

2014 VOLUNTEERS

“It was the best decision I could make”

by Justin Phelps, Mid-America Transplant Services

Angela Johnson recalls the moment she decided to donate the organs and tissues of her 16-year-old son. “My son was 16 in 2001, and he was a gunshot victim,” Angela said. “I was approached by MTS at the time about organ and tissue donation. I had never heard anything about donation. After speaking with her for five to ten minutes, I knew it was the best decision I could make.

“From that day on, I’ve been an advocate for getting people to join the organ and tissue registry.”

– Angela Johnson



DaVon Douglas Steward at 16

Angela began volunteering with MTS in 2011. She has shared her story with students through the MTS Education program, participated in community outreach events, created a video about her son and hosted her own registry drive in February 2014 at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park (SLCC-FP). Angela has spoken to 12 classes through MTS’s education program since 2011. In 2013, she assisted MTS’s efforts at several St. Louis-area events: the Annie Malone Parade, Amnesty Days and ARCHS Basketball Life Skills Class.

Because her son was 16 years old when he was tragically killed, Angela has focused on reaching minority youth. “There is such a great need in our community, in our race of people to be organ and tissue donors,” Angela said. “We have a misconception that we’re not worthy, but we are.”

In 2014, Angela helped 43 people join the registry at a drive she organized at SLCC-FP. She’s working with all campuses in the St. Louis Community College system to host registry drives during the 2014-2015 school year. “Angela is dedicated to educating students about organ and tissue donation,” said T’Shon Young, MTS Education Coordinator. “She makes sure everyone knows about her positive experience, dispelling myths and expresses how donation helped her along her grieving process. She encourages everyone to have a family discussion about organ and tissue donation.”

Angela also gives back to other donor families. In 2012, she joined MTS’s Grief Companion Program, which pairs a donor family member with a newly bereaved donor family member to help navigate his or her grief journey.

Visit www.mts-stl.org to read more stories like Angela’s.



Angela Johnson in the foreground at the Annie Malone Parade in 2013.



Angela at the registry drive she hosted.