

## Giving to the Living

### What We Do

Provide comprehensive, high-quality cardiovascular services for patients from a six-state region, enhanced by extensive research and education programs



“I am living testimony to the generosity of strangers.”

**Robert Minton,**  
heart recipient at  
Saint Luke's Mid America  
Heart Institute

### Saint Luke's cardiac transplant program gives patients a second chance at life

Like most men with robust lives, Robert Minton took his health for granted. He played basketball, participated in church activities, and worked as an environmental technician. His most serious health problem? Knee surgery caused by years of pounding the pavement with his basketball buddies.

Then Minton learned his heart was failing. Doctors initially diagnosed pneumonia, but Saint Luke's uncovered the real culprit: cardiomyopathy, an enlarged heart.

Caused by either a virus or genetics—doctors can't be sure—cardiomyopathy inflames the heart, slowing its pumping power.



The disease progressed and seven years later, Minton received a heart transplant at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute.

“New heart. New man,” Minton said. “I left that hospital feeling stronger and breathing clearer than I had in years.”

#### First in the Nation

Fortunately, Minton was at Saint Luke's, where he waited only 38 days for a matching heart. Some 80 percent of Saint Luke's patients receive a suitable donor match in less than six months, compared with the national average of 30 percent.

At the Heart Institute, patient care is backed by more experience than any other heart hospital in the world. Its patients have access to the nation's leading cardiologists, research trials testing the latest drugs and therapies—and the region's first and only heart transplant program, which has helped more than 280 people.

#### Spreading the Word

Your generous donation ensures that the nation's first dedicated heart hospital remains on the frontier of cardiology. Private donations allow us to help even more patients beat heart disease, the nation's leading cause of death.

Like many patients, Minton left Saint Luke's with an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

“I am living testimony to the generosity of strangers,” he said.

### How You Can Help

Gifts provide life-saving heart care by helping to sustain:

- Specialty programs in women's heart care, electrophysiology, heart failure, transplant, cardiothoracic surgery, interventional cardiology, and more
- Research of new devices, treatments, and clinical outcomes to improve care
- Community education and prevention programs
- Training for nurses, students, and medical residents

#### ACT NOW

Fill out the provided  
Giving form and send  
in your gift today!