The Service of Remembrance to honor those who generously gave the Gift of Life in 2014 was held on February 22nd at Reid Chapel, Samford University. This year there were 17 families in attendance and we had a nearly full house with friends and family members. It is our privilege to serve these very special families and their loved ones who gave such an enormous gift to others through organ and tissue donation.

At the service there is a memory table where photographs and other memorabilia of loved ones are displayed. We read tributes in memory of each donor and honored their family with a Gift of Life donor medal and a wind chime that can be engraved with the donor’s name. Donor families made quilt squares to add to the Alabama Donor Family Quilt. This is an ongoing memorial and the squares can be seen at www.alabamaorgancenter.org. The squares are later stitched into a quilt panel that travels the state for educational events.

A personal thank you to all donors and donor families; you are what makes this honorable cause so rewarding. The Gift of Life is truly priceless.

“The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation.”

- Corrie Ten Boom

Melvin Rodgers, Chaplain UAB Hospital, brings the invocation at our Service of Remembrance, in memory of those who so generously gave the gift of life.
National Donor Sabbath will be observed November 13th – 15th 2015. Though observations will vary by faith, it provides an opportunity to discuss sharing the greatest of gifts—the gift of LIFE.

Please visit our website www.alabamaorgancenter.org and register to become an organ, eye and tissue donor.

JOEY GASE

Twenty-two-year-old NASCAR XFINITY Series driver Joey Gase may not yet be one of the sport’s household names, but he and his cause certainly deserve to be.

When the Cedar Rapids, Iowa native was 18, his mother, Mary Jo, succumbed to a brain aneurysm and passed away. With his parents having been divorced, Gase was then faced with a decision more difficult than anything someone that age should have to make. “I’d just turned 18 years old and my mom was single and the doctors asked us if she would want to be an organ/tissue donor,” Gase said.

“At the time, we didn’t really know what my mom would want. We knew she was a really healthy and caring person. We said ‘yes’ and after that, I found out she was able to help and improve the lives of 66 people. That was just amazing to us, knowing that she was able to help that many people and that she was able to keep on living on through them.”

Joey now drives the No. 52 Donate Life Chevrolet in honor of his mom and others who so generously gave the gift of life. Joey finished 5th, his best finish ever, in the May 2nd Winn Dixie 300 at the Talladega Motor Speedway. The Alabama Organ Center and Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency were the primary sponsors of the “Donate Life” car. The Donate Life logo was prominently displayed on the hood and a picture of Amber Warner, an organ donor at the age of 14, was on the trunk lid.

“It’s so amazing when I meet people that have received my mother’s organs,” said Gase. “You know your mom’s inside them and not only that; if it wasn’t for my mom, they most likely wouldn’t be here and alive today. Seeing how thankful they are and how good of people they are, it just makes it ... I won’t say it makes it better, it makes it a little bit easier knowing that your mom was able to help them.”

“She’s still living on through them.”

Credit NASCAR.com
National Donor Sabbath will be observed November 13th – 15th 2015. Though observations will vary by faith, it provides an opportunity to discuss sharing the greatest of gifts—the gift of LIFE.

Please visit our website www.alabamaorgancenter.org and register to become an organ, eye and tissue donor.

NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH and BLUE & GREEN DAY

East Alabama Medical Center (EMAC) staff celebrated National Donate Life Month (DLM). In keeping with the national DLM campaign, they decorated umbrellas to support organ, eye and tissue donation.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

The Kirklin Clinic fountain

The iconic Birmingham sign at Baron’s Regions Field

Jackson Hospital in Montgomery
We all thought this would be the first time it rained on our Celebration of Life Picnic.

Yes – a few drops did fall.
Yes – there were mud puddles.

Yes – the kids had a ball jumping in the mud puddles.
And yes – there are times in our life when it rains. But a little rain is not going to dampen our spirits.
Because this is the Celebration of Life Picnic.