

## **CRITICAL NEED**

Approximately 30 million women, men and children are affected by one of more than 100 diseases of the liver. In fact, many forms of liver disease have no symptoms and cannot be detected without screening. Liver disease is now one of the top ten causes of death in the U.S. and is now among the top seven for adults between the ages of 25-64—claiming more than 27,000 lives each year. Transplantation is the treatment of last resort. The leading cause of chronic liver disease in the U.S. and a significantly growing cause of liver cancer is hepatitis B and C. The reality is that liver disease can be traced to a variety of causes related to family history, reactions to drugs and chemicals, social behavior and hygiene. Your Liver, Your Life.

## **THE EDUCATION: PROMOTING LIVER HEALTH, PREVENTING LIVER DISEASE**

The American Liver Foundation (ALF) founded in 1976, is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for liver health promotion and disease prevention. Awareness and education are the most important tools we have to prevent and treat liver disease. The ALF provides preventive liver wellness programs reach school aged children, patients and their loved ones, the community and medical professionals.

## **THE RESEARCH**

The American Liver Foundation is the largest supporter of liver disease research outside of the federal government. Since 1979 our competitive Research Awards Program has granted more that \$21.3M to more than 650 scientists. These grants have encouraged young scientists and physicians to build careers in liver research and treatment. Our grants have also enabled recipients to successfully compete for additional research funds from the NIH and other sources, and thereby enhance our progress towards improved prevention, detection and treatment options. In fact pioneering studies funded by the ALF have demonstrated the principal feasibility of liver cell therapy in patients. Research is exploring the very real possibility of specific hepatocyte replacement rather than whole organ transplant in achieving a therapeutic effect in many liver diseases.