

LifeShare

A Quarterly Newsletter of LifeShare Of The Carolinas

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Five Points of Life Bike Ride Cycles through NC Mountains

LEAVES AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS TURNING IN THE MOUNTAINS THIS FALL. A TEAM OF AMATEUR CYCLISTS WITH TIES TO ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION VISITED CHEROKEE AND BREVARD, NC OCTOBER FIRST AND SECOND. THEY ARE PART OF THE FIVE POINTS OF LIFE BIKE RIDE AND THIS IS THE FOURTH YEAR THAT THEY HAVE TRAVELED CROSS COUNTRY TO PROMOTE DONATION.



Ten amateur cyclists are traveling from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada to Miami's South Beach in Florida over a six week period. When they arrive in Miami, they will be recognized at the annual meeting of the American Association of Blood Banks.

Each of the riders has a tie to donation that they share with the people they meet at destinations along the route. Among the riders are:

- a donor mother who says she will "give my heart to the mission and my legs to the highway"
- a kidney transplant recipient
- an African-American bank examiner who has been on the team for the four years the ride has been in existence
- a regular blood donor who has commuted to work via bicycle for 23 years
- a South-African heart transplant recipient

As they travel, the team stops at events arranged by donor organizations with hopes of inspiring more people to become donors. In addition to organ and tissue donation, the riders are also promoting blood, apheresis, marrow and cord blood donation.

Cherokee was the first stop in North Carolina. From there they rode to Brevard where they were greeted by the Mayor and the City Council. They even had a proclamación issued in their honor. The Five Points of Life has been through North Carolina in the past but always followed a route along the eastern part of the state.

LifeShare would like to thank everyone who made the cyclists welcome during their stay in the Mountains. To follow the riders progress as they travel south to Miami, visit www.fivepointsoflife.org.



A Donate Life Organization

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www.lifesharecarolinas.org

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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.

SNAPSHOTS—

Caught in the Act, Promoting Donation

Katherine Heigl and T.R. Knight of "Grey's Anatomy" were among the celebrities who attended a benefit to raise money for donor awareness at Planet Hollywood in Los Angeles.



Chris Klug, a former Olympic medalist in snowboarding, is pictured here visiting Carolinas Medical Center. With him are staffers from LifeShare and the transplant department at CMC. His visit was sponsored by Astellas Pharma US.

If the Collier Lilly Ride 4 Life had been a NASCAR race, David Rinker would have been the grand marshal. Riding his bike, David led off over 400 cyclists who participated in the third annual Collier Lilly Ride 4 Life. David received a kidney transplant his first week in kindergarten. His mother, Lynette Rinker, was his donor.



Coalition on Donation Unveils a New Name and a New National Aim!

WHAT'S IN A NAME? IF THE ORGANIZATION IS TIED TO DONATION, A LOT. THE COALITION OFFICIALLY CHANGED ITS NAME IN JUNE TO BETTER REFLECT THE MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION—TO INSPIRE ALL PEOPLE TO DONATE LIFE THROUGH ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION.

Donate Life America was unveiled as the new name of the organization at its annual spring conference on June 19th. Based in Richmond, VA, Donate Life America and its various committees guide many of the national projects and advertising materials that are used by LifeShare, other organ procurement and transplant-related organizations. The Donate Life logo will remain the same.

In related news, Donate Life America announced plans to champion another groundbreaking initiative to increase donation rates across the country. The organization announced plans to start a

public education Collaborative similar to the one already in existence for hospitals.

The aim is to move from public awareness to action. Donate Life America has set a goal of signing-up 100 million people as organ and tissue donors. Presently, 30 to 40 million people are estimated to be enrolled in state registries including those operated by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The North Carolina Coalition and LifeShare have made a commitment to participate in the new initiative. Look for more news on the project in coming months.

Number of Registrants on the National Transplant Waiting List

Kidney	71,262
Liver	17,619
Pancreas	1,773
Kidney-Pancreas	2,503
Intestine	239
Heart	2,883
Heart-Lung	150
Lung	2,943
NATIONAL TOTAL	99,372
North Carolina	2,995
South Carolina	661

Based on OPTN data as of Sept. 1, 2006.

