

T
S
O

TRANSPLANT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Serving Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess,
Bronx Counties and Southern Connecticut



VOL. 25, ISSUE 1

SPRING, 2020

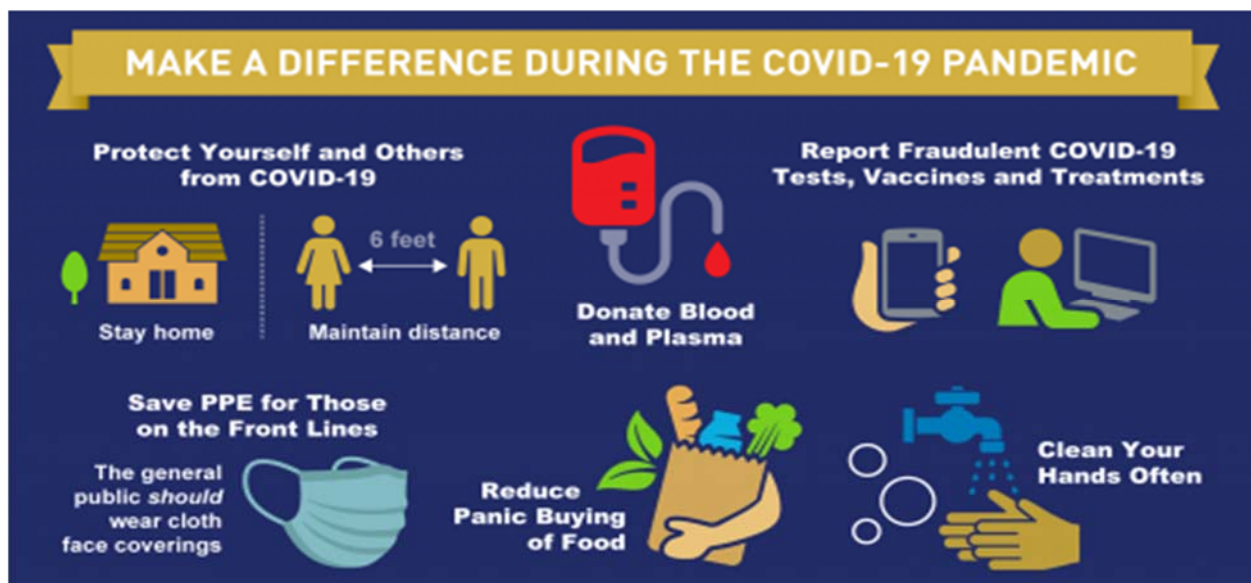
Message from the Co-Presidents

Who would have known?

Here we are in the midst of one of the most critical times in history. We are watching many tragedies unfold, and at the same time, we are watching people act with selflessness and regard for others. Every day, we hear about the heroes in our police and fire departments and the heroes in our hospitals, as selfless a group of people as has ever been known.

And that is the feeling we hope you will keep in the forefront. As recipients and caregivers, we know first-hand the feelings of selflessness through the gift we have received. This is the gift that allows us to see children and grandchildren, go to restaurants, rent a movie, read a good book or the newspaper.

So, in the coming days, weeks, and months, consider the gift of life and the gift of selflessness that we will continue to witness.



TSO MEETINGS

TSO has suspended its regular meeting schedule through June, 2020.

To keep our family involved, TSO has been working with all of the local support groups to continue our outreach activities. On April 16, LiveOnNY hosted a video meeting with Drs. Amy Friedman and Thomas Schiano for all of the groups. There was an outstanding response to this offering with the doctors answering questions directly from the audience.

On *April 30th*, LiveOnNY will host another video meeting with Laura Schwartz, a member of the hospital services staff. Laura will talk about the emotional and psychological toll that is happening with all of us and will also answer questions from the audience. TSO has recently sent out an email with all of the information about the call and posted this information on our Facebook and Twitter sites.

For information, please check our website:

www.transplantsupport.org

To contact us by mail please write to:

TSO, 1335 Mace Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469

Or email us: **email4tso@gmail.com**

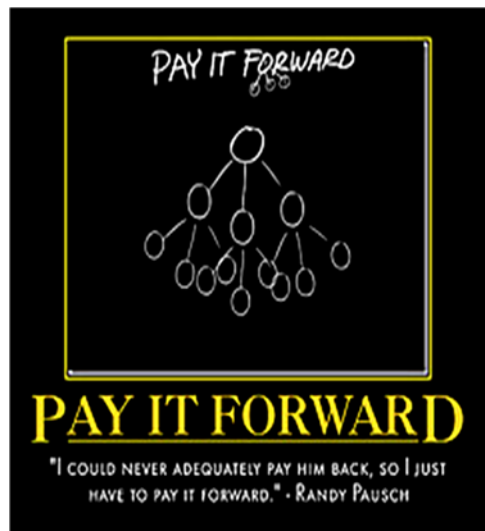
We are also on Facebook. Check us out for information and updates.

