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Top Story

Countdown to Kickoff Brings UGA Fans Together for a Great Cause



Hairy Dawg poses with a young fan



UGA cheerleaders showing their support

On July 7, 2007, former UGA football players Matt and Jon Stinchcomb hosted the second annual *Countdown to Kickoff* in Athens, Georgia.

This event helps raise money for the Georgia Transplant Foundation (GTF), Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the Children's Tumor foundation and the University of Georgia College of Education.

More than 1,000 people attended to show their support for UGA football and these charitable organizations, and the event raised more than \$100,000.

Countdown to Kickoff included a dawg-themed auction and party, fan festival, golf tournament, and an autograph session with former and current UGA football players. Some of the Bulldogs in attendance included D.J. Shockley, Martrez Milner, Tony Taylor, Kregg Lumpkin, Tim Jennings, Tra Battle, Blake Barnes, and former head coach Vince Dooley.

Upcoming Events

Transplant Talk

09/06
6:00 PM
Transplant Talk

Fundraising for Transplant

09/19
1:00 PM
A seminar for transplant candidates to help create and organize a successful fundraising campaign.

The Many Lives You've Touched

09/20
7:00 PM
The Many Lives You've Touched

Transplant Talk

10/04
6:00 PM
Atlanta-area support group for organ transplant recipients.

East Lake Golf Tournament

10/09
10:00 AM
Tee off on the most prestigious golf course in Atlanta and raise money for GTF.

Wellness Conference

10/20
8:00 AM
Wellness Conference

Contact GTF

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Our Mission

The mission of the Georgia Transplant Foundation is to help meet the needs of organ transplant candidates, recipients, living donors and their families by providing information and education regarding organ transplantation, granting financial assistance and being an advocate for sustaining and enriching lives everyday.



D.J. Shockley with a fan



Brandon Miller & Kregg Lumpkin

"This event is a way for people to give back to the community while also having some fun," said co-host Matt Stinchcomb. "There are so many UGA football fans, and this gives them a chance to interact with their favorite players."



Jon (left) and Matt Stinchcomb take time to sign autographs for Bulldog fans

The event included plenty of activities for children, including games and rides, a training camp with real practice drills run by UGA players, and photo opportunities. Chik-fil-a and Red Baron provided food, while the Redcoat marching band provided musical entertainment.

Want to Contribute?

Learn how your gift can help GTF assist more than 2,000 transplant candidates, recipients, living donors and their families every year.

Interested in Volunteering?

We're always in need of volunteers for future fundraising events and health fairs! Volunteering for GTF is a great way to give back to the transplant community and to help spread the word about GTF's programs and services. If you would like to be added to our volunteer list, please contact Kristin Stanley, events assistant, at kstanley@gatransplant.org.



Chik-Fil-a mascots



The UGA Redcoat marching band

Many thanks to the sponsors, players, volunteers and contributors who helped make *Countdown to Kickoff* such a huge success!

To view and purchase photos from this event, please click [here](#).

Sponsor Spotlight

Salute to Spitfire Media Group

GTF would like to recognize [Spitfire Media Group](#) for helping create the web site www.fortomglavine.com.

This site was conceived by the GTF Marketing Communications Committee as a way to support Tom Glavine, pitcher for the New York Mets, in his bid for a historic 300th career win.

Tom's role in hosting *Spring Training* has helped raise more than \$3.75 million dollars to assist the organ transplant population in Georgia. By partnering with Spitfire Media Group, GTF is committed to honoring Tom Glavine's achievements.

[Spitfire Media Group](#) is a dynamic, full-service marketing agency that offers creative services encompassing branding, print, web, video, 3-D animation and more. They work closely with each of their clients to develop custom marketing initiatives that fit their needs. Please visit www.spitfiremediagroup.com for any information. Spitfire Media Group welcomes the opportunity to work with you.

Many thanks to Spitfire Media group for their outstanding work in helping to honor the contributions of Tom Glavine to the transplant community. For more information, GTF encourages you to visit www.fortomglavine.com.

