

LIFE LINKS

www.donatelifect.org

Giving Thanks

For many years, Donate Life Connecticut has taken time in the month of November to thank the people who support our mission, especially the staff at the DMV and AAA branches. These front line employees take the time to ask every customer obtaining a driver's license or state ID card if they would like to join the Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. In part, because of their work, we have nearly 1,000,000 registered donors in Connecticut!

This year, we hand delivered or mailed kits containing hand written notes of thanks on behalf of the entire CT donation team, Donate Life lapel pins and computer stickers reminding them to ask "Every Customer, Every Time" to join the registry. We also include personal notes of thanks from people the staff could potentially impact: a donor wife, organ recipient and patient waiting for the gift of life. We want the DMV and AAA to realize their simple question could truly one day save the life of someone waiting for a life saving transplant.



Holiday Online Shopping

If you are an online holiday shopper, please take a few moments to shop through www.GoodShop.com. This site has arrangements with hundreds of mainstream stores (Target, Gap, Wal-Mart) to give a percentage of *Continued on page 3*

Stamford Thanksgiving Parade

Donate Life Connecticut had the opportunity to participate in the Stamford Thanksgiving Parade on November 22, 2009! We chose a football theme with the slogan: "Join the Team! Join the Registry!". The sides of the float displayed the web address to the new online registry, www.DonateLifeNewEngland.org. At one end of the float there was a goal post with a banner reading "National Goal: Register 100,000,000 Americans as Organ and Tissue Donors!". The far end of the football field float was a scoreboard with a score of 75 – 0 (75 lives could be saved by one donor and 0 lives will be saved if you do nothing). Float riders were DLC volunteers (donor families, recipients, donation supporters and living donors). *Continued on page 2*



Connecticut

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By the Numbers

- 105,144: Americans on the National Transplant Waiting List
- 1,088: Connecticut residents waiting for a life saving organ transplant
- 155: Organ transplants performed so far in Connecticut this year (98 deceased donors / 57 living donors)
- 1: Organ and Tissue Donor can save or improve the lives of up to 75 people

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Stamford Parade cont.

Football jerseys were worn, with the Donate Life Connecticut logo on the front and our donation status on the back (ie Donor Family). The parade drew over 150,000 spectators! We had a terrific day raising awareness about organ and tissue donation.



Back Row (L-R): Donna, Carol, Brad, Zoe, Jorge.
Second Row: Christine, Kolie, Zvi, Maria, Peter.
Front Row: Marjory, Kari, Joanne. Not pictured: Greg



On the parade route.
"Donation Saves Lives!"

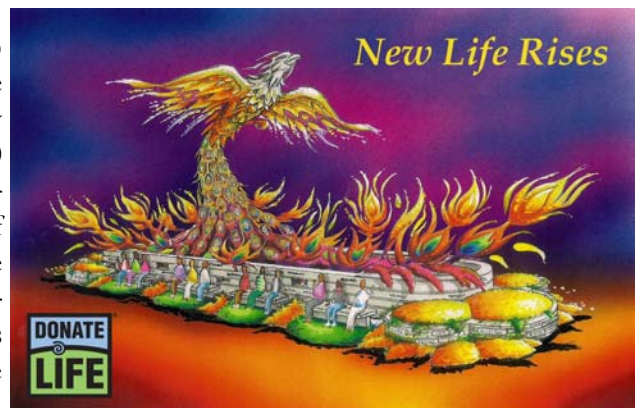


Lasting Impression.

More Parades: Tournament of Rose Parade

Kathleen Bridgett Coolican, the youngest of six children, was a freckle-faced, curly haired tomboy. Six-year-old Katie was a first grade student when she collapsed on the playground from an arteriovenous (AV) malformation and became the town's first organ and tissue donor. "Katie's death in a small New England town impacted many," said Katie's mother, Maggie. "We quickly understood that her death was not something we would ever get over, but would learn to live with. Friends, neighbors and strangers provided daily support and dedicated a playground in her memory in 1984."

On New Year's Day, an artistic floral portrait ("floragraph") of Katie will be featured on the 2010 Tournament of Rose Parade float, *New Life Rises*, inspiring many in our community to register as organ and tissue donors. She is one of 100 stories of 'new life rising' depicted on the float. There are 24 float riders, each a transplant recipient or family member of a deceased organ, eye or tissue donor, from 13 states. There are 76 deceased organ, eye and tissue donors representing 34 states. More than 1,000 roses from all 50 states and various countries dedicated to the Donate Life Family circle rose dedication program on the float.



