

SF Giants Hold Eighth Annual Donor Day

BY JOHN A. KERNER JR., M.D.

When the San Francisco Giants held its eighth annual Organ Donor Awareness Day May 27 at SBC Park in San Francisco, Stanford University Medical Center staff, patients and supporters were prominently featured.

The "ball dudes" for the game were **Larry Kowalski** and **Stephen Kowalski**. Larry received a kidney from his brother, with the transplant performed by Stanford transplant surgeons **Maria Millan, M.D.**, and **Linda Chen, M.D.**, with follow-up assessment by Stanford nephrologist **John Scandling, M.D.**

The wife of Giants alumnus and bullpen coach **Mark Gardner, Lori**, received a liver transplant at Stanford in 1998 that, at the time, extended her life. Two years later, Mark and former major leaguer **Bobby Jones** started the "Step to the Plate" Foundation and have raised more than \$200,000 to help families of recipients cover the costs of treatment and housing while at Stanford.

A 7-year-old Lucile Packard Children's Hospital (LPCH) patient—who received a liver transplant at Stanford, performed by pediatric liver surgeon **C. Andy Bonham, M.D.**, and transplant surgeon **Hootan C. Roozrokh, M.D.**—was a special guest of the Giants, along with his parents and **Chris Dong, M.S.W.**, social worker at LPCH. After the seventh inning, the Giants' centerfield message board passed on a special greeting to the happy 7-year-old.



From left: Larry Kowalski, Lindbergh and Mary Porter, Mark Gardner, Kathleen Dowling McDonough, David Heneghan, Allison Metz, M.D., and Stephen Kowalski. The check represented a \$5,000 grant from the Giants Community Fund for the Bayview Hunters Point Saturday Breakfast Club, a program created by the California Transplant Donor Network to improve literacy and provide nutrition information to adolescents in the area.



Also honored on the field were Giants Community Fund board member **Lindbergh Porter** and his wife, **Mary**, whose kidneys failed in 1999. Lindbergh wasn't a suitable donor, and in 2002 when her health deteriorated further, the Porters became part of an innovative, four-operation kidney swap that involved two other people.

Kathleen Dowling McDonough, chair of the Giants' Community Fund, presented a grant of \$5,000 to **David Heneghan**, public affairs manager for the California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN).

Commemorative Giants baseball cards, which also serve as organ donor cards, were passed out to fans entering the game. Those pictured on the "baseball cards" included Mark Gardner, **Kirk Reuter** (whose wife was close

friends with Lori Gardner), **Pedro Feliz**, and **Jerome Williams**, whose father, **Glenn Williams Sr.**, received the first transplant in Hawaii of both a liver and a kidney (see Note below).

In addition, representing Stanford "officially" at the game were hepatologist **Joanne Imperial, M.D.**, and pediatric hepatologist **William Berquist, M.D.**

At the CTDN booth at the park, fans could learn more about the new online Donate Life California Registry, donatelifecalifornia.org.

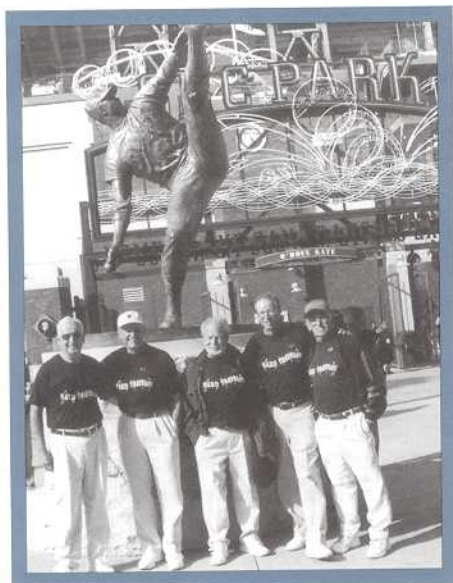
The national anthem was performed by Hard Travelin', a group that performs at various charity events in the Bay Area. **Gordon Locklear**, a long-time group member, is a kidney transplant recipient.

Note: Glenn Williams Sr., a Vietnam army veteran, went to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu last fall with a neck injury. Tests revealed his liver was failing, and he learned he had hepatitis C. His liver disease was so bad that his kidneys also were failing.

The unique double transplant was performed at St. Francis Medical Center (SFMC), the only hospital in Hawaii in which heart, kidney, liver, pancreas and multiple organ transplants are performed.

Within a month of his transplant, Williams said he was cooking, walking around the neighborhood and "hanging out" with his grandchildren.

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Hard Travelin', standing in front of the Giants' newly unveiled Juan Marichal statue, performed at the Giants' 2005 awareness event.

NJ Sharing Network Reaches Out to Teachers

As school began in September, the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network again reached out to teachers to promote "Decision: Donation." Developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Decision: Donation was designed to educate students on the organ shortage and to help them make an informed decision on being a donor.

The NJ Sharing Network offered speakers, promotional materials, donor information and more.

Web: sharenj.org

'Concert of Hope and Healing' Held in N.J.

The Sharing Network and the city of Newark co-hosted "Concert of Hope and Healing" in September to commemorate Minority Health Awareness Month. The event was held on the steps of Newark's city hall.

Transplant recipients and a donor family member offered their testimonials, and assistant professor **Dorian Wilson, M.D.**, from the division of surgical transplantation at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey–New Jersey Medical School, was on hand to speak on donation and answer questions.

The event also featured **Valerie Adams and the Dimension Band** as well as speakers promoting healthy living for minority communities, prone to hypertension and diabetes.

Web: sharenj.org