

# LIFE LINES

Winter 2004

## Celebration of Life Planned for April 22, 2004



Join Tennessee Donor Services in celebrating National Donate Life Month, by participating in our 2nd Annual *Celebration of Life Ceremony*. The ceremony will take place on April 22, 2004 (time is to be determined) at Donor Memorial Park at the corner of 16th Avenue and Church Street in Nashville.

The *Celebration of Life Ceremony* centers around a candlelight ceremony that honors our donors, recipients, their families, and all those that we have lost. The ceremony also involves recipient and donor family stories, a special guest speaker and a small reception after the ceremony.

Last year at the ceremony there were two moving speakers, one a donor family, and a recipient along with a touching story of life, love and donation. The ceremony is a time for all to get together and share stories and memories with those that have shared in some of the same experiences. It is also a time to remember those that gave the ultimate gift of life and those that did not receive that gift in time. For more information about the ceremony please contact the public education office at 1-888-234-4440.

## VITAL STATISTICS

**83,548\*\***

Americans waiting on an organ transplant

**1,675\***

Tennesseans waiting on an organ transplant

**15**

Lung Transplants performed in Tennessee during 2002

**188**

Organ Donors in Tennessee during 2002

**42**

Organ Donors for Tennessee Donor Services Nashville through 2003

\* As of January 5, 2004  
\*\* As of January 9, 2004

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

DCI Donor Services' mission is to support, enhance, and provide for the recovery and allocation of anatomical gifts. In order to maximize the donation, recovery and transplantation of these anatomical gifts, DCI Donor Services is committed to providing shared resources and initiatives throughout our organization and the Organ and Tissue Donor Community, in order to improve the level of service provided to: donors and their families, donor hospitals, transplant recipients, transplant hospitals, and the community at large. DCI Donor Services operates in an ethically and financially responsible manner to conserve scarce resources and to ensure the public trust.

## National Donor Memorial Honoring America's Organ and Tissue Donors

To honor America's organ and tissue donors and their families, to highlight the impact of their gift of life on the lives of so many others, and to underscore the critical importance of increasing organ donation, the United Network for Organ Sharing is creating the National Donor Memorial at their headquarters in Richmond, Virginia as an expression of the transplant's community gratitude.

**A WAY TO SAY THANK YOU.** The mother of a young girl who became an organ donor— a husband who gave his wife one of his kidneys— a grateful liver recipient...what common thread do these individuals share? Along with the other organ donor family members and recipients from all over the country, these volunteers have come together to guide the design of the National Donor Memorial.

Their efforts were realized this spring in a 10,000 square foot walkway and garden that symbolically leads visitors through the organ and tissue donation experience. The journey guides visitors past a wall of tears and a dramatic wall of names, to a bright, open lawn and a peaceful grove with flowing water. This design allows visitors to reflect and ultimately be consoled each time that they visit.

**AN INTERACTIVE TRIBUTE.** Complementing the walkway and garden is the interior portion of the memorial. In the lobby of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) headquarters, a free-standing computer kiosk houses Internet-based tributes and photographs of donors from across the country. Donor families, friends, and recipients, however, provide the words and images to honor and celebrate their loved ones. Most important, anyone with Internet access is able to participate in the experience. Also honoring America's organ and tissue donors is a continuous slide show projected against the lobby wall.

The memorial is a way to say Thank You. But the memorial does not end there. It serves as a reminder to everyone that organs are scarce, and the need is great. To learn more about the memorial or how you can get involved, contact Marcia Manning with UNOS at [manningmd@unos.org](mailto:manningmd@unos.org).

### Questions & Answers

**Q: What is tissue transplantation?**

**A:** Tissue transplantation involves replacing tissues such as skin, bone, corneas, heart valves, tendons, and ligaments. Hundreds of thousands of tissue transplants are performed each year. Tissue transplants restore health, sight and quality of life to victims of burns, cancer, disease, and blindness.

Have you visited  
Donor Memorial Park?  
Located at the corner of 16th Avenue  
and Church Street, the park  
provides for a natural setting in the  
midst of downtown. Come by and  
visit the fish in the pond, sit and  
relax or have a quiet spot to eat lunch.  
The park is open Monday thru Friday  
from 9 AM-5 PM and is open for all  
staff of DCI, DCIDS and all donor  
families, recipients and their families.  
Come by for a visit!

# Volunteer Focus



## Spotlight on Jessica Hawk-Manus

Jessica Hawk-Manus has been a fighter her entire life. Born with Cystic Fibrosis, she had to endure several surgeries to reconstruct her bowels, as a newborn. At the age of 16 she learned that she had developed CF related diabetes and went to Vanderbilt for the first time. She soon learned that she had developed cirrhosis of the liver and was put on the waiting list at the age of 19. She received a transplant on March 5, 1999 at the ripe old age of 20.

