

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Suzanna Morton, Community Educator
Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA)
Phone: 337.269.7044 Ext. 309 / 256.724.2255
Email: smorton@lopa.org



FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS GIVE THANKS FOR SECOND CHANCES AT LIFE Churches and religious groups celebrate life-saving gifts of organ, tissue and cornea donation

LOUISIANA – In the spirit of Thanksgiving, churches and faith-based communities are invited to partner with Donate Life Louisiana (DLL) to celebrate the life-saving gifts given through organ, tissue and cornea donation. National Donor Sabbath is recognized each November, focusing on faith-based organizations and communities and equipping religious leaders with the educational resources needed to encourage family discussions within their congregations regarding organ, tissue and cornea donation.

DLL representatives are available throughout the state to provide free presentations, information tables, bulletin inserts and educational materials regarding donation. Individuals who are walking the path of donation and transplantation - donor families and recipients - are also available to share their incredible journeys of loss, life and faith.

“All major religions support organ, tissue and cornea donation and view it as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity,” says Jeanette Slakey, Executive Director of Legacy Donor Foundation. “Yet, a common misconception among families is donation is against their religion.”

The need for life-saving organs is critical with 108,000 men, women and children waiting nationally on their second chance at life. “Donor Sabbath is an enormous opportunity for faith communities to help the thousands who are waiting for transplants by encouraging their members to join the 83 million people already registered as donors in the United States and becoming organ, eye and tissue donors,” says Kirsten Heintz, Director of Development for the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency.

For those interested in receiving Donor Sabbath resources or scheduling a free presentation, please call 1.800.521.GIVE (4483) to contact the DLL representative in your area. For more information on National Donor Sabbath and organ, tissue and cornea donation, visit www.donatelifela.org.

Donate Life Louisiana (DLL) is a collaboration between Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA) and the Legacy Donor Foundation. The mission of DLL 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. We envision a world with no loss of human life or function due to the lack of donor organs or tissues and a society that accepts and supports donation as natural and beneficial.

#####