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.



UNOS Board Opposes Transplant Tourism

A statement opposing “transplant tourism” has been unanimously approved by the Board of Directors of the Organ Procurement Transplant Network and United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). At issue is the practice of people who need organ transplants traveling to foreign countries to purchase an organ in “exploitive situations.”

Specifically the resolution reads, “Resolved that the OPTN and UNOS are strongly opposed to practices in which patients in need of transplantation travel abroad to purchase an organ in exploitive situations.” In a related action, the board referred the matter to the ethics committee for further review and recommendations.

North Carolina Takes Home the Gold at the U.S. Transplant Games!

Congratulations to the transplant recipients from North Carolina who recently took top honors at the U.S. Transplant Games in Minneapolis, MN. Team North Carolina won a total of 34 medals, winning the National Cup for the most medals won by a team.

The announcement was made at the closing ceremony by former San Antonio Spurs player and kidney recipient Sean Elliott. In the true spirit of the Games, several of the recipients gave their medals away to donor family members, including Dean and Tony Whiteside who represented donor families from LifeShare’s area.

The Transplant Games are held every other year to showcase the benefits of donation. Over 1,000 transplant recipients from across the country, including 23 from North Carolina, participated in the Olympic-style event. Pittsburgh, PA will be the site of the U.S. Transplant Games in the summer of 2008.

Fundraising for the competition will begin next year. Area transplant recipients who are interested in competing should contact the National Kidney Foundation of North Carolina at (704) 552-1351.



Dean and Tony Whiteside represented donor families from LifeShare’s region at the U.S. Transplant Games this summer. Team North Carolina won the trophy for the most medals won by a single team.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2006
National Hispanic Heritage Month
Nationwide

September 16, 2006
Apple Festival
Lincolnton, NC

September 23, 2006
City of Kannapolis Centennial
Celebration
Kannapolis, NC

October 1 and 2, 2006
Five Points of Life Bike Ride
Cherokee and Brevard, NC

November 10–12, 2006
National Donor Sabbath
Nationwide

You have the power to donate life!

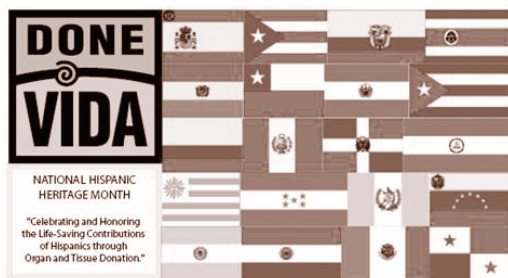
LifeShare Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15th through October 15th is National Hispanic Heritage Month. The observance provides an opportunity to focus attention on the contributions of the Hispanic community to organ and tissue donation. These heroes are committed to making a difference in the lives of the nearly 90,000 people on the national organ transplant waiting of which 15% (13,706) are Hispanic.

Tragically, more heroes are needed. Last year, over 800 Hispanics died waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, LifeShare

aims to increase the Hispanic community's understanding of organ and tissue donation and to dispel misconceptions which may impede the donation process.

For additional information in Spanish, click on www.donevida.org or call 800-485-VIDA.



*En el año 2004:

De 7,150 donantes fallecidos, 949 eran hispanos (aproximadamente el 13%)

De 7,004 donantes en vida, 878 eran hispanos (aproximadamente el 12%)

26,036 personas recibieron trasplantes de órganos. De éstas, 3,256 eran hispanos (aproximadamente el 12%)

6,577 personas fallecieron mientras estaban en lista de espera para un trasplante de órganos. De éstas, 882 eran hispanos (aproximadamente el 13%)

*Basado en datos de la OPTN (Red de Obtención y Trasplante de Órganos) al 12 de agosto de 2005

*Podrá encontrar información sobre su estado en particular en el sitio web de UNOS: www.unos.org. En la sección de información, pulse "solicitud de información (data request)".

**NEED A TRANSPLANT?
UPDATED WEB SITE FOR YOU!**

Transplant Living, a web site that was created especially for patients facing an organ transplant and their families, has recently been updated. The site is more user-friendly and offers an opportunity to personalize it both by organ type and resources tailored to individual interests.

