

# LifeShare

A Quarterly Newsletter of LifeShare Of The Carolinas

## LifeShare Donors Reach Record!

LIFESHARE IS HAVING ITS BEST YEAR EVER, THAT IS IN SAVING LIVES. AS OF NOVEMBER 30TH, WE HAD FACILITATED TRANSPLANTS FROM 69 ORGAN DONORS IN OUR REGION. THE TOTAL FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR IN 2004 WAS ONLY 51.

LifeShare has been participating in the National Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative—an effort by the nation's organ procurement organizations (OPO) and the largest hospitals to identify strategies to increase the number of organ donors. In addition to the Collaborative, LifeShare has been advertising this year in print and broadcast media with funds provided by a federal grant.

According to figures from the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), the figures here reflect a national trend. Across the United States, donation rates are up significantly.

In North Carolina, between January 1st and August 31st of this year, there were already 163 donors, compared with just 192 for the entire 2004 calendar year. Meanwhile, the number of transplants performed in the state has also risen. Through August, the latest date for which UNOS has published statistics, 516 organ transplants were performed, a figure sure to surpass the 728 recorded for all of 2004.

As we approach the holidays, LifeShare is grateful to all of the eye, organ and tissue donor families that have generously given others a second chance at life.

*The greatest gift we can give each other  
is the gift of life!*



A Donate Life Organization



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## OUR MISSION

*To improve the quality of human life through the provision of organs and tissues for transplantation and to serve our hospitals and their respective communities by providing educational and support services which enhance the donation process.*

## OUR VISION

*We envision a day when the regional supply of transplantable organs and tissues will satisfy the demand.*

## Stitching Together the Pieces

STITCH BY STITCH, ROW BY ROW, KNITTERS IN GASTONIA PREPARED SPECIAL GIFTS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE. LIKE DONOR FAMILY MEMBERS, THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHO WOULD RECEIVE THEIR GIFTS, ONLY THAT THE RECIPIENTS WERE IN NEED.

"Comfort shawls" were lovingly created by the Prayer Shawl Ministry of Gaston Memorial Hospital in observance of National Donate Life Month last April. Working with Cozzie Watkins from LifeShare, the group donated shawls to several local donor families.

Word soon spread and before she knew it, Gaston Chaplain Cindy Sloan, a knitter, was shipping a pale blue and lavender shawl to Washington. It was to be given away at the National Donor Recognition Ceremony sponsored by HRSA's Division of Transplantation. The lucky recipient was Margarita Cepeda Aguilar, a donor family mother, originally from El Salvador.

In announcing that the shawl would be presented to Margarita, the moderator said, "Chaplain Cindy shipped it. Ruby Bryant knitted it, and Barbie Blackhorse wrote a prayer. We knit this shawl for you, not knowing who you are, just that you are in need. May the love, prayers and best wishes that went into this shawl bring you warmth, peace and comfort."

Needless to say, Margarita was deeply touched. It was her three year old son, Michael, who was a donor. She wrote, "I miss my son very deeply. He was my only baby, but everyday I wake up thinking how beautiful it is for his soul to be in heaven and yet still part of him to be alive on earth. I'm happy for these families who now enjoy their children thanks to his donation. I've come to understand a lot! Organ donation is not what you give but what you receive instead. It is a total blessing to give to others a gift, a gift of life."



Margarita Aguilar poses with her "comfort shawl" at the National Donor Recognition Ceremony in Washington. The event is sponsored every other year by the U.S. Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA).

## Gaston Event Puts a Face on Donation



Dr. Michael Heili (right) of Gastonia Surgical Associates is pictured here with his parents, Herb, is a heart transplant recipient. "The Transplant Journey," an Evening of Organ Donation Awareness, was recently sponsored by the Gaston Medical Society, Gastonia Surgical Associates and the Life in Limbo Foundation at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden.

## More North Carolina Drivers Have a Heart

The number of licensed drivers in the state of North Carolina who have expressed a desire to become organ donors is increasing slowly but surely. Out of seven million individuals in the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) database, nearly three million or 47% of them have a red heart on their driver's license. That figure compares with 41% in 2004 and 39% in 2003.

