

# 2011 VOLUNTEERS

## Bracelet helps mom deliver message

by Justin Phelps, Mid-America Transplant Services

June Laschober proudly wears a green Donate Life bracelet in memory of her son, Scott. She hopes the bracelet she wears every day will spark a conversation with someone who may not know about organ, tissue and eye donation.

**I** became very passionate about organ and tissue donation. I wanted to tell people about it so they would be aware and become donors.”

– June Laschober

June is always looking for opportunities to spread awareness about organ, tissue and eye donation – even to her own doctor.

In 2005, Scott – the middle of three sons born to June and her husband Bob – died in a car accident at age 22 and donated his heart, liver, kidneys, bone and tissue.

“At 6’2”, Scott was like a lovable teddy bear,” June said. “He was such a big kid, every time he walked up the stairs, the dishes in the cabinets across the kitchen rattled.”

“I started wearing my green bracelet to remember my son,” June said. “After he was an organ donor, I became very passionate about organ and tissue donation. I wanted to tell people about it so they would be aware and become donors.”

Since early 2010, June has volunteered at Mid-America Transplant Services (MTS), helping with a variety of clerical jobs involving reports, data entry and preparing mailings. She also serves as a public speaker and a grief companion for donor families.

“When we talk about the ‘human spirit’ that comes to donor families through the gift of donation, June is a perfect example,” said Merry Smith, program manager at the Center for Life. “She received comfort and encouragement through Scott’s donation and now wants to give back to help others have the same experience.”

Shortly after starting with MTS, June’s life was once again impacted by organ donation. She was injured in a car accident and eventually required surgery that involved removing a disc in her back and using donor tissue to fuse the vertebra.

“When the spinal surgeon asked me if I had any problems with tissue donation,” June said. “I proudly held up my wrist with the green bracelet and said, ‘I fully support organ and tissue donation.’”

June Laschober

