



LEGACY  
DONOR FOUNDATION

# BE NICE DONATE LIFE!

October 2007

## A Living Memory

Libbie Harrison's father lost his battle with heart disease 11 years ago because there was no heart available to him for transplant. When her youngest son, Justin, learned that just one more person making the decision to register as an organ donor could have saved his grandfather's life, he made it his mission to make people aware of the need for life-saving organs.

In August of 1997, as the new school year was getting underway, Justin suffered a

non-survivable injury from a fall. A few days later, he himself became a hero to five organ recipients and his gift of eyes gave sight to two people.

Libbie has now taken up her son's cause, dedicating her life to sharing the benefits of donation, not only for the recipients but also for the donor families. She knows firsthand how wonderful it is having Justin's recipients as living memories of the hero he became. And Justin's heart is still beating to this day.



## The Need is Real

Currently almost **100,000** people in the United States are waiting for an organ transplant.

**1,600** of those waiting are in Louisiana.

In 2006, **95** people in Louisiana died due to the lack of donor organs.

One donor can:

- save **9** lives through organ donation
- restore sight to **2** people through cornea donation
- enhance the lives of over **50** more through tissue donation

Make the decision today to become an organ, eye and tissue donor.

Tell your family about your wishes so they can be aware of your decision to give the Gift of Life.

To register:

- fill out and mail in the attached form
- [www.organawareness.org](http://www.organawareness.org)
- say "yes" to donation when you get or renew your driver's license
- call 504.220.8949

**YES!** I would like to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your registration to:

The Legacy Donor Foundation  
P. O. Box 15680  
New Orleans, LA 70175



## Save the Date

**November 12, 2007**  
Baton Rouge  
Youth Forum

**November 13, 2007**  
Shreveport  
Youth Forum

**March 8, 2008**  
**Soul Revival**  
Fulton Street  
7pm-12am

call 504.220.8949 for information

## Physician Education Program

The Foundation has received a grant from the State of Louisiana through the Office of Motor Vehicles to study the attitudes of physicians and healthcare providers on organ donation.

The Foundation and Tulane University School of Public Health are working with Tulane University Hospital & Clinic, and LOPA in this study to encourage physicians, residents and medical students to expand their knowledge and understanding of organ donation.

As part of this study, physicians are educated on ways to initiate discussion regarding organ donation with their patients, particularly those patient populations who, in the past, have been less likely to be donors (e.g. African-Americans and Latinos). This dialogue is an opportunity to dispel patient's misconceptions and fears about organ and tissue donation and for physicians to determine the patient's end-of-life wishes.

In other news, the Foundation has been awarded \$100,000 in House Bill #1 from the State of Louisiana for awareness activities in 2008.

## We're making progress in Louisiana!

Louisiana Organ donor registry has increased over 300% in 8 years:

- Legacy Organ and Tissue Donor Registry 1999 – 450,000
- Legacy Organ and Tissue Donor Registry 2002 – 850,000
- Legacy Organ and Tissue Donor Registry 2007 – 1.7 million

Over the same period:

- Organ donors increased 80% from 147 donors in 1999 TO 265 donors in 2004\*
- Transplants increased nearly 50% from 381 transplants in 1999 to 565 transplants in 2004\*

\*2004 data was used due to 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita impacting healthcare in the state of Louisiana.