

# Heart Failure is more deadly than breast and lung cancer combined But no one is talking about it. Until now.

Mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends... They make up the 6.7 million adult Americans living with Heart Failure—a condition that inhibits the heart's ability to pump vital, oxygen-rich blood to the body's organs, leading to symptoms such as shortness of breath, swelling of ankles, legs and abdomen, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea and persistent cough. The causes of Heart Failure are as diverse as the people who are living with this potentially fatal disease. They can range from congenital defects and previous heart attacks to complications from diabetes and cardiac arrhythmias. Approximately:

**6.7 MILLION**

adults suffer from Heart Failure in the U.S. and almost **64 million** people globally.

**\$67.8 BILLION**

is what U.S. Heart Failure care is set to cost annually by 2030 (currently \$30.7 Billion).

**900,000+**

people are diagnosed with Heart Failure each year.

**50%**

of HF patients will die within 5 years.

**± 3,000**

U.S. donor hearts available for transplant/year.

*Living with Heart Failure and all its endless challenges truly takes a village and HeartBrothers Foundation is honored to be part of the circle of survival.*

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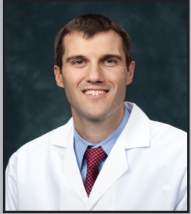
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# These are the faces of Heart Failure.



**Michael Kiernan, MD, MSc**

Director, Ventricular Assist Device Program, Tufts Medical Center Boston, MA

"It is difficult to appreciate the physical and psychological toll of living with advanced Heart Failure unless you have walked a mile in those shoes. It is an illness that extends beyond the

individual, to affect also the health and well-being of a patient's caregivers. As survivors of this disease, the HeartBrothers know firsthand about coping with Heart Failure. Through their Foundation, they are providing resources to support the emotional and social needs of patients and their families surviving with Heart Failure beyond what medicine alone can offer."



**KYLE WILLIAMS**

LVAD (Left Ventricular Assist Device) and Transplant Survivor

"December 2014 was the beginning of a new story in my life when I received my new heart at Tufts Medical Center. I take time to thank my donor and family every single day.

Beyond that, getting to know members of Team HeartBrothers and talking to people who have been through it all before made such a difference in my attitude and outlook. We all share a common bond. It will always connect us, and I will forever be grateful for the kindness and generosity shown to me."



**HAMID MADAHVY**

Board of Directors, LVAD and Transplant Survivor

"The HeartBrothers is a one-of-a-kind organization with the singular focus of helping Heart Failure patients and their loved ones. We not only provide counseling and emotional support we also lend a helping hand financially.

This is what makes us special. Plus, joining HeartBrothers as a volunteer opens up a world of opportunities for service and giving back. Being a HeartBrother has been my life's most enjoyable experience. After my transplant surgery I had a very difficult recovery, 19 days in the ICU, two follow-up surgeries and many complications. During that time, I was pretty down and at the end of my rope. I made a vow that if I ever got out I would dedicate my life to giving back. Once home I hooked up with HeartBrothers. They gave me hope when there was little hope, they gave me focus and a means to carry on. The physical challenges heal with time. But the mental and emotional strain just lingers. HeartBrothers and my faith have given me the vehicle to get my life back on track. Them being a part of me and me being a part of them has opened a rich and rewarding chapter in my new lease on life."



**DEYVEN FERRERAS**

LVAD and Transplant Survivor

"As an 18-year-old with an LVAD, I would go to Boston Children's Hospital and speak to kids (and their parents) who were likely to receive an LVAD as well. My goal was to ease some of their worries. However, I did not have anyone I

could talk to that could ease my own. Thankfully, the HeartBrothers provided that for me. They answered my questions regarding life "post-transplant," checked on me periodically to make sure I was okay, and they even helped me when I was afraid I would not be able to afford my college textbooks. I thank the HeartBrothers for reassuring me that life would get better. That advice gave me the strength to overcome my medical hurdles."



**STEVE MASKELL**

LVAD and Transplant Survivor

"Having spent months in Tufts Medical Center with both Bob and Pat, I know how dedicated they are to help others. We all talked about giving back if we survived our ordeal. I live 4 1/2 hours away and I could not see my wife or eight children for months at a time. Now with the HeartBrothers, patients' families will be able to visit more often. This is a big factor in surviving the nightmare for patients and their loved ones."



## WHAT IS THE HEARTBROTHERS FOUNDATION?

*Our sole mission is to bring resources together to help patients and their loved ones survive a life with Heart Failure and all its challenges.*

In 2014, four collective Heart Failure survivors—former HF patients Bob Romer and Pat Sullivan and their wives, Susan Romer and Leslie Sullivan—founded the HeartBrothers Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to helping patients and their loved ones navigate the complicated world of Heart Failure (HF), ventricular assist devices (VADs) and heart transplantation. We are in a unique position to understand the overwhelming physical, mental and financial stresses of HF for both patients and their families. We fill the gaps that the healthcare system doesn't by offering essential support through financial assistance, informative stress-coping resources, breaking medical news and support blogs for sharing personal challenges and triumphs.

