

Help Save Lives During Donate Life Month!

April might immediately bring to mind filing taxes, bunny rabbits and showers, but for the donation and transplant community, April means one thing – National Donate Life Month.

Each year, this annual event serves as the springboard for educating the community through events, outreach efforts and media campaigns, all to highlight the critical shortage of organs and tissue for transplantation. The main goal is to educate our community and urge them to add the donor designation to their driver's license or state I.D. card.

Check out inside for the various events that are coming up in April!

Gift of Life's official mascot Heartman will be at the April 18th Dash for Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness



A Donate Life Organization

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GIFT OF LIFE NEWS

A publication of *Gift of Life Donor Program*, the region's organ and tissue transplant network, serving the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

Gift of Life Breaks Records in 2009

Ron Boris Jr. waited over four years for one phone call – a call that would save his life. After years of serious cardiac issues, Boris was placed on the heart transplant waiting list in late 2004 in the hopes of receiving his gift of life. After years of treatments like pacemakers and artificial heart devices, he finally received his second chance on April 25, 2009, thanks to the generosity of a donor and donor family.

"I have never enjoyed life more than I have since receiving my new heart," Boris, of Auburn, PA, said. "I learned not to take anything for granted and live every moment the best I can."

Gift of Life started 2010 with an important announcement: 439 individuals gave gifts of life through organ donation in 2009, making this region the most generous in the U.S. and setting a new national record.

The gifts given by those 439 generous organ donors allowed *Gift of Life* to coordinate a total of 1,114 life-saving transplants in 2009. With more than 10 million people in this region, *Gift of Life's* procurement of 44 donors-per-million-population ranks among the highest in the world.

Transplants like Boris's can only occur through the generosity of donors and their families, who make the decision to save or enhance lives through organ and tissue donation. In 2009, this was a decision Nadine Faulkner, of Atlantic City, had to make after her husband of 13 years suffered a stroke and spent weeks in the Intensive Care Unit. When doctors told her that he was brain dead, she knew organ and tissue donation was the right decision, to make something good of an otherwise tragic situation.

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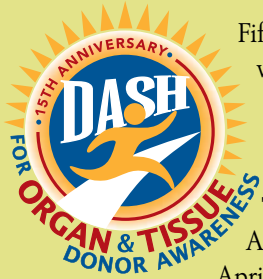
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Ready...Set...Dash!



Fifteen years and tens of thousands of runners and walkers have helped to make the annual Dash for Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness our biggest event each year. And we're not done yet.

This year's Dash for Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness hits the starting line on Sunday, April 18 at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. that morning.

The Dash offers a few different courses: 10-kilometer and 5-kilometer runs, and a 3-kilometer walk, designed to help promote organ and tissue donation and highlight the success of transplantation. All the distances depart from the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and continue along West River Drive and the banks of the Schuylkill River, drawing participants such as transplant candidates, transplant recipients and family members, hospital personnel, donor family members and the general public.

This year's event will again kick off with a motorcade of motorcycles, paying tribute to fallen police officers and service men and women who had generously been organ and tissue donors. This effort has been led by liver recipient Luis Torres, member of the Warriors' Watch motorcycle club and a former police officer himself.



PA College Students Are "On" for Saving Lives this April

Donate Life Pennsylvania will bring its message to more than 20 college campuses, giving students the chance to promote organ and tissue donation among their peers.

In Pennsylvania, *Gift of Life* is teaming up with its sister organization in the western half of the state, the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE), to organize the "It's On!" Campus Challenge.



ABOVE: *Gift of Life* celebrated its 35th anniversary in big ways during the 2009 Dash.

LEFT: Runners cross the finish line to the cheering crowd awaiting them along West River Drive.

The Dash was first created in memory of Mickey Braverman, a liver transplant candidate who died before receiving a transplant. Mickey's widow, Claire, wanted the event to raise public awareness about the 18 people who die each day nationally while waiting for an organ transplant. Claire wanted to ensure that no other family had to go through the pain of watching a loved one die because an organ was not available.

That first Dash was held in April 1996, with 800 people and raised \$17,000 for public education programs. But over the years, the event has grown vastly – and last year's Dash raised more than \$400,000 to benefit organ and tissue donation awareness.

It's not too late to get involved! For more information, log onto www.donors1.org or contact Lori Ray at 215-557-8090, ext. 1152 or via e-mail at lray@donors1.org.

