

WHO WE ARE:

LVADSTRONG PATIENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.

A Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) is a mechanical pump implanted to assist a weakened heart in pumping blood. It's commonly used in patients with end-stage heart failure.

There are several treatment paths for LVAD patients:

- **Bridge to Transplant:** An LVAD is used temporarily while awaiting a heart transplant.
- **Destination Therapy:** For patients ineligible for a transplant, an LVAD serves as a long-term solution to improve quality of life.
- **Bridge to Recovery:** In some cases, an LVAD may be used temporarily to allow the heart to recover, potentially eliminating the need for a transplant.

Each path is tailored to the patient's specific medical condition and needs.

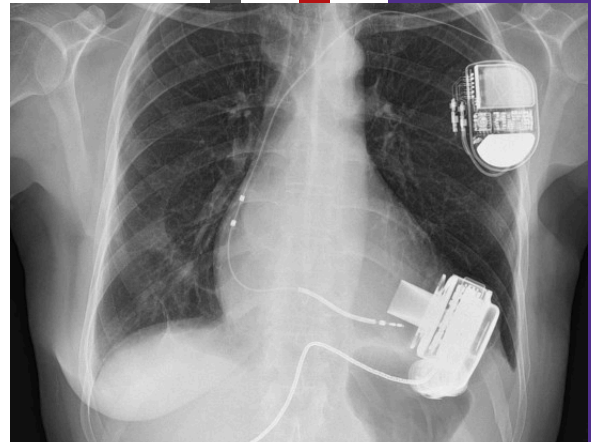
Challenges for LVAD Patients

Living with a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) involves significant lifestyle adjustments and ongoing management.

Carrying Equipment: LVAD patients must manage external components, including a controller and power sources, which are typically carried in a bag or worn on a belt. This setup requires constant attention to ensure the device operates correctly and to prevent complications.

Mental Health Challenges: The psychological impact of living with an LVAD is considerable. Studies have shown that both patients and caregivers experience moderate levels of anxiety and depression. For instance, a study found that patients reported moderate levels of anxiety and depression, and caregivers often reported impairment in social life and self-care.

Addressing these mental health challenges is crucial for improving the quality of life for LVAD patients. Implementing mental health interventions, such as screening, support, and education, can significantly enhance patient well-being.



WHAT IS AN LVAD?

A Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) is a mechanical pump surgically implanted to help a weakened heart pump blood.

Ongoing innovations in LVAD technology are enhancing device efficiency, patient outcomes, and expanding the potential patient population.

The global LVAD market is projected to grow from \$1.36 billion in 2024 to \$2.88 billion by 2032, at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.9%.



LVAD CARETAKERS STRUGGLE

Caring for a loved one with a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) presents significant challenges, impacting caregivers' physical, emotional, and social well-being.

Physical and Emotional Strain:

Caregivers often experience substantial physical and emotional burdens. A study published in the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation found that caregivers reported moderate levels of anxiety and depression, with illness denial and conscious avoidance being associated between them.

Impact on Quality of Life:

The demands of caregiving can lead to a decline in the caregiver's quality of life. Research indicates that caregivers may experience impairments in social life and self-care, affecting their overall well-being.

Caregiver Burden and Patient Outcomes:

While higher caregiver burden is a concern, a study in The Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation found that increased caregiver burden at baseline was not significantly associated with patient recovery in the first year after LVAD implantation.

Social and Financial Challenges:

Caregivers often face social stigmatization due to a lack of understanding within their wider social circles about LVADs, leading to feelings of embarrassment and avoidance. Additionally, most states do not compensate spouses for caregiving, adding financial strain.

Support and Resources

Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive support systems, including education, respite care, and mental health services, to assist caregivers in managing the demands of caring for LVAD patients.



MENTAL HEALTH

An LVAD patient is 60 times more likely to attempt suicide than the average person.

Nearly 1 in 5 LVAD recipients have psychosocial risk factors, such as limited social support, limited cognition, or substance abuse.

Caregivers of LVAD patients report moderate levels of anxiety, depression, and caregiver strain. Illness denial and conscious avoidance are associated between them. Caregivers often report impairment in social life and self-care.

Hope Beyond the Heart

CHALLENGES FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS MANAGING LVAD PATIENTS

Caring for LVAD patients presents unique medical, emotional, and systemic challenges, which can contribute to stress, burnout, and mental health strain among healthcare providers.

