

# THE LEGACY

A Publication of the Center for Donation and Transplant

Volume 9, Number 3

## An Overview of Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD)

OVER THE YEARS, the transplantation of donor organs has become a life-saving option for patients suffering from end-stage organ failure. As medical and surgical advances have allowed transplantation to dramatically increase a recipient's quality of life, the need for donated organs has continued to grow. Currently, there are over 90,000 people in the U.S. waiting for an organ transplant.

One reason for the shortage of donor organs is that only a small percentage of people die in a manner that allows for the potential of organ donation. In most cases of donation, brain death must occur in order for organs to be viable for recovery and transplant. Brain death allows for the option of donation because after death occurs, the body is maintained by a ventilator and medication. This keeps the body's circulation intact and sustains the organs until the organ recovery can occur.

Cardiac death occurs when the heart stops beating, circulation ceases and the body shuts down. In most cases of cardiac death the organs are not viable for recovery but the patient may be a candidate for tissue

donation. However, organ donation after cardiac death (DCD) may be an option for patients that have suffered severe brain damage and have no chance for survival, but will not progress to brain death due to the retention of minor brain stem function.

When organ donation was first introduced, all organs were recovered by donation after cardiac death or what was then termed non-heart beating donors. At that time, only the kidneys could be recovered. When donation after brain death became an option, the recovery of the heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, intestine and kidneys was possible and transplanted organ function improved. As a result, most organ procurement organizations stopped pursuing DCD.

As the years passed, the number of those waiting for a transplant continued to rapidly increase and the shortage of donor organs grew more severe. With an average of 17 people dying every day due to the lack of organs available for transplant, organ procurement organizations (opos) and the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) renewed interest in DCD as an opportunity to increase the availability of organs for transplant. Advances in surgical techniques and medication have dramatically improved the outcome of transplanted DCD organs and expanded the number of organs that can be recovered from a DCD donor, which now includes the liver, lungs, pancreas and kidneys.

In potential DCD cases, a patient has suffered a severe brain injury and the healthcare team has determined that he or she will not survive. The patient's family is informed of the prognosis and

counseled on all of their options. The decision to withdraw life support is made by the family and healthcare team, which may include the patient's physician, nurses, clergy and social worker. After the decision to withdraw support has been made,

the Center for Donation & Transplant (CDT) is contacted regarding the suitability of the patient for organ donation. If the patient meets the medical criteria to be a candidate for DCD the family is approached by an organ procurement coordinator to discuss the option of donation. It is important to emphasize that donation is only considered after the family has made the decision to extubate; they will not be offered the option to donate until they have independently decided to withdraw life support. If the family consents, the patient is transferred to an operating room and removed from the ventilator. The family may or may not choose to be present in the operating room during this time. When the heart stops beating, a physician declares death. After

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From the Executive Director

**By Jeffrey P. Orlowski**

RECENTLY there has been a tremendous amount of press, mostly negative, about tissue transplantation. These stories, which you may have seen, arise from a scandalous situation in New Jersey. Allegedly, the proprietors of an organization called Biomedical Tissue Services (BTS) have recovered tissue from more than 100 donors without proper consent and/or with falsified medical records.

If true, these alleged actions are horrible and our criminal justice system will have to deal appropriately with the alleged perpetrators. Such actions violate the rights of the family and the deceased, violate federal laws, and put potentially thousands of people who received tissues at risk of infection or worse due to falsified medical records hiding histories of

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**In addition to increasing transplantation, donation after cardiac death gives more families the potential to donate, allowing them an opportunity to honor their loved one's final wishes and offering them some hope in the wake of their loss.**





**In April, Albany Medical Center proudly displayed the Donate Life flag to honor the hospital's organ, tissue and eye donors.**



A Donate Life Organization

**C**DT volunteers Sam and Jan Messina and public relations specialist Lauren Quinn appeared on Kingston's KPA-TV in April to discuss organ donation and National Donate Life Month.

**A**MY BAKER, one of the two recipients of CDT's 2006 Amy Bindelglass Memorial Scholarship, was profiled in the Times Union about her volunteer efforts and the scholarship.

