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**ORGAN DONATION IS NOT A SEARCH FOR A CURE – IT IS THE CURE.
DONATE LIFE! LEAVE A LEGACY!**

MISSION

The mission of the Legacy Donor Foundation (a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization) is to prevent the loss of human life due to lack of available organs for transplantation by educating the citizens of Louisiana about the critical need for organ, eye and tissue donation. Through public education and awareness activities, the Foundation promotes organ donation and fosters informed family acceptance of the process.

HISTORY

Founded in 1999, the Legacy Donor Foundation provides education and public awareness activities about organ donation. We seek to increase donor registrations and foster informed family acceptance of the process. When the Legacy Donor Foundation was founded in 1999 there were 450,000 names on Louisiana's Legacy Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. Today, due to strong marketing and public relation campaigns, educational forums, health fairs, minority awareness campaigns, and workplace partnerships, the registry has QUADRUPLED to nearly 1.7 million citizens. We are making progress.

DONATE LIFE LOUISIANA

Donate Life Louisiana (DLL) 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. DLL envisions a world with no loss of human life or function due to lack of donor organs or tissues and a society that accepts and supports donation as natural and beneficial.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- **Youth Forums:** More than 10 youth forums educating teens on organ health, transplantation and organ and tissue donation held in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Shreveport areas. This program provides accurate information in order for teens to make a decision about organ donation and encourages them to discuss organ donation with their families and friends.
- **Workplace Partnerships:** Partnering with Louisiana businesses to educate their employees on the importance of donation and encouraging them to sign up as organ donors and share this important information with their families.
- **Office of Motor Vehicles Staff Training:** Developed a comprehensive training manual and trained all OMV field office staff (nearly 600 employees in over 60 offices state-wide).
- **Grass roots efforts:** Minority Awareness Campaigns, National Donor Sabbath, Family Circle Rose Parade and Health Fairs/Public Events
- **Physician Education Program:** On-line continuing medical education program designed to educate physicians on organ donation and transplantation. This initiative helps physicians understand their crucial role in educating patients about donation during office visits.
- **General Marketing Campaigns:** Designed to drive citizens of Louisiana to the Louisiana Organ and Tissue Donor Registry by saying “yes” to organ donation at the Office of Motor Vehicles

FUNDING

Each of us has the ability to save someone’s life by becoming an organ, eye and tissue donor. The funds Legacy raises support awareness and education programs that aim to reduce the number of Louisianans who die waiting for an organ transplant. Organ donation is not a search for a cure – it is the cure.

Corporate and individuals contribute funds directly to the foundation. The Foundation also receives funding from grants and government sources. To contribute, log on to www.organawareness.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are over 100,000 people on the national waiting list.
- There are over 1,800 people waiting in Louisiana.
- 1 donor can save the lives of up to 9 people, restore sight to 2 people, and enhance the lives of up to 50 people through tissue donation.
- Anyone can potentially be a donor regardless of age, race or medical history. Cancer, heart disease, diabetes, poor eyesight or cataracts will not prevent you from being a donor.
- All major religions approve of organ, eye and tissue donation, and even see it as an unselfish act of charity.
- Donation does not prevent open casket funerals.

- Organs and tissue are surgically removed and the donor is treated with utmost dignity and respect.
- There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ, eye and tissue donation.
- It is illegal to distribute organs based on wealth, citizenship, or celebrity status.
- It is illegal to buy or sell organs in the United States.
- Your decision to donate will not interfere with life-saving medical care. Organ and tissue donation is only an option after all attempts have been made to save your life and death has been declared.
- Let family members know about your decision to become an organ, tissue and eye donor. Only then can they support your decision to give the Gift of Life.

Becoming a Donor is easy!

You can:

- complete a registration form and mailing it to P. O. Box 15680, New Orleans, LA 70175
- **say “yes” to organ donation when you get or renew your driver’s license**
- go to www.organawareness.org or donatelifela.org
- 1-800-523-give

Share your wishes to become a donor.
Talk with your family about organ donation.

STATISTICS ABOUT DONATION

In 2007:

- Nationally, there were 22,048 transplants from deceased donors, and 6,309 from living donors.
- In Louisiana, there were 403 transplants from deceased donors, and 87 from living donors.
- Nationally, there were 8,091 deceased donors and 6,310 living donors.
- In Louisiana, there were 160 deceased donors and 87 living donors.
- Nationally, 9,612 people were removed from the waiting list because they died or were too sick to receive a transplant. 150 of these were in Louisiana.
- Nationally, 52,869 people were added to the waiting list. 905 of these were in Louisiana.

In 2006:

- Nationally, there were 22,201 transplants from deceased donors, and 6,731 from living donors.
- In Louisiana, there were 353 transplants from deceased donors, and 63 from living donors.
- Nationally, there were 8,024 deceased donors and 6,732 living donors.
- In Louisiana, there were 133 deceased donors and 63 living donors.
- Nationally, 6,930 people were removed from the waiting list because they died before a donor organ became available. 96 of these were in Louisiana.
- Nationally, 53,003 people were added to the waiting list. 725 of these were in Louisiana.