Medical & Clinical Challenges:

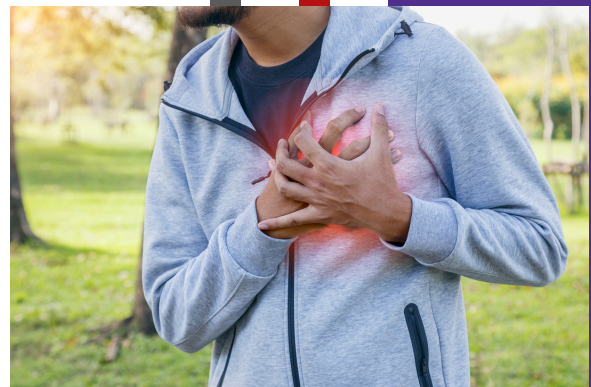
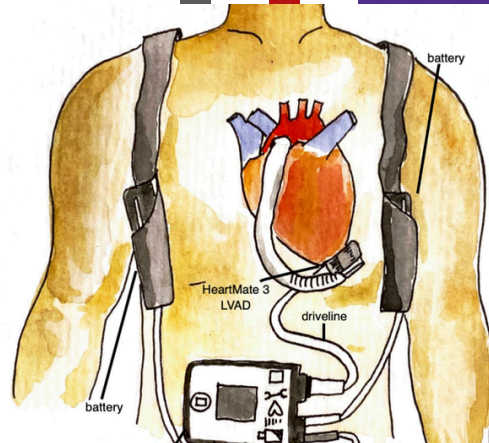
- **Complex Care Requirements** – LVAD patients need specialized care, including driveline management, infection control, anticoagulation monitoring, and device troubleshooting.
- **Emergencies & Limited Protocols** – Many hospitals, EMS teams, and clinics are unfamiliar with LVADs, making emergency response and collaboration difficult.
- **Long-Term Management** – Unlike traditional heart failure care, LVAD patients require lifelong support, which can be overwhelming for providers.

Mental & Emotional Challenges

- **Patient Mortality & Ethical Dilemmas** – LVAD patients face life-threatening complications such as strokes, infections, and pump thrombosis, leading to emotionally difficult decisions about quality of life and end-of-life care.
- **Emotional Fatigue** – Many patients and families struggle with anxiety, depression, or frustration, which can emotionally drain providers.
- **Attachment & Loss** – Building long-term relationships with LVAD patients, only to witness their decline, can take an emotional toll.

Burnout & Systemic Pressures

- **High Workload & Staffing Shortages** – LVAD patients require specialized, time-intensive care, often without enough staff support.
- **24/7 Availability & Pressure** – LVAD teams may feel constant pressure to be on-call for emergencies, patient crises, and device troubleshooting.
- **Lack of Institutional Support** – Many hospitals lack adequate training, resources, or mental health support for staff dealing with LVAD-related stress.



Strength in Every Beat



PHIL MORTON - FOUNDER & CEO

In September 2022, while visiting Boston, I experienced a life-altering event: I collapsed at Bunker Hill due to arrhythmia and was rushed to Massachusetts General Hospital. There, I was told I had six months to live. The Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) saved my life, but it also opened my eyes to the challenges faced by the LVAD community.

Our mission at LVADStrong is to empower LVAD patients, families, and healthcare professionals through education, support, and community engagement. We offer:

- **LVAD Patient Support:** Empowering patients through education, support, and community connections for a healthier journey.
- **Community Engagement:** Fostering awareness, inclusion, and understanding through outreach, events, and educational programs.
- **Healthcare Staff Recognition:** Honoring and supporting healthcare professionals through appreciation events, wellness programs, and meaningful contributions.
- **LVAD Patient Events:** Connecting patients and families through inspiring gatherings, wellness activities, and shared experiences.

In the coming months, we plan to launch:

- **Continued Meet & Greet Visits:** Engaging with Fire, EMS, Police, and Security to familiarize them with LVADs.
- **Participation in Community Events:** Exposing the public to LVADs to foster understanding and support.
- **Healthcare Staff Appreciation:** Providing nurse visits and care packages to honor their dedication.
- **New LVAD Patient Care Packages:** Distributing packages in partner hospitals to support new patients.

I am tired of excuses. We must act now to support LVAD patients, caregivers, and healthcare workers. Together, we can make a difference. Join us in our mission to empower hearts and transform lives.



