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**“Get your  on” for Donate Life Month**

*Organ donation awareness campaign encourages all Louisiana residents to sign up as organ donors on Louisiana’s Organ and Tissue Donor Registry*


*Baton Rouge, LA*—April is National Donate Life Month, and the Legacy Donor Foundation has proudly kicked off a new awareness campaign to increase organ donation awareness. “Get your  on” aims to encourage all Louisiana residents to get the organ donation heart on their drivers’ licenses to demonstrate that they have registered as an organ donor.

Today, Donate Life Louisiana, a collaboration between the Legacy Donor Foundation and the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA), hosted simultaneous organ and tissue donation awareness events in New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

“Louisiana’s Organ and Tissue Donor Registry has come a long way,” said Jeanette Slakey, executive director of the Legacy Donor Foundation. “Ten years ago, only 10 percent of Louisiana’s citizens were registered as organ donors. Today the registry is 1.7 million names strong. That’s 40 percent of the states population.”

Events were held at the Office of Motor Vehicles in New Orleans (6701 Airline Highway) and Baton Rouge (7701 Independence Blvd), and asked prominent community members to publicly register as organ donors and help inspire others to do the same. Donate Life Louisiana seeks to increase Louisiana’s organ registry to 50 percent of the state’s population by 2014.

Among those who attended or supported Thursday's event were Louisiana State Police Lieutenant Doug Cain, LSU baseball coach Paul Mainieri, Baton Rouge Metro Council member Ronnie Edwards, and Shaw Center for the Arts executive director David Briggs.

“Get your  has been featured on billboards across the State of Louisiana, and aims to encourage residents to register as organ donors and to dispel myths and fears that may prevent people from saving lives by signing up.

Today, there are over 100,000 people nationally and more than 1,800 in the State of Louisiana waiting for life-saving organ transplants. One donor has the power to save nine lives, restore the sight of two people and enhance the lives of 50 more through tissue donation.

The Legacy Donor Foundation and LOPA formed Donate Life Louisiana in an effort to bring a cohesive face to organ donation awareness in Louisiana.

“Our goal is the same – save lives through organ donation,” said Kelly Ranum, executive director of LOPA.

For more information about how you can sign up to become an organ and tissue donor, please visit [www.donatelifela.org](http://www.donatelifela.org).

