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**LOUISIANA CITIZENS' GENEROSITY IS PROVEN**  
**Louisiana ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in national statistics for donor designation rate**

NEW ORLEANS – June 23, 2010– Donate Life Louisiana (DLL) is excited to announce Louisiana now ranks first in the nation for Donor Designations. The Donor Designation Rate is the number of Louisiana citizens registering as organ donors at the Offices of Motor Vehicles. Statistics reported by Donate Life America show that more than 64% of those obtaining driver's licenses and state IDs in Louisiana say yes when asked if they would like to register as an organ and tissue donor. The average national rate is 38%.

Louisiana's Organ and Tissue Donor Registry is more than 1.9 million names strong. However, even with this great success, there is still more work to be done. One person is added to the national transplant waiting list every 12 minutes, and an average of 18 people die while waiting for a life saving organ transplant. The national waiting list stands at almost 108,000 – including nearly 2,000 men, women and children in Louisiana.

Kelly Ranum, Executive Director Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency and DLL Member states, "We are pleased with our progress but our mission is not complete until no lives are lost due to the lack of organs available for transplantation."

According to Jeanette Slakey, DLL member and Executive Director of Legacy Donor Foundation, "This milestone shows the generosity of the people in Louisiana in recognizing the critical need for organ donation. This could not have been achieved without the important partnership we have with the Office of Motor Vehicles."

"The Office of Motor Vehicles is committed to working with Donate Life Louisiana to increase the number of registered organ and tissue donors by asking each of our customers about their wishes regarding donation. We have a professional commitment but also a personal one – many of our staff have been personally affected by donation and transplantation," says Kay Hodges, Commissioner of the Office of Motor Vehicles.

Becoming an organ and tissue donor is as simple as adding the donor heart designation to your driver's license, learner's permit or state identification card. Let family members know about your decision to register as an organ, tissue and eye donor, and sign up at your local Office of Motor Vehicles or by visiting [www.donatelifeLA.org](http://www.donatelifeLA.org).

*Donate Life Louisiana (DLL) is a state-wide alliance of organizations, committed to increasing the number of registered organ, tissue and eye donors through educational programs and awareness campaigns.*

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