



Mary Jo Lovely, circa 2000



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF HOPE

The Story Behind the Transplant Alliance Foundation

The story of the Transplant Alliance Foundation began long before its official founding in 2016. Its roots trace back to one woman whose strength, compassion, and personal journey through organ transplantation would inspire a mission that continues changing lives today.

In 1998, Mary Jo Lovely experienced heartbreaking loss when her husband, Stephen Boyes, passed away unexpectedly. During one of the most difficult moments of her life, the Gift of Life organization approached Mary with a question that would forever shape her family's future: do you want to fulfill Steve's wish of being an organ donor? Without hesitation, Mary said yes. That selfless decision began her family's lifelong connection to the world of organ donation and transplantation.

Just a few years later, at only 42 years old, Mary was diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Her condition progressed rapidly, and she soon found herself dependent on oxygen around the clock. By 2004, doctors delivered devastating news—without a lung transplant, she would not survive. Determined to fight, Mary completed the extensive testing process and was officially placed on the transplant waiting list in 2006.

On July 1, 2007, Mary received the call that would save her life. She underwent her first lung transplant, receiving a single lung after the donor's second lung was deemed unusable due to damage. That life-saving surgery marked the beginning of a new chapter, but it also opened Mary's eyes to the unseen struggles many transplant families endure.

Throughout her transplant journey, Mary met countless patients and families facing unimaginable financial burdens. She learned that many were forced to hold fundraisers simply to afford the costs associated with transplantation—expenses related to travel, lodging, medications, and procedures that insurance often would not fully cover. Mary and her husband Ken were fortunate to have strong insurance coverage, and she quickly realized many others were not as lucky. It was then that Mary made a promise: she wanted to help transplant families in need.



Mary's first lung transplant July 1, 2007



Second transplant, June 4, 2015



Post-op visit with family and friends, 2015



In 2019, the foundation was honored with the Help Award for work and donations to those in need.

That promise sparked the first fundraising efforts that would eventually grow into the Transplant Alliance Foundation. Mary and Ken began modestly, hosting holiday light shows at their home to raise money for transplant families. Year after year, the event grew, and in its final year alone, the display raised over \$4,600. What started as a simple act of kindness quickly became a passion-driven mission.

However, Mary's journey was far from easy. In 2009, the swine flu pandemic struck the nation—and Mary's home. Complications from the illness caused her body to go into rejection, beginning a devastating decline in her health. Once again, Mary found herself reliant on oxygen 24/7. Though she fought every day to maintain normalcy, the physical and emotional toll became overwhelming. Behind her brave smile was a woman battling unimaginable pain, depression, and frustration as her health continued to deteriorate.

In 2011, Mary was relisted for transplant and began another long and uncertain wait. As her condition worsened, the family explored every possible avenue to save her life, including traveling to Cleveland for additional transplant options. It was there they were told they

B-I-N-G-O!



To attend upcoming fundraising events and bingo nights, visit www.TransplantAllianceBingo.com.

would need nearly \$100,000 to cover relocation and living expenses during the transplant process—an overwhelming figure that brought the family face-to-face with the exact financial hardships they had watched so many other transplant families endure. For the first time, the burden Mary had always hoped to ease for others became deeply personal to her own family.

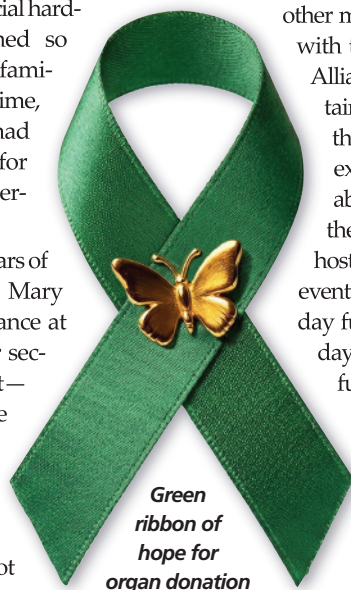
Then, in 2015, after years of waiting and fighting, Mary received her second chance at life. She underwent her second lung transplant—again receiving a single lung due to complications and scar tissue from her previous surgery. But this time was different. Determined not to waste a moment, Mary embraced life with renewed purpose and passion. She lived boldly, cherishing every day she had and dedicating herself even further to helping others.

That same passion officially became the Transplant Alliance Foundation when the nonprofit received IRS approval in 2016. What began as a dream to help other transplant families had transformed into

a legitimate charitable organization committed to easing the financial and emotional burdens of transplantation.

In 2017, the Foundation took another monumental step forward with the launch of Transplant Alliance Bingo, creating a sustainable fundraising model that would dramatically expand the organization's ability to give back. Today, the Foundation proudly hosts four weekly cash bingo events, monthly Mission Monday fundraisers, special Saturday events, and collaborative fundraising partnerships with fellow local nonprofits—all with one shared purpose: helping those navigating the transplant journey.

Now, as the Transplant Alliance Foundation celebrates its 10-year anniversary, the organization stands as a testament to Mary's legacy. What started from one woman's compassion, personal hardship, and determination to help others has grown into a nationally recognized nonprofit that has provided over \$1 million in direct aid to transplant patients and donor families across the country.



Green ribbon of hope for organ donation

To commemorate this incredible milestone, the Foundation will host its **10-Year Anniversary Gala on May 16**, bringing together supporters, volunteers, partners, and community members to celebrate a decade of impact while honoring the woman whose vision made it all possible. The evening will reflect on the lives changed, the memories made, and the future still ahead for this growing organization.

Though Mary is no longer with us, her spirit remains at the heart of everything the Foundation does. Every fundraiser, every family helped, every transplant patient supported, and every life impacted is a continuation of the mission she began so many years ago. Her legacy is not only remembered—it is lived out every single day through the work of the Foundation she inspired.

To learn more about the Transplant Alliance Foundation, support its mission, or apply for assistance, visit TransplantAlliance.org. To attend upcoming fundraising events and bingo nights, visit TransplantAllianceBingo.com.



Gift of Life Donor Dash 2012, Philadelphia



Our first donation to Gift of Life, 2013



Transplant Games of America 2016, Ohio



Thanksgiving, 2017



Running errands, 2019