

## **Adult Heart Transplant Patients: Fundraising Opportunities to Cover Medical Expenses**

---

If you struggle with the costs from your transplant for any reason, you may want to consider fundraising. Fundraising is best done before the transplant when you are feeling better, instead of while you are trying to recover from major surgery. There are two ways to protect money raised by friends and family to be used only for your medical expenses:

- Set up a legal trust
- Use a non-profit fundraising organization

### **Why should I use a fundraising group instead of accepting money directly?**

There are groups that specialize in helping transplant recipients raise funds to cover their out-of-pocket expenses.

- A huge benefit to using a fundraising group is to protect the money you raise from being taxed. If you directly accept funds that have been raised, they are considered taxable income.
  - While the fundraising groups do keep a small percentage of the donations for their operating costs, the amount these groups keep is significantly less than you would pay in taxes. This allows more of the funds to be available for your transplant costs.
- Also, if you are on Medicaid, money you accept directly is considered income and will affect your financial eligibility. This may disqualify you for Medicaid.

There are two main groups that our patients use to assist them in their fundraising efforts:

- **Help Hope Life (formerly National Transplant Assistance Fund or NTAF)**  
Phone: (800) 642-8399 (toll free)  
Website: [www.helphopelive.org](http://www.helphopelive.org)  
General Email: [info@helphopelive.org](mailto:info@helphopelive.org)

- **National Foundation for Transplants (NFT)**

Phone: (800) 489-3863 (toll free)

Website: [www.transplants.org](http://www.transplants.org)

General Email: [info@transplants.org](mailto:info@transplants.org)

Other organizations that work with transplant patients and their families include:

- **The Health Well Foundation**

Phone: (800) 675-8416

Website: <https://www.healthwellfoundation.org/>

- **NeedyMeds**

Helpline: (800) 503-6897

Website: [www.needymeds.org](http://www.needymeds.org)

- **Partnership for Prescription Assistance**

Phone: (888) 477-2669

Website: [www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)

- **Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation**

Phone: (866) 316-7263

Website: <http://www.panfoundation.org/>

- **Second Chance at Life**

Phone: (734) 748-9690

Website: [www.secondchanceatlife.org/index.html](http://www.secondchanceatlife.org/index.html)

- **University of Michigan Transplant Specialty Pharmacy**

Phone: (866) 946-7695

Website: <https://michmed.org/W9Bjk>

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by Michigan Medicine and for which Michigan Medicine does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Reviewers: Bethany Lee-Lehner, RN, MSN  
CVC # 497

Patient Education by [Michigan Medicine](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License](#). Last Revised 12/2021