



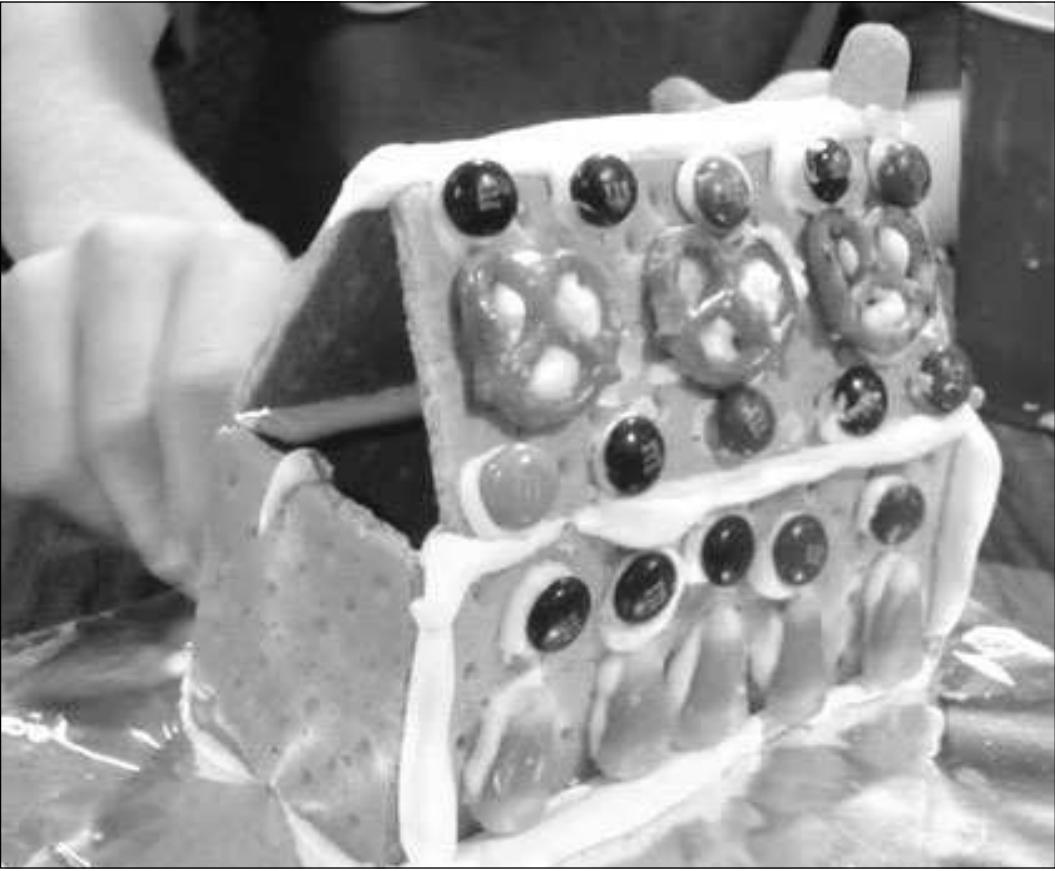
Ethan Mortenson and Lila Hoopman appear to enjoy working with sweet construction materials.

Under construction

AWANA's Family Christmas Social, held at the Evangelical Covenant Church Dec. 18, drew 98 children from pre-school to sixth grade and their family members. Attendees of all ages decorated graham cracker houses making for a sweet evening, jokes organizers.



Ethan Barnett shows off his work in progress.



A nearly finished house.

LIFE

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vival option.
If only it were that simple.
Duayne's blood type is O positive, meaning donors with a matching blood type can give organs to people with any blood type, creating a high demand for O positive organs. This made getting a new heart more of a challenge for Duayne.
Despite his odds, Duayne said he and Nancy stayed positive through the experience and are thankful Duayne is able to share his success story with the community that helped him survive.

GOING DOWNHILL
When Duayne discussed his condition with The Journal in October 2012 to promote the importance of organ donation, he was looking and feeling good. He had been on a transplant list for more than a year, but a medication called milrinone, which is used to stimulate cardiac function, allowed his life to stay "pretty close to normal."
Shortly after, however, he said everything went downhill.
An infection at the milrinone injection site landed Duayne in the hospital Nov. 21, 2012 – the eve of Thanksgiving.
He traveled to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester where he had been doctoring since his diagnosis. Upon arrival, Duayne said doctors thought he reached a point that he wouldn't be leaving the hospital without a new heart.
"I was relieved when he was finally put in the hospital," Nancy said. "I knew he was failing...And I had so much confidence in the Mayo doctors."