**C**DT recently created its own personal grief support packet for donor families, which will be sent to all families within a few weeks of their date of donation. The packet contains information to help families during the

weeks and months following the loss of their loved one. The creation of the packet is part of an initiative CDT has implemented to increase and strengthen the aftercare support that the organization provides to its donor families.

**J**OEY NUQUI, organ procurement coordinator at CDT, authored a "For Your Information" article in the Capital District Senior Spotlight.

**C**DT's 2005 "Nurse of the Year" Linda Lewis of Samaritan Hospital has been selected to receive the NYSNA District #9 Excellence in Mentoring Award. She will be honored at the Capital District #9 annual meeting on June 1, 2006.

## Donation after Cardiac Death, From Page 1

an additional five minutes of waiting to ensure the heart does not start beating, organ recovery proceeds.

In addition to increasing transplantation, donation after cardiac death gives more families the potential to donate, allowing them an opportunity to honor their loved one's final wishes and offering them some hope in the wake of their loss. Families are given as much time as they need with the patient, and the family's needs are always the highest priority for both CDT and hospital staff.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have set a national goal for DCD to increase so that DCD donors make up ten percent of all organ donors in the U.S. The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care

Organizations (JCAHO) has also shown an interest in expanding donation through DCD. The commission will be including language in their standards that requires hospitals to have DCD protocol in place.

Since 2005, the Center for Donation & Transplant has recovered a total of nine organs from three DCD donors after implementing or updating DCD protocols in CDT's two Level 1 Trauma Centers. The center will continue to work with its other hospitals to develop and implement DCD policies. CDT's goal is for DCD donors to comprise ten percent of its total number of donors for the year, increasing the total number of CDT's organ donors for a year by five or six donors. It is estimated that this will make 12-15 more organs available for transplant.

## In Remembrance

Annmarie Snide and Mary Ann Phelan, two nursing professionals who were strong advocates for donation and CDT, passed away this May. Snide was employed at the intensive care unit at Albany Medical Center, and Phelan was an education specialist for Seton Health Care in Troy, NY. Our thoughts are with their families during this time.

### Spring 2006

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From  
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**If you are a member of an affiliated hospital who would like to advertise an upcoming event or submit an article to the Legacy, contact Lauren Quinn at (800) 256-7811 or via e-mail at [lquinn@cdtny.org](mailto:lquinn@cdtny.org).**

**The Legacy is published on a quarterly basis and covers the health care community that CDT serves in northern and eastern New York, and western Vermont.**

## CDT Quilt Tours Local Libraries

**T**HE CDT donor family quilt is currently touring libraries in the CDT region to promote awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation. So far, over 40 libraries have generously agreed to display the quilt along with information about donation. At the end of each stay, CDT is donating a book about donation or transplantation to the library as a gesture of appreciation for hosting the quilt. Please see CDT's website at [www.cdtny.org](http://www.cdtny.org) for an updated schedule of the library tour.

CDT is currently working on a second quilt that will join the library tour upon completion. Both donor family members and transplant recipients are encouraged to submit a patch in honor of their organ or tissue donor, which will be included in the new quilt. The tour is on-going, and interested libraries can contact CDT at 1-800-256-7811 for more information.