Across the board, the upward trend is continuing. The latest statistics released by the DMV show that women are more likely to have a red heart on their license than are men. Out of all licensed drivers and those with state ID cards, 53% are women. The percentage of men is 47%. Meanwhile, 53% of the DMV database has not consented.

Efforts to educate youth through drivers education programs and high school classes also seem to be paying off. 45% of 15 year-olds, 56% of 16 year-olds and 52% of 17 year-olds have said yes when asked if they want to be a donor.

Interest among ethnic groups, however is varied. Among females, 27% of Asians, 30% of African-Americans, 21% of

Hispanics, 33% of Native Americans, and 61% of Caucasians have a red heart designation. With the exception of Asians, the percentage of males signing up is lower.

Bill Faircloth, LifeShare's Executive Director, said the discrepancy is consistent with the fact that in LifeShare's experience, women are more likely to donate a loved one's organs than are men. Figures show that 24% of Asian, 26% of African-American, 16% of Hispanic, 28% of Native American, 52% of Caucasian and 27% of "other" men are listed in the DMV database as potential donors.

Obviously, there is much work to be done to promote donation among all citizens of the state. In cooperation with the DMV, the NC Coalition on Donation has worked to place informational brochures in all DMV offices. Look for additional efforts in the coming months.



### Number of Registrants on the National Transplant Waiting List

Kidney	67,831
Liver	17,946
Pancreas	1,699
Pancreas Islet Cell	319
Kidney-Pancreas	2,589
Intestine	192
Heart	3,035
Heart-Lung	151
Lung	3,287
<b>NATIONAL TOTAL</b>	<b>97,049</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>2,994</b>
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>1,036</b>

Based on OPTN data as of November 2005.

Please note that policies from the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) allow patients to be listed with more than one transplant center. As a result, the number of registrations is greater than the actual number of patients on the national transplant waiting list.

# Special Events

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2, 2006

### Rose Parade

Check your local TV listings

January 16, 2006

### Daybreak of Freedom

Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

Charlotte, NC

February 4, 2006

### Discovery Place

Charlotte, NC

February 11, 2006

### Cupid's Cup

Charlotte, NC

February 11, 2006

### Saturn Donor Day

Asheville

Concord

Charlotte

March

### National Eye Month

### National Kidney Month



## I Hear a Symphony

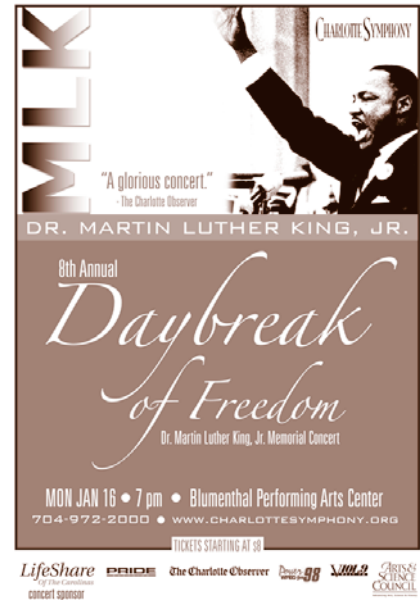
### LIFESHARE PARTNERS WITH THE CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ON JANUARY CONCERT

The Charlotte Symphony's eighth annual Daybreak of Freedom Concert will be co-sponsored by LifeShare this year. It is the culminating event of Charlotte's annual Martin Luther King Day observance and a wonderful way for us to reach the African-American community with information on organ and tissue donation.

The concert, honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be conducted by Harry Davidson, Music Director and Conductor of the Duke Symphony Orchestra and Professor of Music at Duke University, together with Tony McNeill, Director of the Charlotte Community Choir.

For one night only, the concert is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2006 in the Belk Theater of the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in downtown Charlotte. Ticket prices range from \$8 to \$30. They can be purchased at Spirit Square, 201 S. College St. or at the Performing Arts Center Box Office in Founders Hall. They may also be purchased online through the Charlotte Symphony web site at [www.charlottesymphony.org](http://www.charlottesymphony.org). The concert is typically sold-out so get your tickets early.

Funds for LifeShare to participate as a community partner with the Symphony were provided through a grant awarded to LifeShare in 2004 by the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The purpose of the two-year program is to increase minority solid organ donation through paid media and grass-roots efforts.



You have the power to donate life!

