



## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Suzanna Morton  
Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA)  
Phone: 337.269.7044 ext. 309  
Email: [smorton@lopa.org](mailto:smorton@lopa.org)

### **GIVE THANKS. GIVE LIFE.**

#### ***Religious leaders come together to help save lives through organ and tissue donation***

Lafayette, LA, August 11, 2009 – Donate Life Louisiana, a collaboration between the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA) and the Legacy Donor Foundation to bring a cohesive face to organ donation awareness in Louisiana, will host a Clergy Prayer Luncheon: *A Gathering of Faiths* on Thursday, August 20, 2009, at the Ashbury United Methodist Church, 101 Live Oak Blvd., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

One of the most common misconceptions about organ donation is that it is against a person's religious beliefs when in fact, all major religions support organ, tissue and eye donation, and see it as an unselfish act of charity.

According to Suzanna Morton with LOPA, religious leaders are the first people families turn to for guidance and reassurance when they are faced with making a decision about donation. "The Clergy Prayer Luncheon is a great opportunity for them [religious leaders] to hear the stories of donor families and organ recipients about how organ donation changed their lives."

All members of the clergy, religious leaders and counselors are encouraged to attend the luncheon, and will receive informational materials to share with their congregations and communities.

Last year alone nearly 150 patients in Louisiana died waiting for an organ donation. Louisiana's total registry is currently 1.7 million names strong. Donate Life Louisiana hopes to reach 50 percent of the state's population (over 2.2 million people) as registered donors by 2014.

For more information or if you are interested in attending the Clergy Prayer Luncheon – *A Gathering of Faith*, please contact Suzanna Morton at 337.269.7044 ext. 309 or [smorton@lopa.org](mailto:smorton@lopa.org).

#### **About Donate Life Louisiana:**

Donate Life Louisiana is a collaboration between the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency and the Legacy Donor Foundation. The mission of Donate Life Louisiana is to educate the citizens of Louisiana about organ and tissue donation, encourage them to register as organ and tissue donors and foster family acceptance of the process. For more information on how to register as an organ donor, please visit [www.donatelifela.org](http://www.donatelifela.org).

###