

# 2011 VOLUNTEERS

## Transplant takes life in new direction

*by Keith Anderson, Gift of Life*

Amy Honeycutt is a 27-year-old nursing student at the University of Missouri - Kansas City with a life full of friends, family, fun and a willingness to volunteer.

In the spring of 2011, an adverse reaction to a routine medicine Amy received abruptly took her life in a different direction. Her liver stopped functioning within days, and she needed a liver transplant. At that point, she became too ill to make her own decisions.

"I will forever be grateful to the friends and family who surrounded me at that time," she said.

**A**my made sure everyone understood that the generosity and decision of one donor and the donor's family is the reason she is alive today.

Because the Kansas City area has a high percentage of registered organ donors, her wait for the gift of life was only 48 hours. She received her new liver at the University of Kansas Hospital.

Seven weeks later, in August 2011, she embraced the new direction her life had taken and decided to volunteer for Gift of Life in Kansas City. She hosted a pool party and raffle for friends and family in North Kansas City. Amy made sure everyone understood that the generosity and decision of one donor and the donor's family was the reason she is alive today.

Amy also participated in training to become a classroom speaker for the Life Savers program, led by Gift of Life. Last year, the Life Savers program was delivered at no charge to 80 area high schools, reaching more than 20,000 individuals.

Through her efforts Amy has raised the bar for volunteerism in Kansas City and is leading others on her path to promote the importance of organ donation.

*Amy Honeycutt*