Visitors to the site will be able to sign up for a monthly electronic newsletter. Developed by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), the site also provides information on how to find a support group and profiles of patients who are on the waiting list.



The web address is www.transplantliving.org. Check it out!

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.

LifeShare Ends South Carolina Presence

LifeShare OfThe Carolinas is no longer the designated organ procurement organization (OPO) for York County, South Carolina. Piedmont Healthcare System that owns Piedmont Regional Hospital requested the change from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Eye and tissue recoveries for the county were already being handled by other recovery agencies.

Piedmont's request to the Department of Health and Human Services was not met with any opposition from LifeShare. In fact, only one comment was recorded during the public comment period.

Following a national trend, we are pleased to report that the number of lives saved through organ transplants in the LifeShare service area continues to rise. Thanks to the generosity of the donor families we serve, there have been 64 organ donors in our region through August, 2006. Our total for 2005 was 80. The figure for 2004 was 51.

If you haven't already decided to become a donor, do it today. Sign a donor card, say "yes" on your driver's license and tell your family your wishes.

LifeShare Staffer Wins National Award

Please join us in congratulating Gary Burris who recently won the highest award given to an organ procurement coordinator in the donation field. Gary was presented as the winner of the Barr Laboratories Procurement Award of Distinction in August at the annual conference of the North American Transplant Coordinators Organization (NATCO.)

Gary earned the distinction from his peers in recognition of his "innovation, dedication and valuable contributions to the field of organ donation." Gary has been with LifeShare for 15 years. As the Director of Operations, he is second-in-command. He has continued to compassionately offer families the option of donation and to serve in leadership roles on several national committees.

Congratulations Gary. Keep up the good work!



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
April–June 2006

Hospital	Eye	Organ	Tissue
Angel	2	0	1
Anson	1	0	1
Carolinas Medical Center (CMC)	18	15	12
CMC - Lincoln	5	0	5
CMC - Mercy	0	0	1
CMC - Pineville	3	0	1
CMC - Union	3	0	1
CMC - University	0	0	0
Cherokee	0	0	0
Cleveland	2	0	1
District Memorial	0	0	0
Gaston	8	4	9
Grace	1	0	0
Harris	0	0	1
Haywood	1	0	2
Highlands-Cashiers	0	0	0
Kings Mountain	1	0	1
Lake Norman	4	0	1
Mission - St. Joseph's	9	5	8
Murphy	1	0	1
NorthEast	6	0	7
Pardee	4	0	1
Park Ridge	1	0	0
Presbyterian	8	1	6
Presbyterian Matthews	1	0	3
Presbyterian Huntersville	2	0	2
Rutherford	1	0	2
St. Luke's	0	0	1
Stanly	1	0	1
Swain	1	0	0
Transylvania	1	0	1
Valdese	3	0	3
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 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.

Parish Nurses and Hospital Chaplains Urged to Recruit Congregations for the National Donor Sabbath Observance

Nearly 100,000 people are awaiting a special gift this upcoming Thanksgiving season—the gift of life. It's a gift that Americans across the country are being encouraged to consider during National Donor Sabbath, a celebration of life focused on organ and tissue donation, taking place November 10–12, 2006.

LifeShare is asking hospital chaplains and parish nurses throughout our region to recruit clergy in their area to participate in the annual observance. To make the program user-friendly, LifeShare can provide a curriculum for a program on Ministry and the Medicine, free bulletin inserts and green ribbon pins with a donor card attached.

Every major religion in the United States supports organ, eye and tissue donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity. During National Donor Sabbath, traditionally celebrated the second weekend before Thanksgiving, houses of worship and faith-based communities around the country will join together to remind Americans of the critical need for organ and tissue donation and inform them of the steps to take to make the commitment to donate.

Hospital chaplains, parish nurses or area congregations that are interested in ordering materials, may do so through the LifeShare web site at www.lifesharecarolinas.org. Additional information on Ministry and Medicine programs may also be obtained by calling our office at (800) 932-4483.



LifeShare
Of The Carolinas

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