recipients of Logan's organs. One of the contacts was 7 year old Gabrielle Bolden who received Logan's heart."

Susan and her husband, Aaron, became friends with Gabrielle and her mother, Gail Powell. During a visit, Susan got to hear Logan's heart beating in Gabrielle's chest. *"I sat and listened to the most beautiful sound in the world,"* said Fortson. *'Words don't even describe that moment and what it meant to me. Since then, my family has continued a wonderful relationship with Gabrielle's family.'*"

Gabrielle had suffered with congestive heart failure since she was an infant. In March 2015, her condition worsened and she was put on the list for a heart transplant. Almost 6 months later, Gail received notice of the possibility of a donor heart for Gabrielle.

"It was a bittersweet moment for me. I found myself crying for that family, as I knew that someone would be losing their loved one in order for mine to have a healthy life," said Powell, explaining that today she considers Susan a member of her extended family. *'Now, I keep Susan up to date on how Logan's heart is doing. Gabrielle knows she has to take care of his heart and to take her meds — she knows he went to heaven and is looking out for her.'*"

In early 2017, Susan noticed that American Girl Doll Company announced their 'Girl of the Year' doll was Gabriela [this doll had a striking resemblance to Gabrielle]. A short time later, the company announced their first boy doll, Logan. Again, this doll had a striking resemblance to Logan.

"I knew that it was something special," said Fortson. *'What are the chances that American Girl would come out with two dolls weeks apart that look like Logan and Gabrielle and have the same name? It's too ironic, and I told my husband that Logan is definitely giving us a sign from heaven.'*" She purchased a Logan doll and set it on a table next to Logan's picture – it was amazing to see an almost identical shirt on the doll as the one Logan was wearing in the photo.

Susan posted on the Facebook page of a Grief Support Group that she hoped to buy a Gabriela doll. A group member shared Susan's story with the doll company and the company decided to present Gabrielle with a Logan doll and sent Susan the Gabriela doll.

"I believe things happen for a reason," said Fortson. *'This story has helped open a lot of people's hearts to consider the idea of organ donation.'*"

For the complete article with great photos, go to TODAY's website, www.today.com/parents and then search for 'a sign from heaven'.

If you haven't yet met your donor family and would like to, please contact Carrie Ellis at the Alabama Organ Center.

'An Organ Donor Saved My Life'

This is the saying on a T-shirt that the AOC is using for a fund raising project. With the funds generated by the selling of the T-shirts, special gifts will be given to the Donor Families in addition to the Bronze Medallion now presented during the Donor Recognition Ceremony.

If you would be interested in a T-shirt, the cost will be \$12 including shipping and handling (make checks payable to **UAB/AOC Educ. Fund**).

Carrie Ellis
Alabama Organ Center
502 20th Street South
Birmingham, AL 35233

You can also contact Carrie at the Alabama Organ Center at 205-731-9200.

Remember, you may never know when you might change someone's mind about organ donation through sharing your story. You may even change their life!

Please send your ideas for future meetings to me. Remember to tell your story.

Stan Smith, President
5213 Peppertree Lane
Trussville, AL 35173
Phone 205-655-3151- please leave a message
Heartlungkid1@gmail.com

SCHEDULED EVENTS & FUTURE MEETINGS

November 18, 2017 – Informal dinner meeting
December 25, 2017 – Annual Christmas Day Lunch
January 13, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting
February 17, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting
March 17, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting
April 7, 2018 – Celebration of Life Picnic
April 14, 2018 – Informal dinner meeting

Informal Dinner/Meeting

Several of our group members get together for an informal dinner/meeting once a month.

This month's dinner meeting will be at Brio Tuscan Grille, 591 Brookwood Village, at Brookwood Village, on Saturday, October 14th at 4:45 PM.

Any pre/post heart, lung or liver transplants and family, donor families, doctors, nurses and staff are welcome to join. Please be sure to let us know that you plan to join in by calling Stan Smith at 205-655-3151 and leave a message.

And remember to... 

"Change your thoughts and you change your world."

...Norman Vincent Peale
(From Brainyquote.com)

Please tear on the dotted line and return this form as soon as possible to:

UAB Heart, Lung and Liver Transplant Support Group
% Stan Smith
5213 Peppertree Lane
Trussville, AL 35173