



THE FAMILY OF MATT  
NELSON, TISSUE DONOR

WIFE DANYEL AND SONS,  
CALEB, 6, AND JORDAN, 18

*Bismarck, ND*

## THE YEAR AHEAD: 2015

This report is dedicated to the 639 organ and tissue donors and their families who so generously shared the gift of life in 2014.

**LifeSource**  
ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

# From the CEO and Board Chair

There is a saying that reads *home is where your story begins*. Home is our foundation, our grounding, our place of renewal. Our new River Road Headquarters opened in November 2014 and was constructed to be all of those things for the patients and families we serve, the community at large and the LifeSource team.

Our LifeSource home is not only where our story begins again, it is the place where the stories of the thousands of donors and families we've served will live on. It is a sacred place where the donors and families we have yet to serve will begin a new story of hope and healing. It is a place of renewal for the transplant recipients whose second chance at life means their story can begin again.

Last year we celebrated 25 years of building more tomorrows for the patients and families we serve. Together, our partners in donation recognized our work and helped us prepare for the future by stepping forward with significant financial contributions. We are so grateful for everyone who helped us pay tribute to our past and build for the future.

This report is about looking to the future. We invite you to read the full version of this report on our website at [www.life-source.org/yearahead](http://www.life-source.org/yearahead), where you will learn more about how our technology and clinical expertise is taking shape in our new headquarters. You'll see how LifeSource is working with community partners to share the message of donation with diverse populations to increase donor designation. You'll read more about our fourth Donate Life Symposium, scheduled for November 5th, 2015 and you'll discover more about how we're recognizing and remembering organ and tissue donors for their precious gifts at our new home.

While we've put down roots in Minneapolis, they are roots that extend to the 6.5 million people we serve in communities across the Upper Midwest. Thank you for everything you do to help us build more tomorrows for the patients and families we serve. We hope you'll continue to join us on this incredible journey.



**Honorable Gail Hagerty**  
Chair, Board of Directors



**Susan Gunderson**  
Chief Executive Officer



# Thank You

LifeSource graciously thanks the financial contributors who help us save lives and offer hope and healing. Money raised supports public education about organ, eye and tissue donation so that more people in our communities say yes to donation. For a complete list of financial contributors in 2014, please visit our website at [www.life-source.org/yearahead](http://www.life-source.org/yearahead).

LifeSource is a private, non-profit organization and all charitable contributions are tax-deductible. Our Federal Tax Identification Number is 36-3584029.

Contributions can be made by check or online with a credit card. Scan the QR code below to visit our online contribution form, or mail a check in the provided envelope.

**Thank you for your support!**



## Board of Directors

**Honorable Gail Hagerty, Chair**

North Dakota District Judge

**Bruce King, Vice-Chair**

St. Olaf College; Transplant Recipient

**Sara Criger, Secretary/Treasurer**

Mercy Hospital with Allina Health

**Scott Anderson, Immediate Past Chair**

Mirabelle Management, LLC

**Tim Bjork**

Transplant Recipient

**Frazier Eales, MD**

Abbott Northwestern Hospital

**Keith Fahnhorst**

Transplant Recipient

**Brock Nelson**

Regions Hospital

**Marjorie Nelson**

Children's Hospitals and Clinics; Donor and Recipient Family Member

**Chad Richardson, MD**

Hennepin County Medical Center

**Mark Ritchie, Former MN Secretary of State**

State of Minnesota, Donor Family Member

**Charles Rosen, MD**

Mayo Clinic

**Marsha Shotley**

Second Harvest Heartland; Recipient Family Member

**Reverend C. John Steer**

Autumn Ridge Church; Donor Family Member

**Susan Gunderson, CEO, Ex-Officio**

LifeSource

**William Payne, MD, Medical Director, Ex-Officio**

University of Minnesota Medical Center

# Partner Transplant Programs

**Abbott Northwestern Hospital**  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Heart, Kidney

**University of Minnesota Health Transplant Services**  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Heart, Lung, Kidney, Liver, Pancreas, Intestine, Islets

**Hennepin County Medical Center**  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Kidney

**Mayo Clinic**  
 Rochester, Minnesota  
 Heart, Lung, Kidney, Liver, Pancreas

**Sanford Transplant Center**  
 Bismarck, North Dakota  
 Kidney

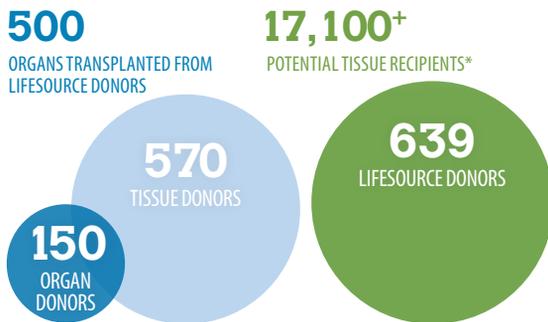
**Sanford Transplant Services**  
 Fargo, North Dakota  
 Kidney, Pancreas

