Without a doubt, 2020 has been filled with obstacles none of us likely ever imagined or anticipated. But I am pleased to report that while we have had to adjust to new working environments, online meetings and greatly reduced travel, we have continued to fully support our transplant families nationwide. Even with unexpected obstacles, the mission of the Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA) to serve transplant-needy children, teens and young adults has not wavered. While many of us may have been, or continue to be, more physically disconnected than we are accustomed to, I am grateful and proud that Team COTA remains a united community that has figured out how to keep our eye on the ball.

I was recently on a call with a COTA parent who was experiencing significant challenges and obstacles. I was able to reassure this mom we could indeed help. The sense of relief -- even over the phone -- was palpable. This call was a good reminder that what we do at COTA is much more than financially helping and supporting our families. What COTA really does (and has done for nearly 35 years) is to give hope to families at various stages of a transplant journey. That ‘dose of hope’ is more critical now than ever before due to these turbulent times.

Another COTA parent shared this message with me, “Thank you for taking the time to call me. I am grateful for all that COTA continues to do for us. It means a lot that you and your team are on top of things and with everything else going on, it makes me even more thankful for COTA. I appreciate you being calm; it is very reassuring to me and makes me think our family can get through this."

COTA’s staff members work with our families on an individualized basis, endeavoring to analyze each challenge, obstacle or stressor and then determine how to get them to the other side. Our nationwide network of Miracle Makers . . . community campaign volunteers . . . transplant professionals . . . all provide a safety net of hope for COTA families. COTA’s model of support and guidance is truly a team effort that is guided by a motto of never giving up, no matter what. That motto has resonated with thousands of COTA families for more than three decades and will lead us into our next year of service where there will likely be new obstacles and challenges.

COTA was founded nearly 35 years ago. Throughout that period of time we have connected more than 3,700 patients, and their families with medical professionals, volunteers and contributors to assist with transplant-related expenses and to ease the stress of their transplant journeys. While 2020 has provided new obstacles for our transplant families, it is important to remember how resilient COTA families are -- no matter what the challenge or uncertainty.

During turbulent times, COTA offers a sense of stability and a dose of hope. Being recognized as the Trusted Leader Supporting Transplant Families . . . For a Lifetime is a responsibility we embrace. It is our ethos and our guiding vision. We also know we are only able to publicize this tagline because of our nationwide network of Miracle Makers. Working together as a team, we ensure our families can focus on caring for their kids, teens and young adults while we focus on fundraising for transplant-related expenses and finding new avenues of support.

“Through this incredible journey, COTA has been like an experienced friend to us. From day one, COTA has been there for us providing comfort, understanding and hope… when we needed it the most. The COTA staff is always trying to find new and better ways to help transplant families -- not only financially, but also emotionally. Our son is now three and half years post-transplant and COTA continues to offer support and guidance … for a lifetime.”

— Megan and Brian Riley, Parents of Lawson
As he now waits for a life-saving kidney transplant, Kelvin continues to study as a college student, while dreaming and hoping for a healthier future. Miracle Makers, like you, have given Kelvin the chance to dream about a future instead of dwelling on obstacles.

Over the years COTA’s team of committed staff members have had thousands of conversations with parents who have heard the devastating news that their child has been diagnosed with a life-threatening disease. We often hear the intense fear in their voices and are very aware they are crying on the other end of the line. This past year, with the extra stress associated with a pandemic, an economic crisis and social unrest, COTA parents’ fears have been magnified. It is not a stretch to say that 2020 with its many obstacles has been the most challenging year to date for many COTA families in a multitude of ways.

However in the midst of the myriad of challenges facing our families, we also hear many parents clinging to the possibility that tomorrow will be a better day . . . a day where our families can focus on hope.