# Highlight Donation

## Carroza Done Vida hará Historia Con Homenaje a la Comunidad Latina

La carroza Done Vida hará historia con un homenaje a la comunidad Latina en el Desfile de Las Rosas del 2006. Además de continuar con la tradición de presentar a personas Latinas afectadas por la donación de órganos a bordo de la carroza, los logotipos de la carroza Done Vida serán presentados en Ingles (“Donate Life”) y en español—un acto sin precedente en los 117 años de historia que tiene el Torneo de las Rosas.

La Carroza Done Vida del 2006, La Vida Transformada, marca la tercer apariencia de donantes de órganos, familiares de donantes y personas beneficiadas por trasplante dentro del Torneo de las Rosas de Pasadena. El logotipo ‘Done Vida’ es el símbolo oficial de la Campaña para la Comunidad Latina de la Coalición de la Donación.

“Me siento muy orgullosa de representar a mi comunidad y estoy sumamente agradecida que se este reconociendo a la comunidad Latina como un componente significativo de nuestras diversas comunidades,” dijo Edith Gonzalez, quien cargara la fotografía de su esposo, Lidio, en su camino sobre la ruta histórica en Pasadena.

El 2 de Enero del 2006, 23 personas irán a bordo de la Carroza Done Vida

del Desfile de las Rosas. Vienen seleccionados de 13 estados y del Distrito de Columbia, y representan a millones de familiares de donantes, donantes en vida y personas beneficiadas por trasplantes de órganos y tejidos cuyas vidas y experiencias personifican el tema de la carroza, La Vida Transformada. Siguiendo con la tradición de presentar personajes Latinos entre los participantes de la carroza Done Vida, este año están incluidas cuatro Latinas.

En el país hay aproximadamente 90,000 personas esperando un trasplante de órganos, el 15% son Latinos. Cada día mueren 17 personas esperando, debido a la escasez de órganos donados. En 2004, de los 7,150 donantes de órganos fallecidos en el país, el 13% fueron Latinos. En el mismo año los Latinos fueron una tercera parte de los donantes en California y 3,254 Latinos recibieron trasplantes de órganos.

Este año el tema del Desfile de las Rosas numero 117 es, It’s Magical, (Es Mágico). El desfile se llevara a cabo el Lunes, 2 de Enero del 2006 a las 8:00am hora Pacifica.



### STRIKE UP THE BAND FOR THE 2006 ROSE PARADE!

This year’s Donate Life float will make Rose Parade history as it salutes the nation’s Hispanic Community in the 2006 “Tournament of Roses Parade”. Four Hispanic women are among the 23 individuals who have been touched by organ and tissue donation that were selected to ride on the Donate Life entry in the parade. Logos on each side of the float will be presented in Spanish and English, a first in the 117-year history of the parade.

Themed, “It’s Magical”, the Annual Rose Parade will take place on Monday, January 2, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. EST Check your local TV listings for stations in your area that will carry the parade.

## PLANNING A PROGRAM?

As your organization plans its meeting calendar for the year, please think of LifeShare. Speakers from your community whose lives have been touched by organ or tissue donation are available to talk to local groups.

If you would like to schedule a free, informative presentation tailored to the needs of your organization, call the LifeShare office nearest you at (704) 512-3303 or (828) 258-9503. If you are interested in joining our Speaker's Bureau, we'd also like to hear from you.

Lots of opportunities are available to help in the office, to staff a booth at a health fair or to make presentations to community groups. Call us.

## PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

By making a donation to LifeShare, you can help to save lives by raising organ and tissue donation awareness.

You may contribute in several ways.

In lieu of flowers, LifeShare may be designated as the organization to receive memorials for funerals.

Contributions may also be made in the name of a transplant recipient, donor or other loved one. Each person who makes a contribution to LifeShare receives a thank you letter. A separate letter is sent to the family or person in whose honor the donation was made.

Please mail your check, payable to LifeShare, to the address on the back of the newsletter. All contributions are tax-deductible and are used for public education purposes.

## Celebrating 100 Years of Eye Banking

2005 has been an exciting year for eye banking and corneal transplantation. It marked the 100th anniversary of the first successful corneal transplant performed by Dr. Eduard Zirm in December, 1905 in what is now the Czech Republic.