Date	Library	Town
4/28 - 5/12/06	Nassau Free Library	Nassau, NY
5/12/06 - 6/2/06	Bethlehem Public Library	Delmar, NY
6/5/06 - 6/23/06	Hunter Public Library	Hunter, NY
6/30/06 - 7/14/06	Inlet Public Library	Inlet, NY
7/18/06 - 8/1/06	S. Burlington Community Library	S. Burlington, VT
8/2/06 - 8/15/06	Dorothy Alling Memorial Library	Williston, VT
8/18/06 -9/1/06	Bixby Memorial Free Library	Vergennes, VT
9/6/06 - 9/20/06	Town of Lake Pleasant Public Library	Lake Pleasant, NY
9/22/06 - 10/6/06	Greenville Public Library	Greenville, NY
10/9/06 - 10/20/06	Heermance Memorial Library	Coxsackie, NY
10/25/06 - 11/8/06	Middleville Free Library	Middleville, NY
11/10/06 - 11/27/06	St. Albans Free Library	St. Albans, VT
11/29/06 - 12/13/06	Berlin Free Town Library	Berlin, NY
12/15/06 - 1/2/07	Lake Placid Public Library	Lake Placid, NY
1/2/07 - 1/16/07	Schroon Lake Public Library	Schroon Lake, NY
1/18/07 - 2/1/07	Brandon Free Public Library	Brandon, VT
2/5/07 - 2/19/07	Mark Skinner Library	Manchester, VT
2/21/07 - 3/7/07	Jervis Public Libray	Rome, NY
3/7/07 - 3/20/07	Ilion Free Public Library	Ilion, NY
3/20/07 - 4/3/07	West Winfield Library	West Winfield, NY
4/3/07 - 4/17/07	Springfield Library	Springfield Center, NY
4/20/07 - 5/4/07	Pember Library & Museum	Granville, NY
5/4/07 - 5/18/07	Wells Memorial Library	Upper Jay, NY
5/18/07 - 6/1/07	Gilbert Hart Library	Wallingford, VT
6/5/07 - 6/19/07	Sarah Hull Hallock Free Library	Milton, NY
6/22/07 - 7/6/07	Huntington Memorial Library	Oneonta, NY
7/9/07 - 7/23/07	Solomon Wright Public Library	Pownal, VT
7/27/07 - 8/10/07	Schoharie Free Library	Schoharie, NY
8/10/07 - 8/24/07	The Community Library	Cobleskill, NY
8/27/07 - 9/10/07	Stillwater Free Library	Stillwater, NY
9/14/07 - 9/28/07	Broome County Public Library	Binghamton, NY
10/2/07 - 10/16/07	Germantown Library	Germantown, NY
10/18/07 - 11/1/07	Roscoe Free Library	Roscoe, NY
11/5/07 - 11/17/07	Crandall Library	Glens Falls, NY
11/28/07 - 12/12/07	Lisle Free Library	Lisle, NY
1/4/08 - 1/18/08	C. W. Clark Memorial Library	Oriskany Falls, NY
1/23/08 - 2//06/08	Fletcher Free Library	Burlington, VT

## Two Students Awarded CDT's Scholarship

**CDT's 2006 scholarship winners (from left) Amy Baker and Molly Seward.**



**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Amy Baker and Molly Seward, the two recipients of CDT's 2006 "Amy Bindelglass Memorial Scholarship." For the past four years, the Center for Donation & Transplant

has sponsored two annual scholarships in honor of a young organ donor. The scholarship requires writing a persuasive essay on a topic related to donation and transplantation and is offered to high school juniors and seniors at the 500 high schools in CDT's region. This year's topic centered on the offering of financial incentives to families that make the decision to donate.

This year CDT received the greatest number of applicants in the history of the scholarship but

Baker and Seward's essays stood out for their careful research, creative analysis and excellent writing. Amy Baker, a junior at Schuylerville Junior/Senior High School, was the recipient of the \$500 scholarship. Molly Seward, a senior at Shaker High School, received the \$200 scholarship. Both students were recognized at CDT's awards dinner held on April 26, 2006.

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**"Organ donation is a cause that keeps people alive, helps some accept death, and brings human beings closer together...the ending of one life can mean a new beginning for so many others..."**

**Excerpt from Amy Baker's winning essay**

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## "Trends in Transplantation" Program Held on CDT's "Education Day"

**T**HE city of Saratoga Springs was the new setting for CDT's annual "Education Day and Awards Dinner," held on April 26, 2006 at the Holiday Inn. This was the second time CDT held an educational program in conjunction with its awards and appreciation dinner.

This year's speakers represented some of the many diverse professions involved in donation and transplantation. The program's first speaker was John Harper, PhD, vice president of clinical services at LifeCell Corporation. Dr. Harper presented on, "Advances in Connective Tissue Engineering," and explained the relationship between the extracellular matrix and tissue healing, identified strategies that allow a surgeon to maximize the clinical outcome in

connective tissue reconstructive procedures, and explained why patients with co-morbidities are excellent candidates for tissue engineering approaches to reconstruction. Kathleen Goryl, assistant director of payer relations at the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), presented on JCAHO initiatives to increase organ donation. Some of the topics she discussed included donation after cardiac death, hospital leadership participation in implementing donation policies and procedures and organ transplant certification following CMS intent to establish quality standards for transplant centers. CDT's final speaker was Antonio DiCarlo, MD, an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Vermont and interim director of transplantation at Fletcher Allen Health Care. Dr. DiCarlo

gave an update on pancreas transplantation, discussing patient indications for pancreas transplantations, outcomes and benefits, the surgical procedure, immunosuppression, and islet transplantation.