Program Updates

The Many Lives You've Touched

Eat, drink, and be merry for a good cause! Join GTF and Ira Wilkins, a kidney-pancreas transplant recipient, at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant in Buckhead on September 20 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. to help raise money for Georgia residents impacted by the need for an organ transplant. Ira hosts this event to honor his donor family, the Lovells, who decided to donate their late daughter Erica's organs. This difficult choice helped save Ira's life and the lives of many others.

[*The Many Lives You've touched*](#) is a special night filled with live music, cocktails, silent and live auctions, and food catered by Maggiano's. This year, musical entertainment will be provided by [The Return](#), the world's most authentic and entertaining Beatles tribute band, and [DJ Joel Rabe of Lethal Rhythms](#).

Tickets are available for \$75 in advance or \$100 at the door. Sponsorships are also available and include tickets, recognition at the event, and more.

For information about this event or to purchase tickets, please click [here](#).

Save the Date

On October 20, please join us for the 11th annual Wellness Conference, a day of fellowship and education for organ transplant candidates, recipients, living donors and their families.

This year, the theme is "Giving Back." Everyone who is impacted by transplantation understands that the gift of life is the greatest offering that an individual or family can make. We ask that this year's attendees think about how they can "pay it forward" and give something back to the community. Keynote speaker is James Redford, a liver transplant recipient, founded the [James Redford Institute](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about the need for organ and tissue donation through film, educational outreach, and on the web.

Mr. Redford will speak about how his transplant impacted his life and drove him to give back to the transplant community.

Look for more information about the Wellness Conference in coming weeks, including the opportunity to register online.

Great News at GTF!

As pitcher Tom Glavine closed in on his goal of a 300th career win, GTF held a contest in conjunction with the www.ForTomGlavine.com web site created by [Spitfire Media Group](#)

Leslee DeVeaux was the grand prize winner, and she was able to see Tom earn number 300 in person! GTF sent Leslee to Chicago via AirTran Airways to see Glavine pitch against the Chicago Cubs. GTF also provided two tickets to the game and hotel accommodations.

Congratulations, Leslee!

Scholarship Winners Announced

Realizing that transplantation poses financial hardships on the entire family, the Georgia Transplant Foundation annually awards academic scholarships to students who are transplant recipients, dependents, living donors or siblings of a transplant recipient and are presently enrolled in an accredited institution or beginning such a program.

Scholarships are awarded for tuition fees, and may include room and board, books, and/or supplies. Scholarships are \$2,500 and are awarded in two payments, payable to the institution in the amount of \$1,250 per semester. Recipients may apply for grants on an annual basis.

For more information about GTF's Academic Scholarship program, click [here](#)

The 2007 Academic Scholarship awardees are:

Thomas F. Smith Scholarship (Recipient)

Mallory Smith, liver recipient
University of Georgia, Pre-Med

Dunkerley Family Scholarship (Dependent)

Dean King, parent of a transplanted child
Devry University, Computer Information Systems

Sibling Scholarship

Kevin Shaw, sibling of a liver recipient
Ashbury College, Communications

Theresa Lackey Living Donor Scholarship

Laura Brown, kidney donor
Lincoln Memorial University, Educational Specialist

General GTF Scholarship

Patrick Gamble, kidney recipient
Georgia State, Masters in Early Childhood Education

General GTF Scholarship

Kelley Shaw, liver recipient
Anderson University, Graphic Design

General GTF Scholarship

Catherine Miller, dependent of a liver recipient

ABAC, Equine Dentistry

Riticher Accounting Education Scholarship

Jerrod Brown, sibling of a kidney recipient
Sewanee: The University of the South, Economics/Pre-Business

Congratulations to all our scholarship winners!

JumpStart: Transition to Employment

GTF's [JumpStart](#) program helps organ transplant candidates, recipients, and their families accomplish career goals through its accredited employment services, strategic partnerships and educational resources.

In the past two months, the JumpStart team has been very busy, with 36 new referrals.

If you are interested in the resources provided by JumpStart, click [here](#) or call 770.457.9602.