STAYING POSITIVE
At the time Duayne was admitted, it was uncertain when – and if – he'd receive a heart.
"Doctors came in everyday and told me there was a heart out there for me," he said.
Days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months. While Duayne said he was able to stay positive a majority of the time, he admitted there were days that were more of a struggle.
"There were times I said, 'This is it, I'm cashing in my chips,'" he said. "It was

More information

Although there have been advances in medical technology and donation, www.donatelife.org says the demand for organ, eye and tissue donation still vastly exceeds the number of donors.

- More than 120,000 men, women and children currently need lifesaving organ transplants.
- Every 10 minutes another name is added to the national organ transplant waiting list.
- An average of 18 people die each day from the lack of available organs for transplant.
- In 2012, there were 14,013 organ donors resulting in 28,052 organ transplants.
- In 2012, more than 46,000 corneas were transplanted.
- More than 1 million tissue transplants are done each year and the surgical need for tissue has been steadily rising.
- According to research, 98 percent of all adults have heard about organ donation and 86 percent have heard of tissue donation.
- 90 percent of Americans say they support donation, but only 30 percent know the essential steps to take to be a donor.

a long haul and sometimes tough to deal with, but the goal was always in mind. And having Nancy as my wonderful support really helped."
Nancy said she was able to accept that Duayne's fate was out of her hands, but was appreciative of the community support the couple received on dark days.
"It was just astounding," she said of the support. "Family, friends, acquaintances and even strangers reached out to us...It was wonderful."
Still, there were setbacks. In April, Duayne developed vasculitis, an inflammation of blood vessels. The infection kept him off the donor list for 30 days.
"That was scary," Duayne said. "That was something we weren't prepared for."
Nancy agreed. "That was our most difficult time."

A NEW HEART
On June 11, Duayne just finished his daily pep talk with his doctor about eventually getting a heart, when a nurse told him not to eat or do anything – a heart was on its way.
"We were excited," Duayne said. "A lot of things have to match up when receiving a heart, but (doctors) said it was a good chance."
Still, Duayne and Nancy said they didn't let their hopes soar too high.
Several months prior, a heart had come for Duayne, but the hospital rejected the organ. marking a letdown for the Johnsons and their family.
This time, however, fate was on their side.
After spending more than

200 days in the hospital, Duayne was a free man with a new heart June 22.
"Walking out of that hospital was a great feeling," he said.
The couple say they know very few details of where Duayne's new heart came from, but said they knew the donor was young and helped more than 20 people.
"We wrote to the donor's family," Duayne said. "We have not heard from them yet, but hopefully we will."
Nancy said while her husband was in surgery she had a positive feeling of the outcome.
"We've had a good marriage and a good life together and I thought if this is it, it's been good," she said. "But I knew things went well the minute I saw him after...his skin was pink again."
The Johnsons say they have a lot to be thankful for during the holiday season, especially to whoever gave Duayne a second chance.
"Someone out there had to give a life for me to keep a life," he said. "I think this whole process has caused me to think things through a little bit more...Nancy and I are pretty lucky people."
The couple urges people who are not organ donors to rethink the decision.
"You never know who you will help," they said. "You never know whose life you can save."
Becoming an organ and tissue donor is only a few clicks of the mouse away. Those interested can visit a number of websites including: www.life-source.org; www.donatelifemidwest.org/mn; or www.organdonor.gov.

UCARE

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to have a good relationship with us," she said, adding UCare's voluntary disenrollment rate is less than 5 percent.
"Once people have been on UCare, they've stayed with us," she said.
Schwartz said commu-

nication is key as new relationships are built.
"We want to have the kind of communications you would like at the county board level," she said.
Pavleck said he appreciated the group's visit to the board.
"I was pleased with what I heard from them," he told The Journal after the meeting. "I think UCare realizes

they need to do a good job up here."
He said the board still has asked DHS to have at least one additional provider, but is unsure if the request will be fulfilled.
"Whether we'll get that or not, I don't know know," he said. "Hopefully things — however they go — will work out."

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