CDT's educational program was accredited by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses for 3.0 contact hours. The center plans to continue offering an educational program that will be held before CDT's appreciation dinner every April.

**In February, CDT volunteers joined opo staff and other volunteers from across New York for Legislative Education Day. Featured here are some of the people who visited with legislators to educate them about donation. On the left-hand side, bottom row, is Assemblyman James D. Conte, a kidney recipient and advocate for donation.**



# CDT holds 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards and Appreciation Dinner



**O**N APRIL 26, 2006, CDT continued its tradition of recognizing the efforts of nurses and other healthcare professionals involved in organ and tissue donation by hosting its annual awards and appreciation dinner. For the first time, CDT held the dinner in Saratoga Springs, offering attendees an opportunity to visit the quaint city and explore its many attractions.

At the event CDT honored several individuals that have demonstrated a strong commitment to saving lives through donation and transplantation. Donna Bullen, manager of the intensive care unit at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, was honored as CDT's 2005-2006 "Nurse of the Year." Bullen has been a champion of donation at her hospital, working with administration to implement policies and procedures for organ donation, supporting families that are making end-of-life decisions due to the loss of a loved one, and educating staff about organ donation. Sister M. Johanna DeLyls, current president and CEO of

**CDT's 2006 Nurse of the Year Donna Bullen, surrounded by St. Elizabeth Medical Center and CDT staff.**

St. Elizabeth Medical Center, and Sister Rose Vincent Gleason, former president and CEO of the hospital, both attended the dinner in support of Bullen.

Christopher Calder, MD, a neurologist with Upstate Neurology Consultants, LLP and an attending physician at St. Peter's Hospital, received the "Health Care Practitioner of the Year" award. Dr. Calder has on several circumstances gone out of his way to help CDT by devoting his personal time to evaluate patients who are potential organ donors and to comfort and counsel families making end-of-life decisions. CDT also surprised Dr. Sophia Socaris of Albany Medical Center by presenting her with the "Executive Director's Award" for her efforts with the "Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative," an initiative in which hospitals and their organ procurement organizations partner together to implement policies and procedures designed to increase rates of organ donation.



**CDT Executive Director Jeffrey P. Orlowski with Dr. Christopher Calder, CDT's 2006 Healthcare Practitioner of the Year.**

This year, two individuals were recognized with community service awards for their assistance in raising awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation. Greg Satterlee, a liver transplant recipient and CDT volunteer from Johnstown, New York and Marlene Gumaer, LPN, BS, a nurse and transplant coordinator at the Kingston Hospital Dialysis Center, were honored for volunteering countless hours of their time to educating the public about donation. CDT also recognized the two winners of the Amy Bindelglass Memorial Scholarship, Amy Baker and Molly Seward.

Close to 200 people attended the 10<sup>th</sup> annual appreciation dinner, which followed CDT's education day for healthcare professionals.

## CDT To Sponsor Float Rider on Donate Life Float in Tournament of Roses® Parade

**C**DT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE that for the first time, CDT will be sponsoring a donor family member to ride on the Donate Life Float in the 2007 Tournament of Roses® Parade. This will be the fourth year the Donate Life float appears in the parade, inspiring millions to donate life through organ and tissue donation. The 2007 float will reflect the parade's theme, "Our Good Nature" by featuring a float rider contingency made up entirely of donors, including donor family members, living organ donors, and even a blood donor.

The float rider that CDT is sponsoring will be a donor family member from CDT's region who will ride the Donate Life float in honor of all of CDT's organ and tissue donors and their families. The float design will be unveiled in June and over the upcoming months the float riders will be identified. Look for future issues of the Legacy for more information on CDT's rider and the parade.