This one event demonstrated that a successful corneal transplant could restore vision. While many people have contributed to and built upon Dr. Zirm's work, the eye banking community recognizes him for this celebration.

Dr. Zirm of Vienna began his pioneering work at a newly formed eye clinic in a rural area of Austria (currently the Czech Republic). While there, he founded what would become the largest eye clinic in the area. During his years of practice, Zirm conducted thousands of cataract surgeries and a number of corneal transplants.

One of them was on Alois Glogar. In 1904, Glogar experienced burns to both of his eyes. A year later, he was brought to Dr. Zirm's clinic. About the same time, an 11 year-old boy, Karl Brauer, was in an accident which left him with metal pieces in his eye. Attempts to save Brauer's eye was unsuccessful. Dr. Zirm removed his damaged eyes, removing the corneal tissue for transplantation into Glogar. While complications resulted in one of Glogar's eyes, the other eye remained clear, allowing him to see and to return to work. Eye banking was born.

LifeShare is one of 88 eye banks accredited by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA). Since 1961, over 700,000 corneal transplants have been performed in the United States, including 32,106 which were performed last year.

The EBAA has created a webpage that provides pictures, information (including much of this article) and an updated "Hall of History" which outlines the history of eye banking. To visit the site, log onto [www.restoresight.org/100thanniversary.html](http://www.restoresight.org/100thanniversary.html).

## Partying with a Purpose!



Family and friends of Patrick Flynn partied with a purpose to celebrate his life and to help lung transplant recipients and their families to pay for transplant-related expenses. Flynn was the recipient of a double-lung transplant in 2003. He died in August of this year. Flynn's brother, Shawn, a reporter for News 14 Carolina, was the organizer of the event. The party raised \$10,000.

LifeShare gratefully acknowledges the commitment of all nurses and other medical personnel who help to further the ideals of organ and tissue donation. It is through their efforts and the generosity of donor family members that donation occurs. When comparing statistics, please note that not all hospitals have the same donor potential.

**DONOR STATISTICS BY HOSPITAL**  
July–September 2005

Hospital	Eye	Organ	Tissue
Angel	0	0	0
Anson	1	0	1
Carolinas Medical Center (CMC)	16	12	14
CMC - Mercy	1	0	0
CMC - Pineville	1	0	1
CMC - Union	1	0	1
CMC - University	2	0	2
Cherokee	0	0	0
Cleveland	2	0	1
District Memorial	0	0	0
Gaston	9	0	8
Grace	4	0	3
Harris	2	0	3
Haywood	4	0	1
Highlands-Cashiers	1	0	2
Kings Mountain	1	0	1
Lake Norman	2	0	2
Lincoln	1	0	2
Mission - St. Joseph's	19	3	17
Murphy	1	0	0
NorthEast	7	3	5
Pardee	5	0	5
Park Ridge	0	0	0
Piedmont HealthCare System	0	0	0
Presbyterian	7	0	3
Presbyterian Matthews	2	0	1
Presbyterian Huntersville	0	0	1
Rutherford	1	0	1
St. Luke's	0	0	0
Stanly	3	0	3
Swain	0	0	0
Transylvania	1	0	0
Valdese	0	0	0
VA Medical	0	0	0

**THE QUILT OF LIFE**

LifeShare is pleased to offer donor family members a special way to remember their loved ones—through our memorial quilt, the Quilt of Life.

We display the quilt in our office and at special events designed to promote organ and tissue donation. Squares are added to the quilt at least once a year, usually in the spring in time for National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Month.

If you would like to add a square in memory of your loved one, visit our web site at [www.lifesharecarolinas.org](http://www.lifesharecarolinas.org) for size dimensions, a release form and other details. You may also call us for additional information at (704) 512-3303.

We look forward to receiving additional squares and to sharing the memory of your loved one with others.

# Happy Holidays

As another year ends, we pause to remember the individuals who are the reason we exist, the donors. LifeShare would like to extend warm wishes to everyone with whom we came in contact during 2005—donor family members, transplant recipients, vendors, nurses, doctors and other healthcare providers.

Have you made your New Years Resolutions yet? Along with the usual choices to lose weight and exercise more, make a resolution you can keep. If you haven't already, tell your family and friends your wishes on organ and tissue donation. Despite what's on your driver's license, your family has the final say.



**LifeShare**  
*Of The Carolinas*

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