I want to share one such hope-filled story about a COTA teenager and his family. I first met Sharon and Kelvin Brown, Sr. at Duke University Hospital while their son Kelvin, Jr. was recovering from his bone marrow transplant in the spring of 2018. I immediately sensed this family’s intense faith and strength even in the midst of what had been Kelvin’s nearly 18-year battle with Sickle Cell Disease. Please take a moment to learn more about Kelvin and his family’s transplant journey, and the role COTA has played in it: https://cota.org/kelvin.

In talking with these stressed and anxious parents, I learned more of the crippling details of Kelvin’s transplant journey and the incredible work that Sharon’s twin sister, Karen McPherson, was doing leading the COTA in honor of Kelvin B volunteer team and fundraising effort. Kelvin’s story has touched the lives of thousands of Americans who have been introduced to it in COTA communications, watched news clips, followed it on a number of social media platforms as well as read a feature story that was published in Transplant Nation Magazine.

As he now waits for a life-saving kidney transplant, Kelvin continues to study as a college student, while dreaming and hoping for a healthier future. Miracle Makers, like you, have given Kelvin the chance to dream about a future instead of dwelling on obstacles.

It is always my pleasure to share COTA’s stories of hope with supporters, community volunteers, campaign contributors, transplant professionals and the many COTA family members who regularly introduce new transplant families to us. Even as I write this message, I am confident there are COTA families on the telephone right now with COTA team members who are learning how to deal with current obstacles and are sharing messages of hope and perseverance. It is important to realize that while COTA exists to help children and young adults who need a life-saving transplant, we are not singularly focused on the short-term goal of getting them home following a transplant. We are committed to navigating their financial and emotional challenges for a lifetime.

One major obstacle we face as an organization is the rising cost of health care for our families -- the pandemic has only added to this escalation. Adding even more stress is the fact that many COTA families lose a significant portion of their income when either parent becomes a full-time caregiver at a time when out-of-pocket medical expenses are rising dramatically. This is a specific example of how thousands of COTA Miracle Makers around the country make a tremendous impact on the lives of our families and give them hope. Our Miracle Makers volunteer and host ‘face-to-face’ and now a growing number of virtual fundraising events. Our Miracle Makers are contributors who give sacrificially to ensure lifetime expenses are met for COTA kids. Miracle Makers are folks who share COTA with new transplant families who desperately need help navigating challenges. No obstacle will deter Miracle Makers from doing everything in their power to support COTA families in need, and to raise the necessary funds to meet out-of-pocket, transplant-related expenses.
Thank you for being a COTA Miracle Maker!

COTA families across the country are extremely grateful for all who step up to help them avoid financial ruin and allow them to focus their energy squarely on their transplant-needy child, teen or young adult. Because of the pandemic, we cancelled the Miracle Maker Celebration that was scheduled for June 2020. But incredibly, many Miracle Makers (event sponsors and individual supporters) fulfilled their financial pledges, raising nearly $100,000 without a physical event taking place. What we thought was going to be a tremendous obstacle for COTA’s budget was instead an expression of generosity, human compassion and support of COTA’s mission. COTA Miracle Makers show us time and again they have really big hearts.

Your actions, your words of encouragement and support, your sacrifices and your gifts allow COTA to continue to work each and every day with transplant families who are in different stages along their journeys. Each of their situations is full of unique challenges and obstacles; our team of professionals offers advice, counsel and a large dose of hope with each phone call, email or text message. COTA Miracle Makers are an inspiration to all of us who are working with these families each and every day.

As you review our 2019-2020 Impact Report, I think you will likely understand why most COTA families are ‘raving fans.’ Our families’ collective gratitude is not just focused on their own post-transplant kids, teens, young adults and their life-saving organ/tissue donors — it is much more universal. It is gratitude that is rooted in hope and grows exponentially for a lifetime. Thank you for making it possible for us to offer a lifetime of support to each COTA family ‘figuring out how to work through obstacles’ and looking for hope.