## “Heartache” Movie Encourages Audience to Donate Life



Kelly Wöhner, still photographer

### Actors and crew filming on the set of “Heartache.”

**T**HE FILM “Heartache” has many of the typical elements of a good movie: comedy, drama, a life or death situation, and even visits from beyond the grave. However, unlike most of the latest summer blockbusters, the film’s purpose goes beyond just entertainment. The movie, created by local residents and filmed in Oneonta, takes the audience through the wait for an organ transplant through the eyes of one family.

The character of Kenny is a young teenager who is in desperate need of a heart transplant. Kenny is known among his friends as the class clown and he aspires to be a comedian like his idol, Henry Peterson. In an ironic twist of fate, Henry, whose own father died waiting for a heart transplant, becomes an organ donor after a car accident and his heart is transplanted into Kenny. The movie emphasizes the importance of organ donation and the life-saving benefits of transplantation.

He said, “I have experienced a great deal of illness and pain in my own life and I cannot imagine what it must be like to be in need of an organ transplant and to have to wait daily, not knowing what your outcome might be. I was moved by the stories of so many families in these situations and wanted to do something to help.”

Most of the movie was shot in Oneonta with many local businesses donating set locations, including Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown. Proceeds from the first six months of the film’s sales will be donated to the Center for Donation & Transplant for community education and donor family aftercare activities. After six months, the profits will be rotated among several charities. Currently, Plue is working with businesses to get the film featured in stores. Until then, the movie can be purchased for \$12.99 (plus \$2 shipping and handling) by making checks payable to TC Productions, PO Box 790, Oneonta, NY 13820.

## Donate Life Night with the Binghamton Mets

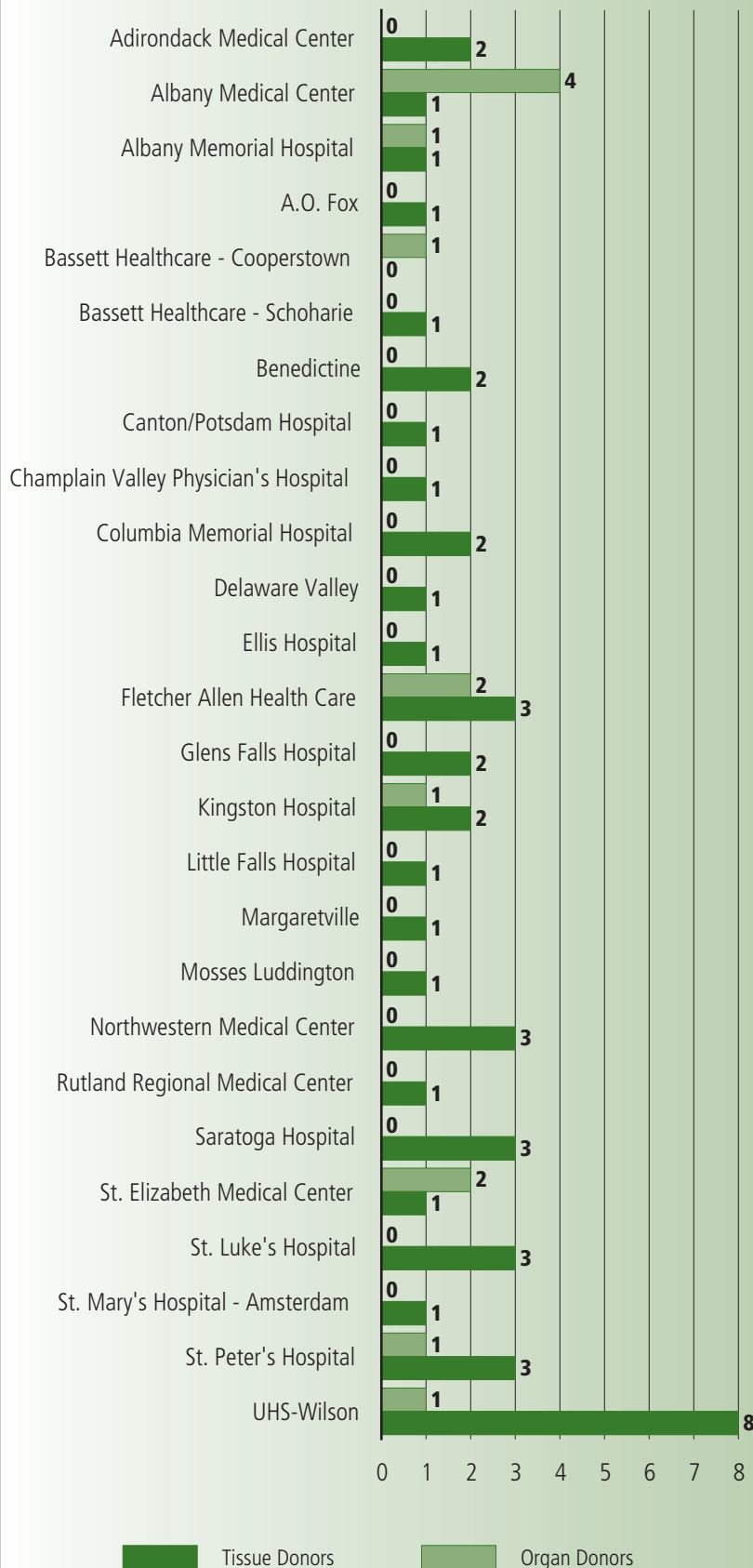
**O**N FRIDAY, August 25th, CDT will once again team up with the Binghamton Mets for “Donate Life Night” at a Mets home game against the Erie Seawolves at NYSEG stadium in Binghamton. There will be a number of activities that night to promote awareness of organ and tissue donation including a pre-game parade, a radio interview, and PA announcements encouraging the audience to “donate life.” CDT has a limited amount of complimentary tickets and those interested in attending the game should contact CDT at 518-262-5606.