She wanted to attend nursing school, but being around sick patients was not good for her health. So applied for a job as a 911 dispatcher, and was hired on by the Metro Police Department. Soon after he met Casey Manus and after a year together they were engaged. She started to develop kidney problems and had her kidneys shut down twice. A week before her wedding she was told that she would need a lung transplant. She was heartbroken.

She and Casey got married on October 19, 2002 and enjoyed a relaxing honeymoon in Hawaii! Jessica still continues to wait for her lung transplant.

She volunteers for TDS at many events to share her story. She hopes to one day be able to hike, play tennis, swim, and travel again. With God's blessing, she believes that she will!

\*\*\*At the time this article was written, Jessica was waiting on lungs. We are pleased to announce she received her double lung transplant on January 19, 2004.



### What's Happening

**February 3**  
Volunteer Meeting  
4:30pm

**February 5**  
Vandy vs. Georgia  
Women's Basketball  
Organ Donation  
Awareness  
7pm

**February 13**  
Saturn Donor Day  
Saturn Plant  
Springhill

**March**  
National Eye Donor  
Month

**March 2**  
Volunteer Training  
4:30pm

**April**  
National Donate Life  
Month

**April 1-4**  
Southern Women's  
Show

**April 6**  
Volunteer  
Meeting  
4:30pm

**April 22**  
Celebration of Life  
Ceremony

For more  
information or to partici-  
pate in any of these  
events, please call the  
public education office at  
1-888-234-4440

## Happy Birthday!

Helen Smith	2/4
Cameron Simmons	2/12
Danny West	2/21
Bill Gideon	2/25
Misty Armour	3/6
Kathy Black	3/9
Mary Elizabeth Hall	3/22
Donnetta Hawkins	4/4
Dennis McBride	4/14
Elouise Bond	4/19
Gladys Beale	4/23
Karla Taylor	4/26

If we missed your birthday, please call the office and let us know!



DCI Donor Services-  
 Tennessee Donor Services  
 1600 Hayes Street, Suite 300  
 Nashville, TN 37203

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## Keep in Touch

Have you moved?  
 Need to be removed from the  
 mailing list?  
 Would you like to be added?

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Add                      Change                      Remove

Mail back to:  
 TDS  
 1600 Hayes Street, Suite 300  
 Nashville, TN 37203  
 ATTN: Public Education

Do you need a speaker for your church,  
 business, civic group?

**Call TDS**

We can also offer brochures, table tents,  
 posters, health fair exhibits and more.

**Call TDS**

Let us know what is going on in your  
 community and how we can help!

**Call 1-888-234-4440**

This Publication is made possible through the  
 "Help Renew Lives" County Clerk Organ Donation  
 Awareness campaign.



*Help Renew Lives*

Give Your Share for Donor Awareness.

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to our volunteers that have reached a milestone, their **TRANSPLANT ANNIVERSARY**. The following people are celebrating anniversaries in November, December and January! If you get a chance give them a call and remind them how thankful we are **SOMEONE GAVE THEM THE GIFT OF LIFE!**

Julie Damon	Liver Recipient	2/91
Gay Eisen	Liver Recipient	2/91
Elouise Bond	Kidney Recipient	2/92
Viriginia Sircy	Kidney/ Pancreas	2/94
Myra Gregory	Kidney/ Pancreas	2/00
Donnie Farmer	Kidney Recipient	2/01
Ray Fails	Kidney Recipient	3/91
Tom Wallace	Heart Recipient	3/91
Cynthia Hensley	Kidney Recipient	3/97
Gladys Beale	Liver Recipient	3/98
John Johnson	Liver Recipient	3/98
Craig Lynn	Liver Recipient	4/86
Donnetta Hawkins	Liver Recipient	4/94
Dee Ann Binkley	Kidney Recipient	4/96
Danny West	Lung Recipient	4/98
Teresa Kirby	Kidney Recipient	4/00
Mary Hall	Heart Recipient	4/03

Many of you have “unofficially” joined the “**Workplace Partnership for Life**”, by educating your staff, co-workers, family and friends! The objective of the Partnership is to educate the community through the workplace, your effort should count! The process is simple to do and then your workplace will receive national recognition. Visit the website [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov) or call the public education office for more information!

Do we have your picture? We would like to have a picture of our volunteers to use in our upcoming media campaign and for our website. If we do not have a picture of you, one can be sent to :

Tennessee Donor Services  
Public Education  
1600 Hayes Street, Suite 300  
Nashville, TN 37203  
*Pictures will not be returned*

## National Donate Life Month 2004

National Donate Life month is fast approaching and we have been busy making plans, but need your help! We would like to get yard signs made for you to place in your yard telling all who pass by and your neighbors about the life-saving gift of organ and tissue donation. If you would like to request a sign they will be free, but we need to know how many people would like a sign and how many that you would like. We need to know by **February 28, 2004!**

Look for signs in the downtown area spreading the message about organ and tissue donation, and National Donate Life Month!

