

LIFE LINKS

www.donatelifect.org

ONE MILLION STRONG

Over one million Connecticut residents are registered as organ and tissue donors! This milestone was achieved by the hard work of Donate Life Connecticut, it's member non-profits, dedicated volunteers and the commitment of the Department of Motor Vehicles. In 2009, Donate Life Connecticut volunteers gave 663 hours to raising public awareness and understanding of donation at 101 events. Exposure to the topic of donation contributed to thousands of DMV customers checking 'YES' to join the Donor Registry while renewing/receiving their driver's license or state I.D. With the addition of the secure online access Donor Registry (www.DonateLifeNewEngland.org), Connecticut now has over 37% of the population registered as organ and tissue donors!

September 22nd, Donate Life Connecticut will hold a press conference with the DMV at the Wethersfield branch. Commissioner Ward, a kidney recipient himself, will urge residents to educate themselves and register to save lives. Caitlyn Bernabucci, Donate Life Connecticut Chair will announce that last year, 228 Connecticut residents were saved by registered organ donors, and thousand of others received life-enhancing tissue transplants (to restore sight to the blind, heal the burned, etc).

Thank you for all your volunteerism and hard work! Together we are saving lives! Onward to two million Connecticut registered donors!

TOAST TO LIFE 2010

The 2nd Annual Toast to Life was a great success! DLC's fundraiser was held at the Seasons at the Tradition Golf Club in Wallingford this past June. The event brought out supporters of Donate Life Connecticut for an evening of food, wine and fun! The silent auction included Boston Red Sox tickets, Swiss Army watches, children museum passes and many more exciting opportunities! Yale-New Haven Hospital Transplant Program and Pfizer each donated \$5000 to be Platinum Sponsors at the fundraiser! The wheels are already in motion for the 3rd Annual fundraiser...and rumor has it—Toast to Life 2011 will head back to Gouveia Vineyards in Wallingford! Thank you to all that helped make the evening great!



Connecticut

Volume 2, Issue 2

Summer 2010

By the Numbers

- 108,522 : Americans on the National Transplant Waiting List
- 1,182 : Connecticut residents waiting for a life saving transplant
- 11 minutes: another name is added to the National Transplant Waiting List
- 18: Americans die every day waiting
- 1: donor can save and enhance the lives of over 50 people

Donation is about Saving Lives

Inside this issue:

Team Connecticut	2
Nat'l Hispanic Heritage	2
2010 Rose Parade	2
Volunteer Meetings	3
Shout Out	3
Get Involved!	3
Meet a Friend	3

CT ATHLETES RETURN FROM 2010 NKF TRANSPLANT GAMES

Team Connecticut's adventure to the 2010 NKF Transplant Games in Madison, Wisconsin concluded in early July! Over 50 athlete recipients, athlete living donors, donor families and donation supporters ventured to the Cheese State to compete in Olympic Style competitions highlighting the success of organ transplantation. Officials tout that over 1300 recipient athletes competed in the 2010 games medaling in events such as singles tennis, bowling and volleyball. Donor families honored their loved ones at a quilt pinning ceremony and a remembrance evening. Living donors were celebrated at a living donor ceremony. Opening and closing ceremonies were emotional as always... providing hope to more than 108,000 Americans that still wait for their chance at life - and to compete in a future Games!



Members of 2010 Team Connecticut

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated September 15-October 15, pays tribute to the positive influence Hispanic Americans have had on our nation and society. In observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Donate Life community highlights the critical need for lifesaving transplants within this and all communities and encourages the public to register to donate.

Today, hundreds of men, women and children in the United States are in need of organ and tissue transplants to restore them to life, mobility and health. Of the more than 108,000 people waiting for a vital organ transplant, 18,894 are Hispanic Americans. Hispanics, like other minorities, have the *best* chance of a successful organ transplant if the donor is of the same ethnic background (similar genetic make-ups frequently mean better matches). Unless more minority donors register, the number of Hispanics and other minorities waiting on the transplant waiting list will continue to grow.