“COTA is a big reason why hope has been restored to our family. Literally overnight we became a single income household suffering under the weight of very big medical bills. The costs associated with Autumn’s transplant were astronomical. And they did not stop once the transplant was over. Autumn will need to be medically monitored for life. COTA has been right beside us on this journey through the most challenging and critical part, and we are forever grateful COTA will continue to be with Autumn … for a lifetime.”

— Lavonna Buckhanan, Mother of Autumn

COTA again receives Charity Navigator’s Four-Star Rating

COTA has once again received Charity Navigator’s 4-star rating, its highest, in June 2020. Receiving Charity Navigator’s coveted 4-star designation this year marks a decade of COTA being recognized as a nonprofit organization that demonstrates strong financial health and a commitment to accountability and transparency.

“Only 2% of the charities we rate have received at least 10 consecutive 4-star evaluations,” wrote Michael Thatcher, Charity Navigator’s President and CEO. “This is our highest possible rating and signifies the Children’s Organ Transplant Association outperforms most other charities in America.”

According to Charity Navigator, receiving four out of a possible four stars shows that COTA adheres to best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way.
Addilyn Hawks
Severance, Colorado
Liver Transplant Recipient
(Local Nurse, Pam, Addilyn’s Living Donor)
Date of Transplant: January 16, 2018

Vivienne Hawks
Severance, Colorado
Transplant Candidate
Children’s Hospital Colorado
Aurora, Colorado

“COTA has been part of our family fiber for almost a decade. We are so thankful for this organization and how it helps financially, but also for its great big heart. One of the greatest gifts COTA gives is hope. Our family of six could not today be travelling two transplant journeys, with our home intact and bills paid, without this amazing organization. What a huge relief for us to know that when the girls are grown and begin lives of their own, COTA will still be there for them. COTA funds help with transplant-related expenses now … for a lifetime.”

— Krystin and Aaron Hawks
Parents of Addilyn and Vivienne

MIRACLE MAKERS IN ACTION:
Organizations Offered Assistance to COTA Despite Obstacles

For nearly 35 years, the Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA) has been able to provide guidance and support to transplant families nationwide due to an extensive network of volunteers who “step up” to coordinate fundraising and solicit contributions in communities of all sizes. Even during a year that was filled with obstacles and challenges, COTA volunteers connected with community-based businesses to organize virtual fundraisers in honor of COTA kids including ‘no bake’ bake sales, virtual fun walks/runs, online auctions, online product parties, t-shirt and mask sales, and social media challenges.

According to COTA’s President Rick Lofgren, “The spirit of our volunteers across the country continues to amaze and inspire me. I have learned this year that human ingenuity can triumph most obstacles -- no matter how daunting they are. COTA’s volunteers and campaign contributors creatively continued to raise funds for transplant-related expenses in spite of the fact many of us were sheltered in.”

Using the power of social media, COTA featured several organizations and companies that provided financial support during this complicated year. Recognized with ‘Miracle Maker Shout Outs’ on COTA’s social media platforms, some of these amazingly generous entities included:

- **The American Legion Family** with a nationwide network of Posts, Units, Squadrions and Riders, the Legion continues to help COTA kids in small towns and large cities alike.
- **Bee a Blessing** that raises funds for COTA in honor of New Jersey kids to help with transplant-related expenses.
- **Custom Ink and Bonfire** who have both streamlined the process for COTA team personalized t-shirt, hat and mask fundraisers so COTA Community Campaigns can benefit from merchandise sales. As supporters wear these items, there is the added bonus of raising a community’s awareness of transplant families in need.
- **Hayden’s Hope**, which has made a life-saving difference for many COTA heart transplant patients by raising more than $300,000 for transplant-related expenses.
- **Kohl’s Volunteer Program** that has provided many ‘helping hands’ with COTA community fundraisers.
- **Nora’s Home** in Houston, Texas, that partners with COTA to make our families’ lives in that area more comfortable by providing a ‘home away from home.’
- **Smiles With Love** for their LemonAid and Love Boxes fundraisers that have been held in honor of COTA kids.