Please contact your church, workplace, civic group, local hangout and see if there would be an opportunity to display information about organ and tissue donation and or National Donate Life Month. We have all the information in the office and can help you with any supplies that you might need! Let us know in plenty of time and we will be sure to get your materials to you before you need them!

## Ode to a Volunteer

Many will be shocked to find  
When the day of judgment nears,  
And there is a special place in heaven  
set aside for volunteers.  
Furnished with recliners, satin couches and footstools,  
Where there are no committee meetings, no  
group leaders or carpools.  
No eager team that needs a coach, no bazaar  
and no bake sales.  
There will be nothing to staple, not one thing  
to fold and mail.  
Telephone lists will be outlawed, but a  
finger snap will bring,  
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners, and rare  
treats fit for a king.  
You ask, “who will serve these privileged few  
and work for all their worth?”  
Why all those who reaped the benefits, and not once  
volunteered on earth.

# DCI Donor Services Ocular Program Gives the Gift of Sight

By: Craig Henderson, Manager of Ocular Services

## Basic Corneal Anatomy

The cornea is a very complex, transparent bundle of nerve cells and collagen that lie directly in front of the iris (the colored part of the eye). It has multiple functions, but the simplest one is to allow light to enter the eye so it can focus on the retina. If a cornea is damaged, light cannot enter it, therefore, the patient loses his/ her vision. The cornea is composed of five layers, each with different types of cells, all of varying thickness. The outer layer (the layer you can touch) is known as the **Epithelium**. This layer can regenerate when damaged without scarring. The next layer is known as **Bowman's Membrane**. This layer provides regeneration for the epithelial layer and also separates the epithelium and the next layer, the **Stroma**. The stroma is the thickest layer and composes 90% of the cornea, and is composed of a latticework of collagen fibers. The fourth layer is known as **Decemet's Membrane**, and can be defined as the basement layer, or bottom of the stroma. The fifth layer of the cornea, the **Endothelium**, is the most important. This cellular layer has multiple micro cellular functions, including water transference throughout the cornea (Sodium– Potassium/ ATA pump). It is the single cell layer in thickness, and the shape, size, number and quality of these cells are integral in the determination of the transplantability of the donor cornea.

## Some Specifics of Ocular Donation and Transplant

The field of ocular donation differs greatly from organ and tissue donation, primarily within the criteria of regarding what conditions are acceptable for ocular donation. In general, all tissue criteria are similar, however the greatest difference between tissue and ocular donation is cancer. According to the Eye Bank Association of America and DCIDS medical standards, unless a patient has a history of leukemia, lymphoma, or certain neurological cancers ( such as gliomas), ocular donation is possible.

Since the goal of DCIDS is to always recover the highest quality tissue possible, other differences are related to age and recovery limitations. In the autumn of 2002, DCIDS changed the age criteria for ocular donations from 1 year old up to 71 years age. The reasoning behind this change is simple, the older a person gets, the greater the natural degeneration of the endothelial cells. The greater number of endothelial cells , the greater the chance for a successful transplant.

The cornea is the one tissue that can be compared to an organ in regards to recovery time and transplantability. Once a family consents to donation, the ocular tissue ideally must be recovered within 10 hours of cardiac death. When cardiac death occurs, naturally the eye no longer produces tears, which keep the eye moist. As a result, the cornea actually begins to dry, and the cellular layers begin to show signs of degeneration (this is referred to as exposure). In addition, extended recovery times can be detrimental to the corneal endothelium leading to potential graft failure post-implant. Recovering the corneas quickly greatly reduces exposure and endothelial degradation, resulting in transplantable tissue with little signs of degeneration.

To help combat corneal degeneration, the referring personnel are asked to perform a simple procedure known as “eye maintenance.” Elevating the donor's head, placing several drops of normal saline or balanced salt solution in each eye, closing the eyelids and taping them shut with paper tape, and then placing icepacks over the eyes help preserve the corneas until the recovery coordinator can arrive at the facility to perform the recovery.

Donated corneas also have the most limited time of any tissues between recovery and transplant. Even though the preservative used to store the tissue (Optisol GS) maintains the cellular structure for as long as two weeks, DCIDS strives to transplant corneas within five-seven days of recovery. Since most other recovered tissues can be transplanted several months or even years after recovery, DCIDS has a dedicated Ocular Distribution Coordinator that focuses primarily on the expedient placement of this tissue.

The ocular program within DCIDS is dedicated to restoring vision to those with severe corneal disabilities. It is only through the constant support and assistance of the referring personnel, medical personnel, funeral home personnel, and the graciousness of the donor families that such a difference can be made to those without sight.

For more information about corneal donation please call 1-800-435-5780. *(part 3 of a 3 part series)*