2011 DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT

The Donate Life Family Circle Rose Dedication Program offers donor families, transplant recipients and candidates the opportunity to dedicate roses placed on the Donate Life float in the 2011 Rose Parade. Each dedicated rose is placed in a vial that carries a unique, personal message of love, hope and remembrance. This year, the Donate Life Float America Committee is offering the following package for a \$30 donation: a rose with the name of your loved one or honoree in the Family Circle Garden, your personalized dedication posted on the float website, thank you card with the Donate Life family Circle pin and a personalized digital certificate emailed to you.



2011 Donate Life Float for Rose Parade.

If you are interested in learning more or placing a rose in honor or remembrance, visit www.DonateLifeFloat.org or by mailing in a completed order form that you can obtain from Kari.

VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

To accommodate your busy schedules, Kari will be hosting **4 Volunteer Meetings** around the state. Please rsvp to one of the meetings. It is through these meetings that we can best interact about news and events happening in the Donate Life community of Connecticut and around the world.

*** Wednesday, Sept 29th 6:30 – 8:00pm OLD LYME Town Hall, 2nd floor conference room

*** Thursday, Sept 30th 6:00 - 7:30pm NEW HAVEN Yale-New Haven Hospital, Rm CH 201

*** Wednesday, Oct 6th 6:00 -7:30 pm NORWALK Norwalk Aquarium volunteer lounge

*** Wednesday, Sept 20th 6:00 - 7:30pm E. WINDSOR LifeChoice Donor Services conference room

SHOUT OUT!

Thomas Kasprzak, donor dad, educated his workplace (Chelsea Groton Bank) about donation during a dress down Friday in July! His generous colleagues donated over \$1000 to Donate Life Connecticut!

Patty Shaw, liver recipient, held her own fundraiser for Donate Life at Buster Billiards in New Milford! She was able to educate her community about donation and graciously donated funds to help continue Donate Life public education efforts! **Thank you Patty & Tom!**

How do I register as a donor in CT?

1. At the DMV when renewing a driver's license
2. Visit www.DonateLifeNewEngland.org (available to all New England residents).

Get Involved

This is the time of year we get a lot of requests from high schools and colleges. Do you know of a school that we might be able to educate? Talk to Kari

* Sept 12th - 8am - 12pm - ALF Hartford Liver Walk at Rentschlaer Field, Hartford

* Sept 22nd - DMV Press Conference Celebrating 1 Million Registered Donors in CT - Wethersfield

* Sept 23rd - Foran High School, Milford - speak with Kari

* Sept 26th - 8am - 12pm - ALF Stamford Liver Walk at Cove Island Park, Stamford

* Oct 3rd 8am –12pm - AHA Niantic Heart Walk at Rocky Neck Park

* Oct 16th - NBC Health & Wellness Fair - two shifts
9:45am - 1:30pm OR 1:30pm - 5:15pm

* Oct 17th - NBC Health & Wellness Fair - two shifts
9:45am - 1:30pm OR 1:30pm - 5:15pm

* Oct 19th - 6-7pm Gateway Community College, New Haven speak with Kari to nursing students

* Oct 23rd 8am –12pm - AHA Hartford Heart Walk at Bushnell Park

* Oct 30th 8am –12pm - AHA Hartford Heart Walk at Bushnell Park

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 for you to impact CT; speaking engagements, registration tables, health fairs, etc.



Meet A Friend of DLC

Many people take their good health for granted. I know I did until my lungs were no longer able to provide the oxygen my body needed for me to get through the day. I was first put on oxygen and sent to pulmonary rehab. Initially it helped, but eventually my health continued to worsen. As of September 2010, I have been on the Transplant Waiting List for 6 years, waiting for a double lung transplant. I am one of the healthier people on the active list right now, but my life remains limited. I am constantly trying avoid getting sick, a simple cold could be very serious for me. I am indebted to my

pulmonary rehab nurses, church, friends and family that help me keep my spirits up while I wait. Until I am fortunate enough to receive my perfect lungs, I keep busy volunteering for Donate Life Connecticut. I recently coordinated 8 fellow volunteers to help host an awareness table at the 11th Annual Celebrate East Lyme festival!



Connecticut

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You have the Power to Save Lives!

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, CT Chapter
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 serving Connecticut
New England Organ Bank
Yale-New Haven Hospital Transplant Program
Individual Professionals
Donor Families and Transplant Recipients
Volunteer Members*

Find us on the web at:

www.donatelifect.org

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