

March 2025 | Detroit, MI

Greetings!

Welcome to our monthly newsletter keeping you updated on all the exciting things happening with the Detroit MOTTEP Foundation. As we continue to focus on our mission to empower the community and reduce the need for organ transplantation among ethnic minorities, we appreciate your support. We have a number of upcoming and ongoing activities and look forward to your continued engagement and participation. - *Silas Norman DMF Board Chair*

"Together we can do great things" - Mother Theresa



March is National Kidney Month, a time to highlight the importance of kidney health, especially in our multicultural communities, where the risk of kidney disease is disproportionately high. At Detroit MOTTEP Foundation, we are Meeting The Moment by empowering communities with the knowledge and resources needed to take charge of their health.

Why Kidney Health Matters:

Kidneys play a vital role in filtering waste, balancing fluids, and regulating blood pressure. Yet, 1 in 3 American adults is at risk for kidney disease, often due to conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes—both of which impact African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American communities at higher rates.

Take Action Today:

Early detection can save lives. This month, we encourage everyone to get their kidneys checked, understand their risk factors, and adopt healthy habits to prevent kidney disease.

Click [HERE](#) to access vital resources, screening information, and prevention tips.

By raising awareness and taking proactive steps, we can protect our health and our community. Let's continue Meeting The Moments - Together!



Dr. Anita Moncrease, MD, MPH: A Trailblazer in Healthcare, History, and Community Advocacy

The Detroit MOTTEP Foundation proudly celebrates Dr. Anita Moncrease for being named one of the Michigan Chronicle's 2025 Women of Excellence. This prestigious honor recognizes 50 trailblazing Black women who are transforming communities and industries through their leadership, advocacy, and dedication to systemic change. Dr. Moncrease's contributions to public health, medical education, and historical preservation exemplify the spirit of this award, as she continues to uplift and inspire the community through her work.

Dr. Anita Moncrease is a distinguished physician, educator, and historian with a deep commitment to public health and minority health policy. She is the President of Moncrease & Associates, LLC, and a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM). A proud Detroiter, she earned her undergraduate degrees from Michigan State University, her medical degree from WSUSOM, and a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University. She has held key leadership roles at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and has served on the faculty at both WSUSOM and Harvard University.

Dr. Moncrease's research focuses on minority health disparities, including hypertension, cancer, and pediatric asthma. She has played a pivotal role in addressing healthcare inequities, working with organizations such as the Institute of Medicine and Michigan's Learning Partnership to Decrease Disparities in Pediatric Asthma. Her leadership extends to the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion, the MOTTEP Foundation of Detroit, and the Gift of Life Michigan Advisory Board. She is widely recognized for her expertise on the history of Black medical professionals and institutions, curating exhibits and lectures that highlight their contributions.

Beyond medicine, Dr. Moncrease is a dedicated historian and community advocate. She has been instrumental in obtaining historical designations for Hartford Memorial Baptist Church and Cornelius Langston Henderson, preserving Black history in Detroit. Her contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including the HRSA Group Award for "Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities," the Michigan Secretary of State Shining Star Award, and the Wayne State University School of Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award. A woman of faith, she attributes her success to God and the unwavering support of her family. Dr. Moncrease's unwavering dedication to public service and historical preservation continues to make a lasting difference, and we are honored to have her as a valued leader

within the Detroit MOTTEP Foundation.

Thank You, Dr. Moncrease, for your leadership!



Nina Shirley - Growing Fun at LIFE Walk Run

For over a decade, Nina Shirley has been a driving force behind one of the most beloved features of the Detroit MOTTEP Foundation's LIFE Walk & Run, the Kid's Corner! What began in 2011 as a simple setup with one table, eight chairs, and a pack of crafts has since flourished into a must-visit attraction for all ages at our annual event.

Nina's passion for engaging our youngest attendees comes naturally. As a long-time dedicated teacher in the Detroit Public School System, she has spent years shaping young minds and creating spaces where children can learn, grow, and thrive. This same commitment shines through in the Kid's Corner, which now features three bounce houses, two nonstop face painters, bubble machines, and an incredible team of volunteers, all helping families make lifelong memories.

