

2014 VOLUNTEERS

Staying in the game with family & courage

by Keith Anderson, Gift of Life

Do you know people who never relax? Their presence and energy are the batteries for any team effort. That is Kathy and Dave Kratofil from Belton, Mo. Recently retired, they have raised a family of two sons who are also involved with their community as a teacher and a fireman. She goes to yoga and spinning classes, is active in her church, volunteers for Gift of Life and can always be found with Dave sharing random acts of kindness. As a serious volunteer, she speaks in high school classrooms about her liver transplant and mentors others waiting for a life-saving transplant. On the fun side, Kathy and Dave show up to help at GOL Golf Tournaments, Transplant Town Halls, bicycle races, the Life Savers annual teen rally and they personally direct all of the food catering at the annual fundraiser, GoSeeDoKC, to underwrite transplant awareness programs. Their generosity and tenacity can only be compared to the Kansas City Royals, the underdog story of 2014.

Kathy and Dave have corresponded and exchanged photos with the family of her donor, Carl Christensen.

Five years ago, Kathy's team was desperate. The GOL received a call and asked if Andy Donnelly, program manager for the Life Mentor program, could visit Kathy in their home. She was simply too weak to travel and dropped below one hundred pounds. In fact, Andy had never been invited to mentor in a home before, but was willing to provide any encouragement that would help the Kratofils. Even though Kathy was a runner and took care of herself, her journey battling liver disease reversed when she received a transplant four years ago.

Kathy and Dave have corresponded and exchanged photos with the family of her donor, Carl Christensen. They honor his legacy every day. In the meantime, they have rallied their team for a game with extra innings that will make a difference to others.



Dave and Kathy Kratofil