

LIFE LINES

Spring/ Summer 2003

Donor Memorial Park Dedicated in Candlelight Ceremony



The Nashville Donor Memorial Park was dedicated in a candlelight ceremony on the evening of April 24, 2003. The "Celebration of Life" honored donor families, recipients, living donors and their families. They came together not only to celebrate the gift of life, but also to remember those that gave the ultimate gift. The small group of 50 braved the threat of rain and windy conditions to hear stories of tragedy and of hope.

Tom and Donna Spencer shared their sorrow and then their renewed hope after meeting one of the recipients of their daughter Cortney's organs. RG McLendon shared his experiences while waiting for a life saving heart transplant. He recalled the friends that he lost and all the new memories that he has, because his donor family was generous enough to donate their son's organs. Singer/ songwriter Heath Wright performed the song "My Heart" which tells the heart-wrenching story of a family needing a transplant and their journey to their donor.

The evening concluded with a solemn candle lighting ceremony to honor donors and those that we have lost. Each family was asked to come forward and light a candle in joy or remembrance of their loved ones. At the conclusion of the ceremony there was a glowing memorial to our friends and family. Planning has already begun for "Celebration of Life 2004". Tennessee Donor Services would like to thank DCI, Nashville Gas, and Harpeth Hills Memory Gardens for their contributions to the park.

VITAL STATISTICS

81,386**

Americans waiting on an organ transplant

1,532

Tennesseans waiting on an organ transplant

17,093

Americans waiting on a liver transplant

131

Tennesseans died while waiting in 2002

6,613

Living Donors Nationally in 2002

147

Living Donors in Tennessee in 2002

** As of May 2, 2003

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

DCI Donor Services' mission is to support, enhance, and provide for the recovery of anatomical gifts. In order to maximize the donation, recovery and transplantation of these anatomical gifts, DCI Donor Services is committed to provide shared resources and initiatives throughout our organization and the Organ, Tissue and Eye 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.

www.dcidonor.org

Tennessee Donor Services Ranks 4th Nationally among Organ Procurement Organizations

Tennessee Donor Services ranked 4th in the nation in organ recovery services for the calendar year 2002. The measure is based on donors per million (dpm) of reported population. TDS serves 4.1 million people and recovered organs from 31.96 dpm. The national average was 22.85 dpm. TDS has had consistent growth in our dpm's throughout the past 4 years, while the national average has stayed relatively unchanged.

This increase could be a result of new policies and staff that have been put in place to care more directly for the family. Also, there has been an increase in Public Education and the public awareness about donation. Keep up the good work!

Would you be interested in making a quilt square for your loved one who was a donor? We are inquiring if there is any interest from our volunteers, if you are interested, please call the office!

Questions & Answers

Q: Is it possible to have an open casket funeral after donation?

A: An open casket funeral is still possible with organ and tissue donation. After donation, there are usually no noticeable differences that would prevent a normal casket funeral. In fact, donation coordinators provide funeral service personnel with detailed information about the donation so the donor can be prepared for burial without complications.

REMEMBER

When renewing or registering your car, please donate \$1 for organ donation awareness

How Does the "Waiting List" Work?

When an organ is donated, a national computer database, housed in Richmond, VA, creates a long list of potential recipients. The people on the list are ranked based on several criteria:

Urgency of Need: The sickest patients go to the top of the list. While one person may have been waiting for three years, an individual who may have been in good health, could require an emergency transplant within a few days or hours.

Time on the Waiting List: Patients who have spent more time on the waiting list receive higher priority.

Size Compatibility: Donor and recipient must be compatible in size, so the organs will function to the degree that the recipient needs.

Blood Type: The blood type of the recipient and the donor must be compatible.

Tissue Typing: For kidneys, special tests are performed to determine if the kidney will work in the body of the recipient. Members of the same ethnic group tend to match better than members of different races.

So when you read about transplant recipients, remember that there are thousands and thousands of other recipients that could not accept an organ.

Volunteer Focus



Spotlight on Helen Smith

Helen Smith knows the meaning of giving. Due to an inherited condition call Polycystic Kidney Disease, 3 out of the 4 siblings in Helen's family have either had a transplant or are on the waiting list for a transplant. Helen, fortunately was the only one who had no problems with her kidneys.

When her brother, Lewis, needed a transplant, Helen, much to the dismay of her husband, decided that she would donate a kidney to her brother. On November 17, 1999, Helen gave one of her kidneys to her brother Lewis, since she was a perfect match. Helen has had no effects from donating her kidney.

To show Helen how loved she was and what a great person she was friends and family made her a journal when she was in the hospital. She still reflects and reads her journal.

Helen previously worked in retail and as a pharmacy tech before retiring and becoming a professional volunteer! Helen generously gives of her time to help spread the message about donation and about living donation.

Helen is part of the Tuesday Volunteer group that comes to the TDS office and helps out with projects. She also volunteers for the Southern Women's Show, Fan Fair and countless other activities.

What's Happening

Fan Fair
June 5-8



National
Sheriffs
Conference
June 21-25

Volunteer
Training
Nashville
July 8
5:30 PM

Volunteer
Training
Jackson
July 22
5:30 PM

We Need Your Picture



The Education Department is in need of pictures of our volunteers. We are revamping our website, and producing new brochures. We would like to focus on our donor families, recipients and friends of TDS. If you would like to submit a photo, please contact the public education office!

Happy Birthday!