Beyond her leadership in the Kid's Corner, Nina has generously contributed to the overall success of LIFE Walk & Run and other MOTTEP initiatives, lending her time and talents wherever needed. She is also a proud sister of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, embodying a spirit of service that uplifts our community in countless ways. We are deeply grateful for Nina's dedication and can't wait to see the magic she brings to the 28th Annual LIFE Walk on July 26, 2025!

Thank you, Nina, for making LIFE Walk a place where families can celebrate, connect, and have fun - together!





15th Annual Kountz, Callender, Drew Transplant Symposium: A Day of Impact and Inspiration

The Detroit MOTTEP Foundation, in partnership with Gift of Life MOTTEP and the University of Michigan Health Michigan Medicine, hosted its 15th Annual Kountz, Callender, Drew Transplant Symposium at the University of Michigan North Campus Research Complex in Ann Arbor. This year's theme, "Transplantation: Reflective Voices, Riveting Results, and a Revolutionary Future," set the stage for an unforgettable day of education, innovation, and collaboration.

Attendees were captivated by dynamic speakers and insightful panels. All delivered thought-provoking presentations that highlighted the incredible advancements in transplantation and the powerful stories of those impacted. The energy in the room was undeniable, with participants sharing glowing feedback about the quality of the content and the engaging discussions.

Stay tuned for the April newsletter, which will include a full recap and photos capturing the impactful moments from this year's symposium. You won't want to miss it!

ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IN THE NEWS



Assembly Member Sam Berger, LiveOnNY CEO Leonard Achan, Maleni Alvarez, Wajana Ballecillo Pagan, Maria Centeno and representatives from the office of State Sen. Leroy Comrie.
Photo: Shane O'Brien

Black kidney patients find renewed hope after rules change for transplant list

ABC News | By Nathan Smith & Doc Louallen

February 4, 2025

Since the 1990s, a race-based method for assessing kidney function had the potential to limit access to the waiting list for Black patients. However, thousands of these patients were moved up the list in recent years when a widely used lab test was found to calculate results differently for Black patients.

"We have a long history in this country of actual biases against certain transplant candidates, in particular African Americans, because of the way that we calculate how bad the kidney function is," Dr. Edmund Pribitkin, a professor at Thomas Jefferson University, said. "African Americans were pushed to the bottom of the transplant list."

The push to the bottom of the transplant list was one Philadelphia woman's reality after she was diagnosed with kidney failure in 2019. Jazmin Evans' doctor informed her that her GFR, which indicates the filtration rate of her kidneys and how effectively they are filtering waste out of her bloodstream, was very low. [READ FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

COMING IN APRIL

April is National Donate Life Month

Donate Life Living Donor Day. - *April 2*

National Donate Life Blue & Green Day - *April 11*

Blue & Green Spirit Week - *April 5 - 12*

National Pediatric Transplant Week April - *20 - 26*

30 For 30 *IS COMING!*

Follow us on social media for updates!



SPRING

Isn't the only thing coming



SOMETHING SPECIAL IS COMING

IN HONOR OF DONATE LIFE MONTH

APRIL 1, 2025

www.motteplifewalk.org

STATE OF MICHIGAN CURRENT WAITING LISTS

Over 104,000 individuals are waiting for organ transplants in the U.S. as of March 16, 2025, Including nearly 90,000 waiting for a kidney transplant.

In Michigan, over 2500 people are waiting for transplants, 2,189 for a kidney transplant, and nearly 1/3 are African American.

	All Organs	Kidney	Liver	Pancreas	Kidney / Pancreas	Heart	Lung	Heart / Lung	Intestine
All Races/Ethnicities	2,643	2,189	168	24	29	139	87	1	6
White, Non-Hispanic	1,508	1,179	135	14	18	89	70	0	3
Black, Non-Hispanic	849	766	9	8	9	45	9	1	2
Hispanic/Latino	120	103	7	1	0	4	4	0	1
Unknown	19	10	8	0	0	0	1	0	0
Asian, Non-Hispanic	97	89	4	0	1	1	2	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic	12	10	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Multiracial, Non-Hispanic	33	27	4	1	1	0	0	0	0

Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction. This report shows OPTN data for Organ by Race/Ethnicity through March 16, 2025. OPTN Data is updated on a monthly basis.



One Gift...
INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

[Join the organ donor registry TODAY!](#)

Detroit MOTTEP Foundation | 736 Lothrop | Detroit, MI 48202 US

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