As Mr. Rogers’ mother told him when he was a boy, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” No truer words have been spoken about COTA’s nationwide network of volunteers and supporters.
In June 2020, the Carroll Shelby Foundation announced it would donate a total of $150,000 to the COTA’s Hope Fund over a three-year period. The donation will help provide a safety net for families facing the financial and emotional challenges of raising a child who needs a life-saving transplant.

“The Carroll Shelby Foundation and COTA have worked together to support families in need for many years, but this is the first time that we have made such a substantial and long term commitment to the organization,” said Aaron Shelby, co-President of the Carroll Shelby Foundation (CSF). “Our shared passion for helping families facing the crisis of an organ transplant is why we doubled our annual donation for 2020 and will do that again each of the next two years.”

“Both charities were established to help kids in ‘the race for life,’ as Carroll Shelby used to say,” said Rick Lofgren, President of COTA. “The funds contributed by the Carroll Shelby Foundation to COTA will ensure that no child is denied a second chance at life due to financial issues.”

CSF made its first donation to COTA in 2009. Over the past decade, the two organizations have continued to collaborate on programs that benefit the families of transplant patients across the nation.

William “Bill” Van Hart Laggren

William “Bill” Van Hart Laggren was born in Philadelphia when horse carriages still parked at the curb. Within days of his second birthday, he succumbed to pneumonia prompting the attending physician to write his death certificate. Bill’s father and an uncle removed the blue-tinged toddler from his stuffy room and took him outside into the December sleet where he started breathing again. To keep their little boy healthy, his family relocated to Beachwood, New Jersey, where the pine trees and nearby bay and ocean breezes kept the air clean.

During his high school years, Bill excelled in high school track and field sports. In World War II, 19-year-old Bill got as close as he could to the airplanes he loved by enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He was assigned to the USS Wake Island, which was part of the Pacific fleet and had operations in the Philippines campaign, the invasion of Iwo Jima and the Battle of Okinawa. After the war, Bill returned home to work for the family business, Laggren Awning Company.

In 1949, Bill met Dorothy Jeanne Stone and they were married in 1950. They had one child, Elizabeth Janine. Their life in Toms River included many family yachting excursions. Bill worked long days at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, and still sold and installed awnings. Later he added real estate and yacht sales to his resume. In 1965 he moved his family to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to sell yachts for Pacemaker, Hatteras and Chris Craft. In a short amount of time, Bill became the company’s top salesman nationwide.

After his wife died in September 1991 Bill reconnected with a high school friend, and he and Elizabeth married and traveled the world. Bill updated his estate plan during his final years of life. This included a generous donation to further the mission of COTA while honoring his military service and the three decade partnership between COTA and The American Legion Family. If you would like information about how to make an estate gift to further COTA’s mission, please contact Rick Lofgren, COTA’s President at rick@cota.org or call him at 800.366.2682.
Children's Organ Transplant Association, Inc.  
Statement of Financial Position  
June 30, 2020

**ASSETS**
Cash and cash equivalents $ 202,739
Interest receivable 306,000
Pledges and grants receivable, net 477,811
Prepaids and other assets 64,031
Investments 39,289,022
Property and equipment, net 443,203
Total $ 40,782,806

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**
Liabilities
Accounts payable and accrued expenses $ 156,662
Refundable advance 311,200
Deferred Revenue 18,935
486,797

Net Assets
Without donor restrictions 2,518,129
Without donor restrictions, board designated 2,513,052
Total without donor restrictions 5,031,181
With donor restrictions 35,264,828
40,296,009
Total $ 40,782,806

If you would like a copy of our 2019-2020 audited financial statements, please contact our office at 800.366.2682.