***You do not need to have a Facebook account
to visit TSO on Facebook***

To all recipients of this newsletter.

Please send your email address so we may notify you of any last minute changes to our meetings. If you have changed your address recently please let us know so we can update our records.

Please send all correspondence to: **email4tso@gmail.com**



**TSO is seeking volunteers for
tabling, speaking and
ceremonial events throughout
our community.**

**Please contact Janet Ocasio at
janetmocasio@gmail.com
for details.**

Training is available.



TSO Officers

Co-Presidents

Ira Copperman

212-222-8386
irajay2004@gmail.com

Gerard Marinaccio

917-709-7553
gpm316@gmail.com

Vice-President

Janet Ocasio

914-646-2538
janetmocasio@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gerard Marinaccio

917-709-7553
gpm316@gmail.com

Secretary

Bill Seery

914-469-9196
det37k9@gmail.com

Members-at-Large

Leonard Andrew

914-631-6530
len@ldandrew.com

Bill Becker

845-661-5690
meljerk@aol.com

Helen Bellhouse

845-603-6700
hmbellhouse@verizon.net

Ron Cohen

914-980-5499
photoron819@yahoo.com

Glenda Daggert

212-222-8386
gdaggert@gmail.com

William Flynn

914-603-3163
williamflynn@optonline.net

Madeline Marinaccio

Newsletter Editor
917-922-7029
mad705@gmail.com

Carolyn J. Robinson

914-603-3163
cjrobinson@optonline.net

Suzane Sadofsky

914-737-5165
suzane6@juno.com

Medical Advisor

Dr. David C. Wolf

Director Emeritus

Karen Farkas

TSO ACTIVITIES

TSO board members and active participants want to be involved in their community on behalf of donation and transplantation. In these past weeks it's been challenging to keep the heart and spirit of TSO alive and well doing what we do best. Meetings, registration events, naturalization ceremonies – all have been postponed or deferred.

And yet, there have been several instances when TSO has been able to participate. One example is the recent project with Mealtrain, an organization that works with local restaurants to provide meals in our community. This helps benefit these restaurants by keeping them in business at this time. TSO contracted through Mealtrain to send 110 meals to the frontline personnel at Westchester Medical Center. This was one way to show the staff that we know how hard they are working every single hour of every day. We feel very privileged to be able to show the WMC staff how important they are. [#WMCHealthHeros](#)



TSO SCHOLARSHIP 2020

Another example is the annual TSO scholarship. The scholarship committee didn't want to let the year go by without recognizing an individual who shows the qualities of the scholarship. Even though the recognition activities will be different, there was a deserving candidate, and the committee voted to award the 2020 scholarship.

This year's winner is Acacia Puleo, who lives in Chappaqua, attends Horace Greeley High School, and has been accepted at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh for the fall, 2020.

More than that, Acacia is a multi-organ transplant recipient at Pittsburgh children's hospital. When Acacia was 18 months old, she underwent this very risky procedure. Since then, Acacia has been a tireless worker on behalf of donation and transplantation. In her most recent effort, Acacia started the first high school chapter of the Student Organ Donation Alliance (SODA) and ran a number of successful events at her school to spread awareness.

We are very pleased to add Acacia's name to the list of TSO scholarship awardees.

Anthony Peter Bonelli



Anthony Peter Bonelli was born in Stigliano, Italy in February on the 18th day of the month. His parents Michele and Adelina Bonelli were very proud. He liked to play soccer at an early age. In 1963 they came to America to make a better life like others after war time in Italy. He quickly learned the language and made many friends. They became citizens as soon as they could. Anthony loved technology, animals and most of all history! He was a wonderful soul. Always eager to help anyone he encountered! He met Patricia late in life but fell in love immediately! Patricia gave him a full life, complete with a family that he loved dearly! Granddaughters he cherished. Anthony passed away on March 27th from complications of his heart disease. He was a

community activist, fighting for neighbors and friends always! Everyone said “If you met him once you loved him forever!” He will be forever in our hearts, but especially forever in Patricia’s!!! Anthony was also an active volunteer promoting organ donation for many years with the Transplant Support Organization. As Patricia’s caregiver, he well understood the need and the struggles of organ transplant recipients.



POETRY CORNER

Rebirth

*When the world is pressing on us
And hope is hard to find
We reach out to our loved ones
And we strengthen ties that bind.
So many have been lost
In this dreadful circumstance
So many left with questions
Some taken just by chance.
The weakened victims rally
As the vulnerable seek hope
But transplant patients have survived
Through trials unknown to most.
We value life, this precious gift*

*We share this love with you
Embrace the strength gifted by life
Give hope our souls to lift.
The ending will come
with lessons learned
And we shall overcome.
A new hope rises,
A new world dances,
As the sunshine marks it’s day
And we begin as always
But wiser, let us pray.*

*Written by: Janet M. Ocasio
March 22, 2020*