**Avera Transplant Institute**  
 Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
 Kidney, Pancreas

**Sanford Transplant Program**  
 Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
 Kidney

## 2014 Snapshot

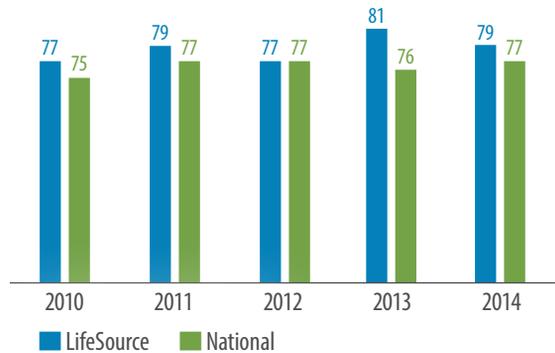
### LifeSource Donors



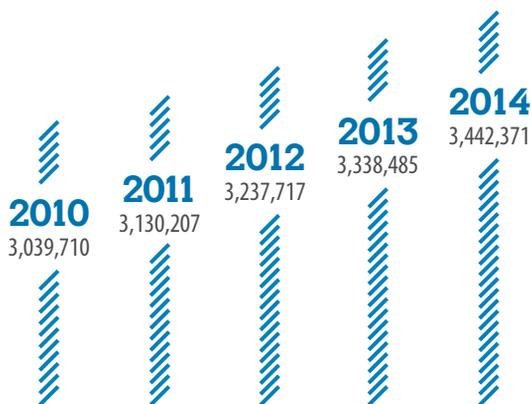
\*Estimate

Some donors gave the gift of both organs and tissues, which means the number of organ and tissue donors adds up to a number greater than the total number of LifeSource donors.

### Organ Donation Rates (%)



### Donor Designation



**64%**

of adults in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota are registered donors.

**50%**

of adults in the U.S. are registered donors.



In March 2014, we were honored to work with the family of Matt Heisler. Matt gave the gifts of organ and tissue donation after his death, providing hope and life to four transplant recipients. In November last year, just eight months after his death, Matt's parents, Jared and Cheryl, and his sister, Casey, met the recipient of his heart. Their



touching meeting at the Gift of Life House in Rochester, Minnesota was captured by KARE-11 news and quickly was shared around the country and across the globe. Scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet to watch this beautiful story courtesy of KARE-11.

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On our cover is the family of Matt Nelson, a tissue donor from Bismarck, North Dakota. You can read Matt's story online at [www.DonateLifeND.org](http://www.DonateLifeND.org).

## LifeSource

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

**LifeSource**

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[www.life-source.org](http://www.life-source.org)



PHOTO BY T.C. WORLEY

## RICARDO'S STORY

Ricardo Walker was a young man who knew what the word family really means.

From a young age, he prioritized family. He believed that if a member of his family faltered, needed help, if there was a gap he could fill, or a way he could step up for family: he would. He always would. Family was the core of Ricardo's life, and his family was what he placed above all else. He told his mother: "We are all we have. Family is everything."

Not every teenager sees life so clearly. Ricardo was different.

Ricardo was a young man, 23 years old, and the proud new father of a baby girl named Dazisya. He was strong and smart. He was the best free babysitter his family could have asked for, ready with smiles and plans for fun. He was the person who worked the grill at every family barbeque, making sure everyone got their burger, and a laugh, too.

Then, the call. The call his mother, Pam Wright, can't forget. The call that told her Ricardo was gone, murdered, a promising life cut short so soon. Too soon.

In her shattering grief, Pam told the hospital: "My son is a registered donor. Can he help someone?"

And Ricardo did. A young man who always stepped up, who always filled the gap, who always met the need, who said "Family is everything"—that young man gave gifts to many other families in dire need of help for someone they loved.

Ricardo left his cherished family behind. But, for his recipients, Ricardo ensured years of healthy life, and years of joy for their families. He stepped up, he filled the gap, he met the need—in a final act of compassion for families beyond his own.

The family of Ricardo Walker,  
organ and tissue donor  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN