

Register!



Register as an organ donor!

www.DonateLifeLA.org

Say "YES!" when you get or renew your driver's license.



Saving lives one "yes!" at a time.

A Doctor's Journey

Life's path is filled with abrupt twists and turns that we often never see coming. Dr. Frank Voelker, a New Orleans cardiologist, stumbled upon one of these unexpected turns in 1992 when he contracted Hepatitis C, an infectious disease affecting the liver, while examining one of his patients.

Instantly his life changed and now he was on the other side of the stethoscope. As time passed, Dr. Voelker's health slowly deteriorated. He experienced nausea, fatigue, jaundice and a significant loss in weight. The toxicity caused from his liver failing soon made him too sick to work or even read a book. Dr. Voelker's health had declined to the point that he could do nothing but anxiously wait for a liver transplant.

"I had to make the decision to keep fighting," says Dr. Voelker. "The hardest part is waiting, but you have to hold on to the hope that you will feel good again."

On Labor Day weekend, 2006, nearly 10 years after his diagnosis,

Dr. Frank Voelker received the call that would change his life. The transplant team at Tulane University Hospital called to inform him that a liver was available. Twenty-four hours after his surgery, Dr. Voelker described feeling "normal" for the first time in years. Six months later, he was back on his feet doing the things he loved.

In 1999, David Voelker, Dr. Frank Voelker's brother, founded the Legacy Donor Foundation after learning of his brother's urgent need for a liver transplant. Soul Revival began as a party amongst close family and friends to help raise awareness about the need for organ donors, and it has since transcended into an annual fundraising event to help support the Foundation's educational programs and awareness campaigns on organ donation.

There are over 100,000 people nationally and more than 1,800 people across the State of Louisiana waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Today, Dr. Voelker is taking full advantage of his second

chance at life, and you can make that same chance come true for many others in need by registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

"I was lucky," says Dr. Voelker. "An average of 18 people nationwide die every day waiting for a transplant. Organ donation is the greatest gift anyone can ever give to another person. It is so important that families talk to one another about their beliefs on organ donation so that if something ever happened they would have the piece of mind knowing they granted your final wish."



David, Frank, George, and Virginia Voelker

Get your on.  *Donate Life. Leave a Legacy.* www.DonateLifeLA.org



New Orleans, LA 70175

P.O. Box 15680





Show your support for organ and tissue donation. Help support Donate Life Louisiana's education programs! Visit expresslane.org to get your Donate Life license plate today.



Donate Life Louisiana aims 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.



Soul Revival Chairs Kevin and Elise Kiser, and Sarah Louise and Scott Ham

The Legacy Donor Foundation celebrated our 10th anniversary at our annual fundraiser Soul Revival on March 28th. 800 people came together at the home of Danielle Kavanagh to enjoy soul food, great music and celebrate giving the gift of life through organ and tissue donation.

The Foundation has had a successful first 10 years due to the generous support of its sponsors.

We would like to thank our sponsors:

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Louisiana Hospital Association



The Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) and the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA) have united in the first-ever, statewide hospital donor registration initiative in the nation. The *Donate Life Louisiana Hospital Campaign's* goal is to help increase the number of registered organ and tissue donors in the state of Louisiana.

Hospitals throughout the state have appointed Champions who help educate their employees and the public about organ donation and encourage individuals to register as donors. By the end of 2009, the *Donate Life Louisiana Hospital Campaign* hopes to increase Louisiana's donor registry by at least **10 % or 160,676 people.**

"The *Donate Life Louisiana Hospital Campaign* is modeled after HRSA's *Workplace Partnership for Life*, which LOPA and *Donate Life Louisiana* partner, Legacy Donor Foundation, have been utilizing to create a network of support within the business community. We now have an unprecedented opportunity to almost double our outreach effort throughout the state by joining forces with the LHA," said Kelly Ranum, executive director of LOPA.

"Our partnership with LOPA is a perfect fit since our hospitals can reach out to their employees and communities, and LOPA has the necessary tools and resources for education on donation," said John Matessino, LHA president and CEO. "Our hospital members are intimately aware of how organ donation is life changing for the recipient and donor families."



We are looking forward to the next 10 years, and hope to see you at Soul Revival 2010!

Did You Know?

-In 1999, there were **450,000 people** registered as an organ and tissue donor in LA

-There are now over **1.7 million**

-Since 1999, nearly **4,200 lives have been saved** in LA through transplantation, but more than **1,600 people** have been removed from the waiting list because they **died or were too sick to receive a transplant**

-1,811 people are waiting in LA, **90% of these are waiting for kidneys**

statistics per unos.org
(June 30, 2009)

Get Involved!

Upcoming Events:

New Orleans:

July 3-5 Essence Music Festival - New Orleans Convention Ctr.

July 9-10 Phi Beta Sigma Health Fair - Sheraton Hotel

July 10 Esplanade Mall Fair - Kenner

July 15-16 Place St. Charles Health Fair

TBA First Emmanuel Baptist Health Fair

Lafayette / Baton Rouge:

July 7, 14, 21 & 28 Southwest Safety Driver's Ed Class

July 13 Acadiana Safety Driver's Ed Class

July 23 Sunrise Rotary - Opelousas

July 29 Safety Training Services Driver's Ed Class - Eunice

July 31 Strut Your Stilettos Fundraiser - Baton Rouge

Shreveport:

July 6 & 20 New Employee Orientation - Willis-Knighton

July 7 Arcadia AHEC Students

July 13 Willis-Knighton South Employee Health Fair

July 14 Willis-Knighton North Employee Health Fair

July 16 Willis-Knighton Pierremont Employee Health Fair

July 17 Willis-Knighton Bossier Employee Health Fair

Alexandria:

July 6 Cotile Fire Station

July 11 CENLA Driving Academy - Alexandria

July 13-15 LRWA Conference - Alexandria

July 14 Homecare 2000 - Alexandria

July 18 V.I.P. Training

For more information on how to get involved:

email info@organawareness.org

call LOPA @ 800.521.GIVE (ext 294) or Legacy @ 504.558.8900

Donate Life Month

Louisiana celebrated National Donate Life Month in April. Donate Life Louisiana participated in more than **100 events** across statewide. **Thousands of people** were educated about organ donation and encouraged to register as organ donors. The events included: BCBS Blue Donor Day, OMV Donor Drive and a Day at the Capitol. We also coordinated Louisiana's participation in Flags Across America- hundreds of Donate Life flags were placed at all local OMVs and participating hospitals across the state.

**Thank you to our volunteers who made
Donate Life Month a huge success!**



Casa Olé Run

The **7th Annual Casa Olé Caliente 5K Run** and 1 mile Fun Run took place April 12 in Lafayette. 412 participants competed, helping to raise over \$20,000! Since Casa Olé and LOPA have partnered for this event, they have raised over \$50,000. It was a tremendous event celebrating the Gift of Life!

Special Thanks to our Sponsors!

Casa Olé
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Donor Memorial Picnic 2009

On March 28th, LOPA hosted the Donor Memorial Picnic at Alligator Bayou. Over 1,300 donor family members and transplant recipients attended. There were eight Donor Memorial Quilts on display, with each quilt square created by a donor family memorializing their loved one who gave the gift of life. Five organ recipients were able to meet their donor families for the first time! It was a day filled with food, fun, and remembrance.



Family of Donor Matthew Walsh

OMV & Donate Life LA partner for Rose Parade

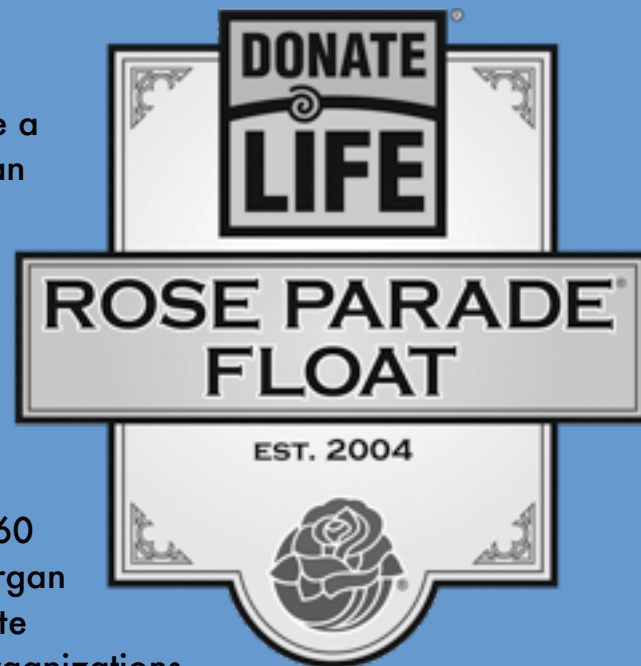
December 16, 2008, Baton Rouge, LA—Louisiana’s Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) joined representatives of Donate Life Louisiana to dedicate 43 roses for the sixth Donate Life Rose Parade Float, *Stars of Life*, which appeared in the 120th Rose Parade on New Year’s Day.



The Donate Life Rose Parade Float floragraph images memorialized 14 “Stars” who gave the gift of life. OMV employees dedicated individual roses to be placed on the float. The rose dedications honored organ donors, transplant recipients, and all OMV customers who said “yes” to organ donation.

“The Office of Motor Vehicles is often the first place a person is asked if they want to register to become an organ and tissue donor,” said Kay Hodges, Louisiana Commissioner of the Office of Motor Vehicles. “It is so important for us to help educate and inform potential organ and tissue donors about the extraordinary need for organ donation, and how they can help save a life.”

The Donate Life Rose Parade float is supported by 60 official partners from across the nation, including organ and tissue recovery organizations, tissue banks, state donor registries, transplant centers and affiliated organizations.



Youth Education

Beginning in September of 2008, DLL is partnering with LSU Health Science Center’s “Sudden Impact Program.” The purpose of the Sudden Impact program is to educate student drivers about driving safety. They will learn about the importance of safety belts, consequences of drinking and driving and the importance of organ and tissue donation.



Lana Stevens, LOPA Community Educator

This program is especially important because the participating students are reaching the age where they will be getting their driver’s licenses and permits. Donate Life Louisiana is educating these students so they will have the information necessary to make informed decisions when they are asked if they would like to register as organ donors. The program runs 2-3 days a week from September to May at University Hospital in New Orleans. The groups consist of 25-30 students and as of May 2009 we have educated every sophomore in the following schools:

- Mount Carmel Academy
- Rummel High School
- Brother Martin High School
- De La Salle High School
- Country Day School
- Newman School
- Jesuit High School
- Cabrini High School

The feedback about the program has been incredibly positive. The students’ biggest question is, “Why do people NOT sign up to be organ and tissue donors?”

Transplant Waiting List

	Louisiana	National
Kidney	1,627	79,901
Liver	135	15,780
Pancreas	19	1,495
Kidney/Pancreas	28	2,222
Heart	25	2,821
Lung	0	1,902
Heart/Lung	0	84
Intestine	0	216
Total	1,811	102,031

as per unos.org (June 30, 2009)

**Our goal is
2.2 million
registered
organ and
tissue donors in
Louisiana by 2014!**