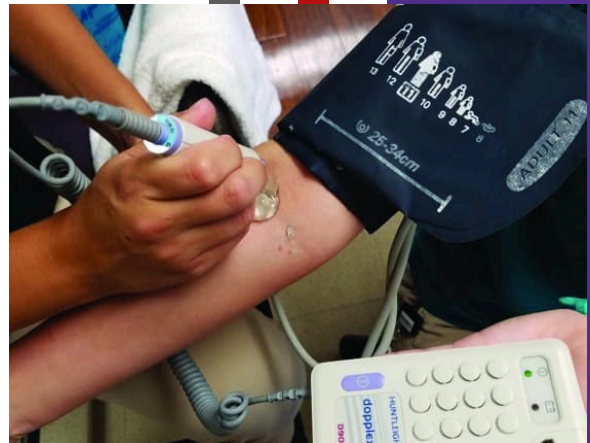


OUR MISSION:

Our mission is to provide patient outreach and support, educate communities, host LVAD patient events, and offer support and resources for hospital and clinic staff. By fostering understanding and building connections, LVADStrong aims to empower patients, enhance healthcare support, and raise awareness about LVADs. LVADStrong operates under the premise that LVAD patients who receive proper mental health support have better outcomes.

Studies show that addressing the psychological and emotional challenges of living with an LVAD can significantly improve a patient's quality of life and increase the likelihood of adherence to medical recommendations. This, in turn, contributes to reduced complications, fewer hospital readmissions, and improved survival rates.

Better patient outcomes not only enhance individual lives but also lead to increased capacity within hospitals and clinics, allowing more patients to access life-saving LVAD treatments. By reducing the strain on healthcare systems, LVADStrong's advocacy efforts contribute to both saving lives and reducing healthcare costs. This dual impact forms a cornerstone of our mission to support LVAD patients and their families.





WHERE DONOR MONEY GOES

In the next six months, LVADStrong plans to launch several key programs aimed at supporting the LVAD community. Here's how funding will be allocated:

1. Continued Meet & Greet Visits with Fire, EMS, Police, and Security:

- Objective: Enhance first responders' understanding of LVADs to improve emergency response and patient care.
- Funding Allocation:
 - Travel and Transportation: Covering costs for staff to visit various departments.
 - Educational Materials: Developing and printing informational brochures and guides.
 - Event Coordination: Organizing logistics for each visit.

2. Participation in Community Events to Expose the Public to LVADs:

- Objective: Raise public awareness about LVADs and their impact on patients' lives.
- Funding Allocation:
 - Booth Setup: Renting space and materials for event displays.
 - Promotional Items: Creating giveaways like brochures, wristbands, or informational packets.
 - Staffing: Compensating volunteers or staff for their time at events.

3. Healthcare Staff Appreciation - Nurse Visits and Care Packages:

- Objective: Show appreciation to healthcare workers who support LVAD patients.
- Funding Allocation:
 - Care Package Contents: Purchasing items such as snacks, thank-you notes, and small gifts.
 - Packaging Materials: Acquiring boxes, wrapping, and labeling supplies.
 - Distribution Costs: Covering expenses for delivering packages to healthcare facilities.

4. New LVAD Patient Care Packages in Partner Hospitals:

- Objective: Provide support and resources to newly implanted LVAD patients.
- Funding Allocation:
 - Care Package Contents: Including items like educational materials, comfort items, and essential supplies.
 - Packaging Materials: Purchasing boxes, labels, and other necessary items.
 - Distribution Costs: Ensuring timely delivery to patients in partner hospitals.

By allocating funds to these areas, LVADStrong aims to enhance education, support, and appreciation within the LVAD community, ultimately improving the quality of life for patients and their caregivers.





WE NEED YOUR HELP

An LVAD isn't just a device; it's a second chance at life, a bridge to hope, and a testament to resilience. But beyond the technology, it's the people—the patients, the families, the caregivers, and the generous hearts who give—that make this journey possible.

Your support fuels more than programs and services—it fuels lives. Every donation, every volunteer hour, and every shared story creates a network of strength, reminding LVAD patients that they are not just surviving, but thriving.

Today, you have the opportunity to be the difference—to help someone find the resources they need, the community they deserve, and the strength to keep moving forward.

Because at LVADStrong, we don't just support hearts—we lift spirits, build connections, and create hope.

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Donate Today!



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