

The Arizona Transplant House – Village at Mayo Clinic



This is an inspirational story of a family that came full circle in their organ transplant journey. Tim and Lili Harris, Honolulu, Hawaii became part of the Arizona Transplant House (AZTH) family when Tim was diagnosed with liver cancer. Here is an excerpt from a letter that Lili shared us.



We are no strangers to organ donation. Tim and I (along with our family) made the decision to donate our son's organs and skin to others in need when our son Peter died on his 35th birthday in 2005. I am always thinking how horrified we were when approached by an organ donor coordinator about Peter's organs when there was no hope left for him to survive.

It is such a hard thing to be told your child won't live and they want to "harvest" his organs. But now I am proud they were able to use absolutely everything, because he was in such good shape, the recipients of his organs were very lucky.

Tim and I never dreamed that after making that kind of decision we would be on the other side of the dilemma waiting for an organ ourselves. Faced with a choice between death from liver cancer or life through a liver transplant procedure, Tim 61 at that time, opted for the transplant procedure even with all of the pain, trauma and challenges that come with the transplant.

We were fortunate to get in at the Arizona Transplant House. I emailed my family – "we are now staying in Phoenix at The Arizona Transplant House and Tim and I am astonished as to how cheerful everyone is. The sick people are more cheerful than the caregivers, in most cases as I think it is due to the fact that most caregivers are spouses/children, so they worry more than the patients do".

I was talking with a 21 year old caregiver for a bone marrow recipient and it makes me ashamed of feeling sorry for myself when you see such dedication and bravery – everyday I am truly amazed at how well people recover and how brave and cheerful everyone is, people here all help each other – I am so glad we came to the Arizona Transplant House as I now know I will never be alone and that there will always be someone willing to help.



We are pleased to report that Tim is doing well and he and Lili have returned to their lives in Honolulu. As you can probably tell, Lili and Tim feel immensely grateful for the support the Arizona Transplant House Foundation provided during their challenging and life changing time. Your support of our non profit 501 C3 organization allows us to continue the AZTH mission:

Provide low-cost housing and emotional support for patients and their families who travel from all over the world to Arizona for solid organ and blood/marrow transplants and follow up care.

Best of health,

Tom Davie
Executive Director