

IN MEMORY OF JORDAN STERLING

TRANSPLANT FELLOWSHIP IS FIRST OF ITS KIND, ESTABLISHED BY GIFT FROM STERLING FOUNDATION

After Jordan Sterling passed away in 2009 at age 34 following a life-long battle with cystic fibrosis, his family and friends gathered to decide how best to honor his memory. They established the Jordan Sterling Foundation to support families dealing with cystic fibrosis and to assist organizations that provide organ transplant services and conduct research into the disease.

The foundation's first \$50,000 gift established a lung transplant fellowship at St. Joseph's Heart & Lung Institute.

"We thought that funding research and training through a fellowship was the best way to ultimately find a cure for cystic fibrosis," said Kim Sterling-Heflin, Jordan's mother, chairman of the board and founding director of the Jordan Sterling Foundation.

The two-year fellowship will provide advanced training in lung transplantation science and produce academic leaders in cardiopulmonary transplant medicine.

"Care of patients with cystic fibrosis prior to lung transplantation and following surgery is different than that of other lung transplant patients because of complications of the underlying disease," said Rajat Walia, MD, transplant pulmonologist. "The fellowship will create formal training for a board-certified or board-eligible physician to join the lung transplant team at St. Joseph's and conduct research to improve the care transplant patients with cystic fibrosis receive."

According to Dr. Walia, limited lung transplant training opportunities are available in the U.S. "This fellowship will fill a need for lung transplants and cystic fibrosis."

"We hope that this gift can help you continue your pursuit of excellence. Jordan touched each of us and many other people. Honoring his memory in this way was the least we could do," says Ethan Hurley, president and founding director of the Jordan Sterling Foundation. "Let's keep going!"



Jordan Sterling



Ethan Hurley (front), president and co-founder of the Jordan Sterling Foundation, signs the lung transplant fellowship agreement with support from Brian Frakes, Rajat Walia, MD, Brooke Sterling and Kim Sterling-Heflin.