

This Thanksgiving will be especially meaningful for 52-year-old Coppell resident Ron Raup, his wife, Blanche, and their daughter, Julie. A year ago, on Nov. 20, 2002, Ron, the former chief operating officer of Ron Mays Music in Dallas, received a miracle. He had a liver transplant, five months after the transplantation program opened at Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth.

For more than 30 years, Ron had suffered from hepatitis C, a disease that he said progressed so slowly he didn't appre-

Maron Levy, M.D., and Goran Klintmalm, M.D., perform a liver transplant. Below: The Raup family after Ron's successful transplant.



The Miracle of Transplantation

Baylor All Saints Transplant Program Saves Lives • BY JANAN TALAHER

ciate just how sick he was until it became debilitating. By 1988 he had cirrhosis of the liver. Then in May 2002, he was diagnosed with liver failure.

Julie moved back home from California to join her parents in the difficult waiting game—waiting for their number to come up first on the transplant list. Ron had been listed at Baylor University Medical Center (Baylor Dallas) and then at Baylor All Saints. Finally their long-awaited phone call came from Baylor All Saints early one morning. A match had been found, just 10 days before Thanksgiving.

The Gift of Life

It was a memorable Thanksgiving for another reason as well. Twelve years earlier, on Nov. 30, 1990, the Raups' 13-year-old son had been killed in a tragic accident. At a time when few

understood the need, the Raups made the decision to donate their son's organs. Now, that decision would come full circle.

"Few people have experienced the miracle of transplantation from both sides of the equation," Ron says. "We are acutely aware of how one family's decision can touch so many lives."

Since Baylor All Saints opened its transplantation program in July 2002, 37 people have received new kidneys and 26 have received new livers*. The program is operated in affiliation with Baylor Regional Transplant Institute, which guides transplant services at both Baylor All Saints and Baylor Dallas.

"We are very proud of our program and the team we have assembled," says Marlon Levy, M.D., surgical director of the Baylor All Saints program and on the medical staff at Baylor All Saints. "Our

success rates for both kidneys and livers exceed national standards. Now, families in Fort Worth and surrounding areas don't need to travel far from home to receive world-class care."

A \$6 million fund-raising campaign is currently under way to create a dedicated transplant operating room and transplant center with private patient rooms, an education center, consultation rooms, a family conference area and more.

► **To learn more about the fund-raising campaign, please call Terri Sexton, director of current giving, at the All Saints Health Foundation at (817) 922-7714. For more information on the liver and kidney transplant program, call the Baylor All Saints transplant team at (817) 922-4650.**

** as of August 4, 2003*