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BRIDGING THE GAP AND SAVING LIVES

Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation study offers new hope to the sickest patients waiting for a heart transplant.

Walking to the mailbox. Cooking dinner. Going to work. These are activities that we all take for granted--except for congestive heart failure patients like Marrel Bush of Windom, Minn.

Bush, like 8,000 others worldwide, is on the heart transplant waiting list. 5,000 of these patients will not receive a transplant this year due to a lack of suitable donor hearts. Some of these patients will die while waiting--Bush likely would have been one of them.

Bush's health deteriorated so quickly that without rapid intervention he would have died while waiting for a donor heart, according to Minneapolis Heart Institute® cardio-thoracic surgeon, Nader Moazami, MD.

In May, Bush became the first patient enrolled in a Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation research study looking at a new "bridge to transplant" device called the DuraHeart™ Left Ventricular Assist System. The LVAS improves the heart's pumping function providing valuable time for patients at high risk of death while waiting for a donor heart.

This third generation of Left Ventricular Assist Devices like the DuraHeart™ offer more efficient pumping and less risk of side effects than earlier devices, said David Feldman, MD, cardiologist at the Minneapolis Heart Institute® and National Principal Co-Investigator for the clinical trial.

Bush, while recovering from implantation surgery at Abbott Northwestern Hospital said, "It's a miracle I lived as long as I did. I didn't realize how very sick I was. I always had kind of a cynical outlook on life, but now that I am given this chance to live I've turned the page."

In a few short weeks, Marrel Bush and his wife, Bobbie, will return home to resume life as usual. "I'm looking forward to not being a couch potato anymore," he said.

Bush is excited to spread the word on LVAS safety in his community. He has been asked to provide education on the devices to emergency professionals. "I feel it is my duty to give back and spread the word. It might just save someone's life."

About the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

The Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation at Abbott Northwestern Hospital is dedicated to creating a world without heart disease through groundbreaking clinical research and innovative education

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programs. MHIF's mission is to promote and improve cardiovascular health, quality of life and longevity for all.

About the DuraHeart™ LVAS

The DuraHeart™ Left Ventricular Assist System (LVAS) is a third-generation mechanical circulatory support device manufactured by Terumo Heart, Inc. intended for patients who are at risk of death due to end-stage left ventricular failure. It is currently the only approved implantable LVAS combining a centrifugal pump with active magnetic levitation of the impeller, which provides exceptional reliability and minimizes the potential for blood damage and thrombus.

The DuraHeart LVAS carries the CE Mark and is commercially available in European countries. It is currently an investigational device limited by federal law (United States) and patients are currently being enrolled in the DuraHeart Pivotal U.S. Trial for Bridge to Transplant.

Heart Failure Statistics from the Heart Failure Society of America

- Heart failure affects nearly 5 million Americans and causes or contributes to nearly 250,000 deaths each year.
- Millions of people are living with heart failure and do not know it, because symptoms are often mistaken for signs of "just getting older."
- Heart failure is the only major cardiovascular disease on the rise and causes more hospitalizations than all forms of cancer combined.

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For more information or to schedule an interview with David Feldman, MD; Nader Moazami, MD; or Marrel Bush, please contact Meghan Bethke at 612-863-5410 or mbethke@mhif.org.

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