The schools will be involved in this effort, through the participation of student groups who will act as promoters of the event. The Donate Life Pennsylvania website will help keep track of students who register online as part of the challenge, and the schools with the most sign-ups will be awarded for their success.

"Organ and tissue donation is something that any ordinary person can, and should, reach out to do," said student Joelle Atkinson, chair of the "It's On!" Campus Challenge at Elizabethtown College in Lancaster County and recipient of two organ transplants. "I'm

continued on page 4

A Night to Remember at . . .

THE PARTY

The hottest music. The tastiest food. The best crowd. It's all going to take place at THE Party!

On Friday, April 16, Donors Are Heroes will host the eighth installment of THE Party, as part of Donate Life Month. This year, THE Party will be held on the grand 19th floor of the Hyatt at the Bellevue, at Broad and Walnut streets in Philadelphia, from 8-11 p.m. The evening will feature great music, food, fantastic drinks and celebrity guests. Tickets for the event are \$75 – order online today at www.donors1.org!

The dedicated Donors Are Heroes group is comprised of friends and volunteers supporting *Gift of Life* and its charitable supporting organization, the Transplant Foundation. It was started by heart recipient Don Freeman and his wife Renee, who realized the need for and scarcity of organ donations while Don waited for his own life-saving heart transplant 10 years ago.

Since then, the money raised by this group has gone to fund a variety of efforts, including grants for high school students to promote donation among their peers, as well as the It's About Life grant program available to houses of worship to hold educational events and help drive donor designation.



ABOVE: Donors Are Heroes founders Don and Renee Freeman take a moment to pose for the camera with the 2009 Miss Philadelphia Ryann Richardson.



LEFT: There was no shortage of dancing during THE Party in 2009.

Promoting Donation, One Slice at a Time

In the nation's first state, *Gift of Life* will be embarking on a first of its own – partnering with a local restaurant chain to help drive donor designations.



Grotto Pizza, Delaware's most popular pizza joint, will be partnering with *Gift of Life* to help educate residents about the importance of organ and tissue donation. Restaurant locations in each of the three counties will participate in this effort, with education materials made available to customers. Throughout April and May, Grotto's half-priced Tuesday pizza night will also be a venue for reaching Delawareans about organ and tissue donation. *Gift of Life* representatives will have laptops on hand for customers to add the donor designation right there, as well as brochures and materials to share with family and friends.

We are hoping to create some competition among the three Delaware counties and see who, at the end of the campaign, has seen the most new donor designations among its residents.

College students in Delaware will also be part of the fun, as *Gift of Life* will be on-hand at the University of Delaware to promote donor designation. During at least two big events on campus, student representatives will work with *Gift of Life* to promote the online registry and get students designated.

To see everything that's happening in Delaware, log onto www.donatelife-de.org, where information and schedules of events will be posted.



STUDENTS, continued from page 2

happy for the opportunity to let my fellow students know about the possibilities that can come from organ and tissue donation. As a donor you have the ability to touch so many lives, not just those who receive an organ or tissue, but also their family members and friends. Helping to get this message out is one way I am giving back to the community that has given me so much."

This will be the second year for the "It's On!" challenge. Last year, 13 schools participated, and with more students engaged, the Donate Life PA team is anxious to see donor designation numbers spike because of the campaign.

Donate Life Pennsylvania will also be one of the sponsors for the Blue-White Weekend at Penn State University, April 23-24. This marks the second year the statewide campaign will be a part of the fun on campus, with a booth in the middle of the carnival area. Student ambassadors will join the Donate Life Pennsylvania team in reaching as many of the more than 70,000 Nittany Lion fans and educating them on the importance of registering as an organ and tissue donor.

For more information about the Campus Challenge, check out the Donate Life PA website at www.donatelife-pa.org.



ABOVE: The Donate Life Pennsylvania booth at Penn State gets people registering online before the big game.

RIGHT: Penn State's Nittany Lion and Heartman smile for the cameras on-field at halftime.



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2



3

1. Multicultural Affairs Committee members enjoy the amazing spread of food during their annual holiday party in December.
2. Great food and great company during the annual Volunteer Potluck Meeting. *From l to r:* Maureen Bisher, Patti Nelson, Dolly Burgess, and Nilsa Edmonds.
3. On February 8, WURD hosted a live broadcast at *Gift of Life's* office in Philadelphia, to discuss the importance of organ and tissue donation education in the African American community.