**Statement of Activities** Year ended June 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Without Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 331,908</td>
<td>$ 5,368,753</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other fundraising income</td>
<td>98,613</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividend income</td>
<td>1,571,388</td>
<td>4,299</td>
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<tr>
<td>(net of investment expenses of $148,326)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized gain on investments</td>
<td>1,578,199</td>
<td>11,132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lease and other income</td>
<td>126,993</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>3,803,648</td>
<td>(3,803,648)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td>$ 7,510,749</td>
<td>1,580,536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENSES**               |                         |       |
| Patient campaign program   | 5,009,736               | –      | 5,009,736 |
| Management and general     | 734,535                 | –      | 734,535   |
| Fundraising                | 462,080                 | –      | 462,080   |
| **Total expenses**         | 6,206,351               | –      | 6,206,351 |

**Change in net assets**
1,304,398  1,580,536 2,884,934

Net assets, beginning of year 3,726,783 33,684,292 37,411,075

Net assets, end of year $  5,031,181 $  35,264,828 $  40,296,009

**Statement of Functional Expenses** Year ended June 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Campaign</th>
<th>Management and General</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and wages</td>
<td>$ 766,210</td>
<td>$ 456,779</td>
<td>$ 250,492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes</td>
<td>53,363</td>
<td>31,312</td>
<td>17,445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>185,438</td>
<td>113,861</td>
<td>60,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional services and fees</td>
<td>33,377</td>
<td>25,364</td>
<td>48,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transplant patient-related expenses</td>
<td>3,803,648</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>42,883</td>
<td>26,126</td>
<td>21,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification fees</td>
<td>14,166</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>35,203</td>
<td>1,924</td>
<td>33,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>4,635</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>1,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>10,571</td>
<td>6,302</td>
<td>3,456</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>10,123</td>
<td>10,210</td>
<td>3,309</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>26,246</td>
<td>15,647</td>
<td>8,580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies and office equipment</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>18,341</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>9,576</td>
<td>5,094</td>
<td>3,678</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>6,674</td>
<td>9,620</td>
<td>1,857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>5,601</td>
<td>11,191</td>
<td>6,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$ 5,009,736</td>
<td>$ 734,535</td>
<td>$ 462,080</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like a copy of our 2019-2020 audited financial statements, please contact our office at 800.366.2682.
The Hope Society

The Hope Society was established to recognize forward-thinking individuals who have remembered the Children’s Organ Transplant Association in their estate plans.

Jean Berger Estate
Colleen Coyle
Patricia Dudas
Robert Edrington Estate
Michael Fletcher
T. Michael Ford
Ron and Pat Formella
Herman Gans
Marquita Holzinger
Louise Kaiser Estate
Michael Kelly
Laurent and Pamela Letreer
Jim and Sereta Leiter
Douglas Lippert
Rick and Lisa Lofgren
Anne Monahan Estate
Tony and Dawn Paganelli
David and Judy Rubin
Audrey M. Shanahan
Janice Stafford Estate
Dr. Mirian Tagdik
Deborah Sigrid Taylor
Don Wampler, Sr.
Don and Rebecca Wampler
Mike and Kerri Welsh

† Deceased

Miracle Makers

COTA is grateful for the generous support of more than 28,000 contributors this past year. These contributors, COTA Miracle Makers, assist the Children’s Organ Transplant Association to ensure transplant-needy patients receive support for a lifetime.

All contributors are listed at COTA.org.

COTA is also thankful for the ongoing and significant support of contributors to the organization’s endowment funds. These funds include the George Taliaferro Patient Emergency Endowment (for medical emergencies) and the Operating Endowment (for patient benefit, donor education and registration efforts, and ongoing support of COTA’s mission).

To receive a list of those who made gifts between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, please call COTA at 800.366.2682 or email a request to cota@cota.org.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

Numerous individuals were memorialized or honored by family, friends and others who wished to recognize them through a contribution to COTA. All contributors are listed at COTA.org. To receive a list of contributors who made these gifts between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, please call COTA at 800.366.2682 or email a request to cota@cota.org.

If you would like a copy of COTA’s audited 2019-2020 financial statements, please call 800.366.2682 or email a request to cota@cota.org.