Sherry Shockley	May 15
Linda Lane-Overton	May 21
Anna Burnett	June 24
Barbara Rosser	June 29
Brian Whitman	July 15
Julie Zaloba	July 16
Pam Havermann	July 20
Betty Bivens	July 21
Jennifer Griffith	July 22
Della Yarbrough	July 24

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

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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

Congratulations Shauna Damin

Shauna entered the winning selection for
the "Name the Newsletter" Contest.
Thanks to Shauna the new name of the
newsletter is "Life Lines"

DCIDS Announces Employees of the Year

DCI Donor Services (DCIDS) is pleased to announce employees of the year, 2003, John Caldwell and Ken Walton.

John Caldwell has been an employee with DCIDS Tissue Services for almost 2 years. During that time, he has directly worked in Supply and Distribution.

John's tireless dedication to excellence has not only improved his department, but all departments within DCIDS Tissue Services. His relentless pursuit in cost containment has reflected in a noticed savings within the company. He has worked not only with vendors, but other departments and locations to streamline large equipment costs, supply and solution costs, and instrument cost savings.

He assisted in the set up of the current supply system at 1714 Hayes Street in Nashville, TN, utilizing a receiving area and a separate bulk supply area. John has also set up the supply system at the 308 facility. He purchased, assembled, catalogued, and stocked the warehousing system. He instituted the supply use logs and outlined a receiving area.

Ken Walton started with DCIDS as a tissue recovery coordinator in 1999, working with families and funeral homes regarding tissue recovery. In November of 2000, Ken transferred to Tennessee Donor Services as a Hospital Services Coordinator.

While working in Hospital and Family Services, Ken saw a need for more minority education and minority family approach. He has been instrumental in providing support for minority families and providing education in the community.

Ken is responsible for the development of 24 hospitals throughout the Middle Tennessee area, providing education for not only the staff of the hospital, including the doctors and nurses, but also to the communities that these hospitals serve.

Congratulations to both Ken and John on all their accomplishments and being DCIDS Employees of the Year!

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome



Jennifer Griffith is the new public education coordinator. Jennifer comes to TDS from Goodwill Industries, where she was a Program Manager/ Job Specialist. Originally from Tampa, FL., Jennifer moved to Nashville 3 years ago. Jennifer is a graduate of the University of South Florida. She and her cat, "Thirty" live in Nashville. Jennifer can be reached at 234-5214 or jgriffith@dcids.org.



Robin Schenk comes to TDS with 24 years of experience in the cemetery and funeral industry. She and her family make their home in Nashville. Her family includes husband Bill (of 28 years), a teacher at T.S.B. a son, Eric, a daughter, Ashlee, and a dog.

Picture Not
Available

Cindy Fashing holds a degree in Nursing and is a Certified Bereavement Facilitator. She has worked for Tennessee Donor Services assisting in recovery and most recently in the call center as Team Leader/ Consenter. She has two boys, 1 German Shepard (Bluff) and an orange and white Tabby (Riley) , otherwise happily single.

Plan NOW for Donor Sabbath 2003

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Donor Sabbath annually provides the opportunity for religious communities across the nation to show their support of organ and tissue donation and encourage congregation members to discuss the lifesaving decision to become a donor with their families.

In preparing for National Donor Sabbath, TDS is sponsoring a clergy conference on October 9, 2003 to provide clergy with accurate information that can be used when discussing donation options with grieving families and their congregations. The conference will be free of charge. If you are interested in helping with either the Clergy Conference or National Donor Sabbath, please contact the Public Education office.

TDS encourages volunteers and friends of TDS to start planning with their church or synagogue now for participation in the 2003 Donor Sabbath Weekend, November 15-16, 2003.

Would you be interested in a organ and tissue donation license plate?



Tennessee Donor Services, in conjunction with Mid-South Transplant, is working to get legislation passed for an Organ and Tissue donation license plate. We are inquiring to see if there is interest from our volunteers, donor families, recipients, and their families. The cost is \$35, plus the cost of registration. One thousand people are needed to commit to buying the plate. If you would be interested in the plate, email or call the office!

Living Kidney Donation: FAQ's

Did you know that there are more than 55,000 people on the waiting list for a kidney? Unfortunately, less than 10,000 kidneys from deceased donors become available for transplantation each year. With the increase in potential recipients, the wait for a kidney has stretched from about 1 year to as much as 4 or 5 years. When living donation is possible there is no need to be on the waiting list.

The qualifications for living donation include: the donor must be physically fit, in good general health, does not have high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, kidney disease and heart disease. It has been shown that the chances of a successful transplant are better with a living donor than a deceased donor. Potential recipients are free from having to endure the long hours of dialysis.

Only one kidney is necessary for good health and a normal life. Donating a kidney does not shorten your life expectancy, it does not increase your risk for kidney failure, it does not put you (the donor) at risk for any other health related problems. Donating a kidney also does not prevent you from becoming pregnant or fathering a child. After you, the donor, recover from surgery, you will be able to work, drive, exercise and participate in everyday activities. It is important that the donor avoid situations that may damage the remaining kidney.

There are also psychological and emotional considerations to think about. The donor will go through extensive talks about the motivations behind wanting to donate. The donor must also remember that the success of the transplant is not guaranteed, and there may be some feelings of regret or responsibility if things do not turn out well. But many donors believe that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

The living donor does not pay for his/ her medical expenses. However there may be lost wages that must be taken into consideration. Some insurance plans may give compensation for travel and lodging but not for lost wages.

For more information about living donation please call the office or visit www.livingorgandonor.org, or www.unos.org.