PHOTO GALLERY

THE FIRST STATE



DN0001

ORGAN DONORS SAVE LIVES

DELAWARE

NEW Donate Life License Plate in Delaware

In partnership with the state's Department of Transportation, Delaware residents can now purchase a Donate Life license plate for their car.

You can log onto *Gift of Life's* website today and order yours! For just \$10, you can show your support for organ and tissue donation, and help fund public education efforts throughout the state.

Get yours today!



RECORDS, continued from page 1

"I know he would have wanted it," she said. "For me, he's still going on. I'll never forget him, and neither will others thanks to his donation."

The increasing number of donation opportunities locally is only possible through the dedicated cooperation from healthcare partners, both at the 150 hospitals and 15 transplant centers in the region. Through their advocacy and diligence, these medical professionals have helped support the families of donors as well as give hope to those individuals waiting for a life-saving transplant.

Another milestone for this community, the number of tissue donations given over the past 12 months was equally unprecedented, with 2,458 tissue donors. This included 1,026 musculoskeletal

donors who provided bone grafts, heart valves, skin, saphenous veins among other tissues necessary for life-enhancing transplants, as well as 2,263 eye donors, which allows for cornea transplants used to restore vision. The number of tissue donors has more than doubled over the past five years. Just one tissue donor can help more than 50 people through transplant allograft procedures.

"To be the national leader in donation and transplantation is a testament to the level of support this community shows, and we are grateful to all those individuals who made the generous decision to be an organ and tissue donor," *Gift of Life* President and CEO Howard M. Nathan said. "We will stay focused on those who continue to wait for their second chance and will continue to support those generous individuals and families who decide to save lives through donation."

Plugging Into the New *Gift of Life* Websites

Gift of Life's home on the web just got a major remodel.

Both *Gift of Life Donor Program* and *Gift of Life Family House* have launched new websites – with plenty of brand-new features and easier navigation. It's a whole new look for both organizations, and one that should make online visitors excited!

New features to the sites include a streamlined menu, a more vibrant and organized homepage and more multimedia like videos, photos and other content. The two sites are also getting deeper into the social media world.

The new websites have been a priority for some time, in an effort to make the websites more user-accessible and utilize modern multimedia components. *Gift of Life* and the Family House brought



in the team at FusionSpark Media to create these brand new sites and get them out into the World Wide Web.

Log on today and see for yourself at www.donors1.org and at www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org.

Volunteer Leaders Plan for New Initiatives at Annual Summit

On Saturday, January 23, 58 volunteer leaders from across the *Gift of Life* region shared a day of ideas, challenges and networking as part of the annual Volunteer Leadership Summit.

Volunteer Coordinator Faith Cortright led discussions and break-outs on a variety of important topics, including donor designation, special events and supporting *Gift of Life Family House*. It was the largest summit to date, and along with the volunteer leaders, *Gift of Life* also welcomed donation professionals from other donor programs in the country. Joining the event were volunteers



from the New York Organ Donor Program, as well as volunteer coordinators from Living Legacy Foundation in Maryland and Mountain Region Donor Services in Tennessee.

The summit featured several speakers discussing the focus for 2010, including a recap of *Gift of Life's* milestones reached last year by President and CEO Howard M. Nathan. Director of Community Relations John Green outlined the donor designation goals for 2010, and Debra Roberts, Director of the *Gift of Life Family House*, spoke of the upcoming events related to the House, and the volunteering opportunities it will present.

ABOVE: Donor father Chuck Loshnowsky and heart recipient Carolyn Jamison discuss plans for 2010 during the summit.

LEFT: New York Organ Donor Network Volunteer Glenda Daggert and donor mother Pam Gleason present their group's breakout topic on publicizing special events.



My Thoughts



Daryl Dancy

Several years ago, if you were to tell me that I would go into kidney failure, be hospitalized three times, and be diagnosed with another major disease during this period, I would not have believed you.

If you were to tell me that a total stranger would donate a kidney to me without hesitation, I would have laughed in your face.

This is, however, exactly what transpired - and this is my story.

At 17, I was diagnosed with a chronic kidney disease. According to my physician, I was expected to go into renal failure within two to 10 years and would need dialysis treatments to sustain life. In the summer of 2005, my kidneys began failing. I developed a metallic taste in my mouth and gradually began losing my appetite. It eventually got to the point where I ate not because I was hungry but because it was what I was supposed to do. During the ensuing months, my condition continued to deteriorate, and I developed severe neuropathy in my legs and became exhausted simply by speaking.

