



BUILDING LONGER, HEALTHIER LIVES IN INDIANA



Increasing access to healthy food



Educating women about heart disease and stroke



Reaching girls with STEM programs

Join these leaders as we create a more equitable community



Jessica Nickloy
Etica Group
Go Red for Women® Chair



Inez Evans
IndyGo
Circle of Red Chair

Show your support by
volunteering or donating today!
Contact Kelli.McCrary@heart.org
for more information.

Go Red for Women sponsored nationally by



Local Media Sponsors



© Copyright 2021 American Heart Association, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit. All rights reserved.
Go Red for Women is a registered trademark of AHA.
The Red Dress Design is a trademark of U.S. DHHS. Unauthorized use prohibited.



Leading a record year for organ donations

If you run into Kellie Tremain, there's a good chance she'll ask if you're an organ donor. Tremain has been president of the Indiana Donor Network since 2012, and coaxes people at every opportunity to consider donating their organs after they die to others who need a kidney, liver, heart or other organ. Last year, the organization, which coordinates organ donation in 85 of Indiana's 92 counties, helped transplant a record 949 organs. Tremain, 47, is a registered nurse and holds an MBA.

What's your elevator speech for why people should become organ donors?

Nationwide, there's more than 106,000 people on the transplant waiting list. And if you narrow that down to Indiana, specifically, there were 1,000 people waiting for a life-saving transplant. So everyone—despite their age, race or sex—should be registered as organ donors.

What's the main reason some people are hesitant about becoming donors?

I think some of it is just [lack of] awareness. There's still some myths out there that people think that the hospital won't save their life if they know that they're going to be an organ donor, which is absolutely false. We have

a few people here and there that state a religious belief, even though all major religions believe in [and] support organ donations. So, I think a lot of it is just personal choice.

Your organization set a new record for transplants last year, despite the pandemic. What happened?

I think there's a couple of different things. We added more than 120,000 Hoosiers to the national donor registry. We have conducted 109 organ-recovery surgeries at our own on-site organ and tissue recovery center, which we opened in 2020. We have worked with our hospital partners in depth specifically on calling with referrals for potential donors. We have more people in support in our hospital systems who make sure that we capture every single opportunity.

When some people think of organ donations, they think about fatal car crashes or handgun accidents. Is that an accurate perception?

Probably not. The majority of our organ donors come from somebody who's had a stroke, drug overdose or cardiac arrest. Over the last 20 years, seatbelts have made cars a lot more safe. So, I think car accidents really fall a little bit lower on the list.

How's your organization getting through the pandemic?

We've certainly had to adapt and change things. Hospitals aren't allowing visitation for family, and that's been very difficult. So, we've had to talk to a lot of families on FaceTime or over the phone that we normally would do in person. We haven't been able to really go in and do a lot of education in the hospital. So, we've had to get creative with that. When schools were shut down, we had to get creative with how we were doing our school education.

What's the outlook for transplanting organs from pigs into humans?

I still think we're quite a ways off from doing that successfully long term. But it certainly gives an opportunity to people who might otherwise not ever get a transplant. As I said, there's over 106,000 people waiting for a transplant, and some of those people will not ever get a transplant. And so it certainly offers an opportunity to that group.

I read that you were once the youngest CEO of an organ donation center.

I was. But there's been some CEOs since me that have become CEOs younger than when I was. They took my crown. I still wear a tiara, though.

—John Russell

(Photo provided by Kellie Tremain)



Kellie Tremain
Indiana
Donor Network
president

Classifieds	30A	List: Industrial leases	23A
Crossword	Section B	List: Top-performing stocks	24A
Economy	16A	List: Commercial property sales	26A
Focus	17A	Memory Bank	6A
In the Workplace	6A	Opinion	14A
Pete the Planner	9A	People	8A
List: Mergers & acquisitions	20A	Statewide Roundup	12A
List: Office leases	22A	Stocks	28A

in this issue

INDIANAPOLIS BUSINESS JOURNAL (ISSN 0277-4929) is published weekly every Friday, by IBI Media, One Monument Circle, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3592, (317) 634-6200. Copyright IBI Media 2022. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use without permission of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, Indiana. For subscription inquiries and current rates please visit www.ibj.com/subscriptions. Allow two weeks for all transactions to take effect. POSTMASTER: Send address change to Indianapolis Business Journal, One Monument Circle, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3592.