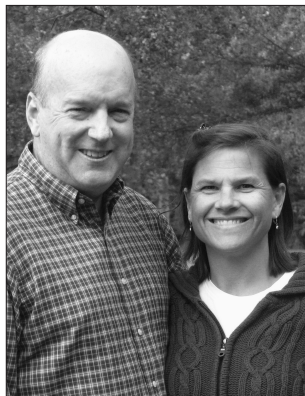




## Volunteer Spotlight: Bill and Lisa Kelly



Bill and Lisa Kelly

When Bill Kelly was taken to the emergency room by his wife Lisa in July of 2002 because of a stroke, a routine blood test revealed he had Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML).

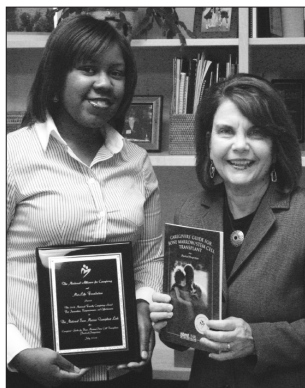
The emergency room staff moved Bill straight over to the cancer unit of Northside Hospital in Atlanta. Bill started on a clinical trial and began his chemotherapy. Despite many setbacks, Bill came home from the hospital within six weeks. He was eventually able to walk and talk again, returning to work in late 2002. In May of 2004, he was finally strong enough for an allogeneic bone marrow transplant. Bill's brother Sam was his donor.

Now that it has been over four years since his transplant, Bill says he "feels amazing." Talking about everything that he went through makes him

emotional, but he feels he has been given a "second chance," and he's thankful for that. Lisa agrees with Bill when she says she is now very "grateful for normalcy in our family." Besides being Bill's primary caregiver throughout this time, she was also taking care of their four children who were ages two, four, six, and eight when Bill was diagnosed with AML.

She picked up information about nbmtLINK programs at Northside, and signed up for a Caregivers' Telephone Support Group. Being able to talk with others brought great comfort to Lisa and Bill, which is why they decided to become Peer Support Volunteers. They love any chance to "provide emotional support to families," helping them cross the bridge to wellness. The nbmtLINK thanks Bill and Lisa for their invaluable service. ♦

## nbmtLINK Celebrates an "Award-winning" Year!



Tiffany Rowe and Jean Jones

The nbmtLINK's **Caregivers' Guide for Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant, Practical Perspectives** won the 2008 National Family Caregiving Award, presented by the Met Life Foundation and the National Alliance for Caregiving. The nbmtLINK was chosen as one of six awardees out of 140 entries from around the country for its innovative approach to caregiver education. Jean Jones, nbmtLINK Program Manager and mother of a transplant survivor, traveled to Nashville to receive the award in July. Copies of the guide are available to download or order online at [www.nbmtlink.org](http://www.nbmtlink.org). You may also call 1-800-546-5268 to purchase your copy.

The Cancer Patient Education Network

(CPEN) presented the nbmtLINK with a "Gold Star" award in recognition of its **chronic Graft vs. Host Disease (cGvHD) Telephone Education and Support Group**, which grew out of a groundbreaking partnership with the National Institutes of Health. Each group runs for four weeks and is facilitated by NIH staff, Kate Castro, RN, MS, AOCN and Sandra A. Mitchell, PhD, CRNP, AOCN. Tiffany Rowe, nbmtLINK Director of Operations, received the award at the CPEN Annual Meeting in October. To learn more about cGvHD, watch the new webcast described on page 2. We are grateful to Amgen, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Michigan Chapter, and Therakos Inc. for providing support for this unique program. ♦

## New Webcast on Chronic Graft vs. Host Disease (cGvHD)

The nbmtLINK is proud to debut its second webcast, "Coping with chronic Graft vs. Host Disease," supported by the National Marrow Donor Program and Amgen. This webcast features disease experts and transplant survivors living with cGvHD.

Steven Paveletic, MD, Head of the Graft vs. Host and Autoimmunity Unit in the Experimental Transplantation and Immunology Branch at the National

Cancer Institute, provides an overview of the medical aspects, and treatment options for, cGvHD. Kate Castro and Dr. Sandra A. Mitchell discuss resources available for those living with cGvHD to maintain and improve their health.

Two transplant survivors, David and Gerlinde, offer their individual perspectives on coping and living with cGvHD. ♦



Sandra A. Mitchell, PhD, CRNP, AOCN and Kate Castro, RN, MS, AOCN

## Staff Spotlight

Denise Lillvis, Associate Director, joined the nbmtLINK in February. Denise holds a Bachelor of Arts from Swarthmore College and a Master of Arts in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, where she specialized in Nonprofit

Administration. Prior to the nbmtLINK, Denise worked for TCC Group, a management consulting firm, and Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. The nbmtLINK warmly welcomes Denise to its staff. ♦



Denise Lillvis

## Planning Ahead: What's New for 2009

The nbmtLINK is very pleased to announce the publication of two booklets next year:

- **Survivors' Guide for Bone Marrow/ Stem Cell Transplant**, 3rd edition. As medical science advances, more and more individuals are surviving disease-free after their transplant. Consequently, post-transplant survivorship challenges are becoming increasingly apparent and critical. Keren Stronach, a two-time transplant

survivor, is working with the nbmtLINK to completely update the *Survivors' Guide*, due out in 2009.

- **Voices of Hope & Healing**. This new publication will include inspirational stories, essays, practical advice, poems, and artwork created by BMT survivors and their caregivers. If you are interested in sharing your story, or supporting this effort, please contact Cindy Goldman at [cindygoldman@nbmtlink.org](mailto:cindygoldman@nbmtlink.org). ♦

### nbmtLINK

National Bone Marrow Transplant Link

20411 W. 12 Mile Rd.

Suite 108

Southfield, MI 48076

Toll Free: 800-LINK-BMT  
(800-546-5268)

Fax: 248-358-1889

[www.nbmtlink.org](http://www.nbmtlink.org)

e-mail: [info@nbmtlink.org](mailto:info@nbmtlink.org)

The National Bone Marrow Transplant Link is very grateful to the following LINK Partners, whose support is essential to our mission. For information on how your institution can become a LINK Partner, please contact Denise Lillvis at [deniselillvis@nbmtlink.org](mailto:deniselillvis@nbmtlink.org).

**National Marrow Donor Program**

**The J.P. McCarthy Foundation**

**American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation**

**Children's Hospital of Michigan**

**City of Hope Cancer Center**

**Dana-Farber Cancer Institute**

**Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/  
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance**

**Henry Ford Transplant Institute**

**Karmanos Cancer Institute**

**Loyola University Medical Center**

**Mayo Clinic**

**Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**

**The Blood and Marrow Program at Northside Hospital**

**Oregon Health & Science University**

**University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center**

**University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview Blood  
and Marrow Transplant Program**

**Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center**