On March 21, 2006, I began dialysis treatments. One year into treatment, something remarkable occurred while attending a Sunday worship service. I was seated in the front row by the usher, I got the inescapable feeling that something was about to happen.

Following a sermon by a visiting minister, my pastor called me before the congregants and said, "You are not alone in this." At that time, all male members of the congregation were called forward and began praying around me. I began crying uncontrollably and after this cleansing of sorts, I gathered my things and started to leave the sanctuary. As I did so, I turned to see a man and his wife standing before me. He looked me in the eyes and said, "God told me to tell you that I got your kidney."

A little over a year had passed since that promise was made, and the summer of 2007 proved to be the most difficult season of my life. I was hospitalized three times and nearly lost my life to Systemic Lupus, wondering if the promise would be fulfilled. The summer of 2008, however, proved to be a year unlike any other. I finally received my kidney from that same gentleman that stepped forward, and the promise was fulfilled. I have new appreciation for life and a new found love for God. The world needs to know what it means to get your life back!

Annual Ceremony Honors Region's Living Donors

On Sunday, March 7, *Gift of Life* honored 32 individuals who made the courageous decision to be a living donor.

The "Gift of Life... Acts of Love" ceremony is the annual luncheon that honors those who have saved someone's life in a very special way. The afternoon brings together the donors and their recipients from around the region to pay tribute to their gifts. The afternoon was hosted by CBS3 anchor Dave Huddleston, who is himself a living bone marrow donor.

The keynote speakers for the afternoon were Christine Grosso and Marie Manley, who have an incredible story of altruism tied to their transplant. Christine received the gift of life in the form of a kidney transplant in March 2008, as generously donated by Marie. As amazing as any transplant is, this one is even more special – as Marie's decision to donate was not prompted by friendship, or familial ties, but rather by her desire to help out a complete stranger. Marie read about Christine's need for a kidney through a letter she wrote in their church's bulletin in September 2007. The rest of the story is nothing short of divine intervention, as the two were indeed a match, and the transplant was performed that following March.

During the afternoon, donors and their recipients received an honorary pin and a certificate from a representative of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).



The crowd of 150 people gathered for the annual Living Donor Recognition Ceremony listen to the afternoon's speakers.



Gift of Life President and CEO Howard M. Nathan presents living donor Dan Glowatski with his certificate from HRSA, honoring the gift of life he donated.



GIFT of LIFE
Family House

UPDATE



Fulfilling Our Vision at 4th and Callowhill

In the late 1990's, the need for a place where transplant families could gather and gain support during their many trips to Philadelphia was identified. Through surveys with area transplant centers in 2006 and 2007, the critical need for a minimum of 6,500 annual overnight stays for the following transplant families was defined:

- a patient at an area transplant center awaiting transplant
- a patient being evaluated or receiving follow-up care after a transplant
- a living donor

Gift of Life Family House, being developed at 401-415 Callowhill, at the corner of 4th & Callowhill, however, has evolved into so much more than simply “temporary lodging.” As a result of conversations



Construction on the Family House began to take shape at 4th & Callowhill this March.

with hundreds of family members and caregivers, the need for an integrated program providing lodging and ‘a home away from home’, as well as ongoing supportive services and educational resources for caregivers that will serve the entire service area of *Gift of Life Donor Program* has been clearly identified.

Resources tailored for the unique needs of transplant patients and their family members and caregivers are being developed under the umbrella of the Family House Caregiver Lifeline Program and will complement the lodging component provided at 4th and Callowhill. Through the Caregiver Lifeline Program, thousands

of families who are either direct users of the Family House as well as those who are accessing services throughout our region – eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware – will be served.



The Caregiver Lifeline Program will provide critical information and referral sources to families to access information which assists in patient compliance with their medical regimens, as well as necessary nutrition, financial, psycho-social and wellness initiatives. And caregivers and family members will have the benefit of participating in caregiver-focused workshops, online and distance based learning initiatives, discounted services and products and a network of outreach opportunities.

As construction continues at 4th & Callowhill, we invite you to learn more about Gift of Life Family House and the remarkable impact that it will have on transplant patients and their families.

OPEN THE DOOR TO LIFE

Our capital campaign theme, *Open the Door to Life*, embodies the celebration of life and the spirit of hope that these patients and families embrace, and further underscores our commitment to promoting awareness of the critical need for organ and tissue donation.

With your support, we will accomplish our goal of providing safe and comfortable lodging and supportive services to thousands of transplant patients and their family members and caregivers each year.

