



Becoming an organ donor is easy!

JUST VISIT
richiesspirit.org/organ-donor

FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO REGISTER IN YOUR STATE



Know the Facts:

 113,000 people are on the transplant waiting list.	 Last year, 17,500 donors passed the spirit to a recipient in need.
 95% of U.S. adults support organ donation...	 ...but only 58% are actually signed up as donors.

anyone can sign up to be an organ donor

richie's spirit foundation
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Richie's Spirit Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are fully tax deductible as allowed by law.

Checks made payable to Richie's Spirit Foundation can be mailed to the address above. Donations are also accepted online at www.richiesspirit.org



As we wrap up another successful year for Richie's Spirit Foundation, it's important to take time to reflect on how Richie's spirit continues to inspire others years after his passing.

Richie's spirit lives on in so many unique ways. I'm reminded of his strength over physical limitations, like Elise, the 6 year old liver transplant recipient who was one of three athletes from around to country to represent Richie's Spirit Foundation at last year's Transplant Games of America in Salt Lake City. Born with biliary atresia, Elise received a life-saving transplant when she was 17 months old. Elise took home multiple metals, including gold, in swimming, basketball, and bowling.

I'm reminded of Richie's ability to look at life in the most positive way possible, like Anna, last year's Significant Challenge College Scholarship Winner. At 14, Anna received a life-saving heart transplant. "I am living proof that optimism is contagious," Anna wrote in her award-winning essay that detailed her medical journey and how she is sharing her story through non-profit work.

Like Elise and Anna, your support helps to honor Richie for a life well lived and for a spirit that continues to make a tremendous impact. On behalf of the entire RSF team, thank you for keeping Richie's spirit alive.



Passing the spirit,

 Jordan Herskowitz
 Executive Director

\$50,000 Match Challenge

An anonymous donor has presented Richie's Spirit Foundation with our biggest challenge yet: a \$50,000 match donation! This generous donor has watched RSF's work over the years and has seen our commitment to promoting organ donation and providing support to the



transplant community. To help us grow, this match challenge will double next year's operating budget and allow us to expand our programming and grant-giving.

There's never been a better time to donate!

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
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The mission of Richie's Spirit Foundation is to promote organ donation to people of all ages through education awareness programs, grants to honor Richie's memory, and inspiring others to live with a positive spirit.

Transplant Assistance Grants

Richie's Spirit Foundation recognizes the financial burden an organ transplant has on a family. To help alleviate some of these pressures, RSF provides non-medical financial support through our Transplant Assistance Grant Program. This year, Richie's Spirit Foundation awarded nearly \$8,000 in grants to families across the country. Since inception, RSF has supported over 40 families with more than \$17,000 in financial assistance.

"Being a single mom of three kids, this grant helps take some stress of the financial burden that comes along with [my son's] heart transplant. I had to miss 5 months of work and multiple days after for the many appointments and lab work that is required to make sure his heart stays healthy. This grant allows me to not stress so much about that and focus on what is important: His health and wellbeing. Thank you again for all the gifts of joy you give the families of these beautiful children."

- The Family of Devin Uyhazi



Angelica Lemburg
2019 Transplant Assistance Grant Recipient

How Others Are Passing the Spirit



Team Richie

Anna Weinstein ran the Brooklyn Half Marathon in April 2019 on behalf of Team Richie. She finished strong on a sunny spring day, and raised nearly \$2,000 for Richie's Spirit Foundation.



Spin for a Good Cause

The Richie's Spirit Foundation Young Professionals Network gathered their fellow New Yorkers earlier this year for a SWERVE Fitness spin class followed by brunch. The event raised over \$1,500 for Richie's Spirit Foundation.

10 Year Anniversary Party

Richie's Spirit Foundation celebrated 10 Years of Passing the Spirit, this June, with an Anniversary Celebration in Dallas. The evening included dinner and meaningful remarks from Executive Director Jordan Herskowitz, board members Melissa Berger and Donna Hartman, and TAG Committee Member Frances Jameson. Richie's friend, Hannah McKee, concluded the evening by speaking about Richie's continued impact years after his passing. "We all have the same choice to be positive and encouraging, like Richie did everyday, in spite of what may happen to us," Hannah shared. "We can all follow his extraordinary example of how to live life with meaning and purpose."

The celebration also included the presentation of a \$500 Transplant Assistance Grant to the family of Barrett Hooten, who received a triple organ transplant - kidney, lung, and heart - at the age of 20. Mr. Hooten suffered from failing kidneys since birth, followed by heart and lung complications, likely caused by his kidney medication. Much like Richie, Barrett loves sports and is known for his positivity and resilience. "Richie's Spirit Foundation has helped us, and so many others, find a bit of an anchor in a storm," shared Barrett's mother, Heidi, "We commend the foundation for bringing organ donation awareness to the forefront, and we pledge to pass the spirit of positive living, love, and education about organ donation to continue the legacy that Richie left us."



2019 WINNERS



Anna Martin



Maya Keesey



Cade Pinalto

College Scholarships

In 2019, Richie's Spirit Foundation awarded \$5,000 in college scholarships to three impressive students, who demonstrate leadership, character, and initiative in all they do. The winners were selected from a pool of nearly 2,000 applicants nation-wide.

Anna Martin *First Place* | Hometown: Knoxville, TN | College: Belmont University

From her first diagnosis with cancer, Anna Martin transformed her fear into action. Anna started an annual drive in 2012 to gather gift cards, gas cards, toys, and money for oncology patients and their families at East Tennessee Children's Hospital (ETCH), the very same hospital where she was treated, and, where she continues to volunteer.

Maya Keesey *Runner Up* | Hometown: McHenry, IL | College: Marquette University

At age 11, Maya Keesey began a 27 month battle with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Maya found meaning through her fundraising and public speaking efforts within the pediatric cancer community; she has raised over \$50,000, and was awarded in 2016 as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Student of the Year. She compares her journey with cancer to the challenging 3.3 mile swim she completed across Lake Geneva.

Cade Pinalto *Honorable Mention* | Hometown: Chicago, IL | College: Baylor University

Cade Pinalto was devastated by his diagnosis with Left Ventricular Noncompaction Cardiomyopathy, which left him unable to pursue his passion in playing basketball. His joy was returned when he took on the role of Assistant Coach on the Varsity Basketball team. After this experience, he and his mother founded Sidelined USA, a nonprofit whose mission is to reunite permanently sidelined athletes with their passions by providing them with meaningful resources, connections, and mentorship.

What People Are Saying

"I must stress the huge difference this scholarship has made. My family has struggled financially - we hit hard times with the recession even before I was diagnosed [with my heart disease]. When I got sick, we went down to a one parent income in order to have a parent take care of me. Getting this scholarship has been all the help. If you had told me years ago that I would be living in Boston living on my own with plans to study abroad, I wouldn't believe it. I'm so grateful."

-Anna King, 2018 Scholarship Recipient

"My family has truly been blessed by Richie's Spirit Foundation. During one of the most difficult times in our lives, it was comforting to know that an organization such as yours is available to help!"

- The Family of Athen Branden Cordner,
2019 Transplant Assistance Grant Recipient

In 2018, Richie's Spirit Foundation raised
\$27,900.80
from 178 donors, including a
\$10,000 GRANT
 from Joyful Blessings Foundation.

thank you for your support!