In the 25 years since Katie's passing, Maggie has become a national figure in the donation community through her bereavement program, publications, and creation of the National Donor Family Quilt. Maggie is a founding member of Donate Life Connecticut.

Transplant Speakers International - Volunteer Training

DLC invites you to the 2010 Speaker's Training by Transplant Speakers International (TSI). TSI's mission is to "improve or save lives through public education given via a donor-recipient perspective." We welcome you to come and learn how to effectively share your personal donation story in a way that will best educate the public on organ and tissue donation. This program is helpful to both new and experienced volunteer speakers. Space is limited - RSVP to Kari at kari.mull@gmail.com or call 203.494.1455 to reserve a spot!

VOLUNTEER COMMENTS FROM 2008 TRAINING

- "Very Good program, well presented"
- "Instructors were dynamic and passionate"
- "Excellent, I would definitely attend again"

WHEN: Saturday, February 20, 2010 10:30a-3:30p

WHERE: TBA - Hospital in Connecticut
Light refreshments & lunch will be served

Sponsored by: Donate Life Connecticut, LifeChoice Donor Services and the New England Organ Bank.

Goodshop Cont.

your purchases to the charity of your choice. Please type: Donate Life Connecticut (must spell out Connecticut) as the charity of your choice. Then choose your store to shop from and it directs you to the store's website. Easy! You'll feel good about your holiday purchases and help Donate Life Connecticut too!

Get Involved

November - Donor Sabbath, contact Kari for details on discussing donation in your church, anytime

12/15 9:30a - 12p - High School in the Community, New Haven (speaking engagement)

2/10 2:30p-3:15p - Capitol Prep Magnet School, Hartford (speaking engagement)

2/20 9a-3p -Transplant Speakers International - Volunteer Training

2/21 3:00p - Bridgeport Sound Tigers
Donate Life Night - tickets on sale soon

2/23 12:00p - Shepaug Valley High School, Washington (speaking engagement)

4/2 Donate Life Connecticut Day at Capitol

5/22 9a-12p AHA Heart Walk in New Haven

6/24 6-9pm 2nd Annual Toast to Life, Seasons at Traditions Golf Course, Wallingford

There are many opportunities to raise donor awareness in your community and around the state! If you are interested in sharing your donation story contact Kari. Together we can find the right atmosphere to impact Connecticut; speaking engagements registration tables, etc. If you are interested in volunteering or attending any of these events, email donatelifect@gmail.com. Details of these events will be distributed to you via email when you sign up to volunteer.

www.DonateLifeNewEngland.org

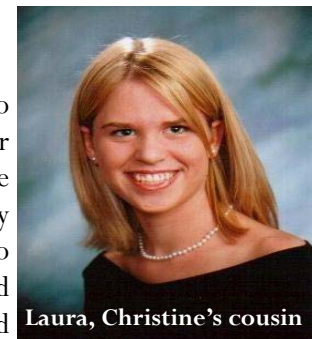
Remember: Anyone 18 years and over living in New England may register as an organ and tissue donor at the new, secure online registry.



Christine

Meet A Friend of DLC

Christine joined Donate Life Connecticut's volunteer force to honor and remember her cousin, Laura. Laura received a liver transplant when she was 2 years old. About 18 years later, she was in need of a second liver transplant. Finally, her lucky day came and a liver became available. Unfortunately, it was too late. Laura was too sick to receive the transplant and passed away hours later. Laura was only 20 years old. Laura died



Laura, Christine's cousin

waiting for her gift of life, her new liver. Christine is an active volunteer: speaking to high school students or discussing donation with strangers at an awareness table. This is how Christine keeps Laura's memory alive. Christine, thank you for being a part of DLC.



Connecticut

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You have the Power to Save Lives!

Find us on the web at:

www.donatelifect.org

Donate Life Connecticut
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Woodbridge, CT 06525

Donate Life Connecticut is a statewide collaborative volunteer organization consisting of healthcare organizations and passionate individuals. Together, through education and awareness programs, we publicly promote the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation. Our members include:

*American Heart Association
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
Connecticut Eye Bank & Visual Research Foundation
ESRD Network of New England
Hartford Hospital Transplant Program
Kenyon Consulting, LLC.
LifeChoice Donor Services
National Kidney Foundation
New England Organ Bank
The Hospital of Central Connecticut
Yale-New Haven Hospital Transplant Program
Individual Professionals
Donor Families and Transplant Recipients
Volunteer Members*