In order to fulfill our mission – and *Open the Door to Life* – we all need to work together to help these families.

Please join us in making a difference in the lives of these families –

- by making a contribution to the capital campaign
- by ‘Adopting-A-Family’ and funding their stay at the Family House
- by identifying non-cash, in-kind gifts.

For more information on how you can participate:

Go to www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org
or contact Debra Roberts, Director, at 215-599-2044.

CaringBridge now available through Family House

When someone you care about is dealing with a serious health event, it's often hard to know what to say or do. And staying in touch with loved ones is important during any difficult time.

CaringBridge provides free, private, personalized websites that help connect friends and family and helps patients and caregivers use the web to stay connected with family and friends during critical illness, treatment and recovery.

As part of the Caregiver Lifeline Program being developed by the Family House, we are pleased to announce a partnership with the CaringBridge that allows you to set up your own free CaringBridge website in minutes by going to our website at www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org.

Founded in 1997, CaringBridge is a free, non-profit web service that now connects over 15 million people each year. CaringBridge is a national voluntary health agency. Its mission is to bring together a global community of care powered by the love of family and friends in an easy, accessible and private way.

CaringBridge is the solution to keeping patients from feeling isolated during hospital stays. Patients can create their own virtual hospital room on CaringBridge where family and friends can gather to exchange health updates, love and support.



Excitement "Building" for New Family House Volunteer Programs

On February 18, as construction continued at 4th & Callowhill, the first real glimpse into the daily workings of the Family House was shared with eager participants attending the first Volunteer Informational Meeting, entitled "A Day in the Life of the Family House."

The packed meeting was held at *Gift of Life Donor Program* and attracted family members, transplant recipients, donor family representatives, hospital employees and community representatives from area retail and civic associations.

Debra Roberts, Director, Gift of Life Family House, and Faith Cortright, Volunteer Coordinator, hosted the two hour session. Guest speaker, Dr. Ranjoo Prasad, lovingly shared her family's personal experiences with "family house" programs in Pittsburgh and Decatur, Georgia while her nephew was hospitalized.

Attendees gave the presentation high marks for helping them understand what the families staying at the Family House will experience, as well as how much volunteer support will be needed to fulfill this dream.

"Fantastic! The more I learn about the Family House, the more I realize what a huge undertaking this is – and how much it will mean to our families."

"My favorite part of the evening was hearing Dr. Prasad speak about her family. It was the perfect lead in to this presentation."

"I now have concrete information to give to my family and friends who have expressed interest in helping out when the Family House opens. There really are so many ways to be involved."

"This meeting heightened my enthusiasm. It's thrilling to be involved from the very beginning."

The next Family House Volunteer Informational Meeting is scheduled for May 13. For more information, contact Faith Cortright or check out www.GiftofLifeFamilyHouse.org or www.donors1.org.



Participants at the first Volunteer Informational Meeting learn how they can help families staying at the Family House beginning this Fall.

Many Thanks TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

You are helping us build Family House!

Aria Torresdale ICU Critical Crew Adds 'Dough' for the Family House!

Sliders at a bake sale? That's right! On March 4, the ICU Critical Crew Dragon Boat Team from Aria Torresdale held a bake sale in the hospital lobby and raised over \$1,300 for the Family House in less than 4 hours. From hamburger cakes to slider cupcakes, this committed team used their creative forces to promote their support of the Family House.

Since last spring, the ICU Critical Crew Dragon Boat Team has been committed to raising awareness and funds for the Family House. Last year, through their efforts at a beef and beer, t-shirt sales and a bake sale, the Dragon Boat Team raised \$8,500 for the Family House. This year, in addition to again selecting the Family House as the recipient of all of their fundraising efforts, they have made a commitment to underwrite a guest room in the Family House. The ICU Critical Crew Team will continue their fundraising efforts at this year's 2nd Annual Beef and Beer on May 15th at Flukes Bar and Grill and later this year the Critical Crew Team will compete in the Philadelphia International Dragon Boat Festival on October 2.

For more information on these and other upcoming Family House events, visit our website at www.GiftOfLifeFamilyHouse.org.



TOP: Members of the ICU Critical Crew Team pose with the cookies, pies and cakes on sale.
BOTTOM: Designer cheeseburger "slider" cupcakes were the hit of the bake sale.

Contributions received between October 1 – December 31, 2009

\$50,000 and above

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nathan

\$10,000-\$49,999

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Due to limited space, we are unable to list contributions less than \$250.

Laps for Life

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