## HeartBrothers Programs

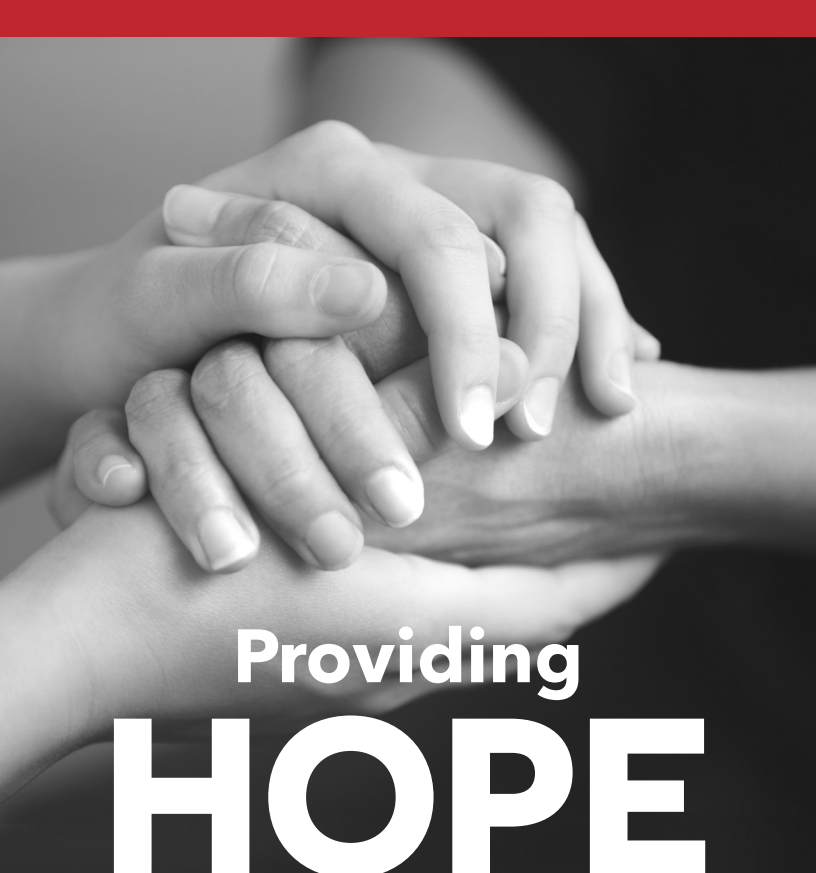
Launched in Boston, at a renowned medical center for cardiovascular care and heart transplant surgery, our assistance programs currently serve patients throughout New England, upstate New York and beyond. We coordinate with hospitals to help fill the financial gaps that exist between a patient's medical insurance and comprehensive, compassionate hospital care.

We also assist families in covering costs that exist in that "gap" including transportation, parking, lodging and meals.

## Types of Programs Include:

- **Patient Assistance:** Financial support for the costly Heart Failure burden of hospitalizations, lodging, food, transport, parking, and critical travel expenses.
- **Team HeartBrothers:** Our 80+ Team HeartBrothers Ambassadors—survivors of VADs, heart transplant, and beyond—who provide emotional support and education. In person and virtually, they visit hospitalized and homebound patients—delivering hope when all seems hopeless.
- **HeartBrothers House:** The first lodging option in downtown Boston dedicated to Heart Failure patients. Offering fully furnished upscale one-bedroom apartments to Heart Failure patients and families through the duration of their hospitalization or clinic care.
- **Patient Support Group:** Our free monthly virtual meetings that are a gathering space for all Heart Failure patients and loved ones to listen or share first-hand knowledge, experiences, and strategies on living life with Heart Failure. Featuring Team HeartBrothers Ambassadors, fellow Heart Failure patients and caregivers, and social workers and staff from partnering transplant centers.
- **Organ Donation Awareness:** Virtual and in-person outreach & presentations to raise awareness about organ donation to the national HF community as well as local organizations, schools and companies.





▲ FROM LEFT: Leslie, Pat, Bob, Susan

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**Patrick Sullivan**, Co-Founder & Transplant Survivor

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**Leslie Sullivan**, Co-Founder & Caregiver

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Providing  
**HOPE**

**Is At The Heart  
Of All We Do**

[heartbrothers.org](http://heartbrothers.org)

For more information on our programs, services,  
events, resources, and more  
please visit [heartbrothers.org](http://heartbrothers.org)  
call 800-262-0931  
or email [us@heartbrothers.org](mailto:us@heartbrothers.org)