All season long Binghamton Mets fans can win tickets to a home game by filling out and returning a New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry card at the customer service booth at NYSEG stadium. All completed registry cards will automatically be entered in a raffle for 2 grandstand tickets, courtesy of the Center for Donation & Transplant. There will be a winner at every Mets home game.

## Donor Activity by Hospital

January 1 through April 30, 2006

47 total tissue donors, 13 total organ donors



## Executive Director, from page 1

disease that should have rendered the tissue unusable.

Unfortunately, one other travesty has definitely occurred, whether the allegations are proven true or not. The public trust in *donation*, and make no mistake the public see organ and tissue donation as just *donation*, has been eroded. This may be the greatest travesty of all. If one family says no to organ and tissue donation as a result of these stories, an average of three and as many as eight people will die because those organs were not available. Additionally, an average of 50 people will be denied a tissue implant that might save or improve their quality of life.

So putting this scandalous event aside, what are the real facts? The facts are that each year approximately 750,000 people receive tissue grafts from deceased donors. This number has grown steadily over the last 15-20 years but it is safe to say that 10 million or more people have received tissue implants safely, legally, and appropriately through our existing donor system while a miniscule fraction (hundredths of one percent) have suffered infectious complications or worse. This is an amazing safety record!

Some are calling for widespread and sweeping regulation of the tissue industry to prevent such horrible actions from occurring again. The fact is, no system is capable of preventing an individual or individuals who willingly and knowingly break the law from doing so...it can only catch them and bring them to justice. It is my sincere hope that we do not cripple the tissue industry that does so much good in a well-meant but misdirected attempt to prevent events such as the BTS scandal from happening again.

### Contact CDT if you would like to:

- **ENROLL** in the New York State Organ and Tissue Registry
- **OBTAIN INFORMATION** or donor cards
- **REQUEST SPEAKERS** for schools, civic organizations or health fairs
- **BECOME A VOLUNTEER** and help raise awareness of donation!

Call or write to: The Center for Donation and Transplant  
218 Great Oaks Boulevard, Albany, New York 12203

**Or visit [www.cdtny.org](http://www.cdtny.org)**



Center for Donation & Transplant  
218 Great Oaks Boulevard, Albany, New York 12203  
Phone 518 262-5606, Fax 518 262-5427  
P2301



## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

June 16-21 .....U.S. Transplant Games, Louisville, KY

June 19-23 .....Coalition on Donation Spring Workshop & AOPO Annual Meeting, Boston, MA

July 18 .....CDT Volunteer Meeting, Albany, NY

August 1 .....National Minority Donation Awareness Day

August 25 .....CDT's "Donate Life Night" with the Binghamton Mets Binghamton, NY

**If you have any questions about our upcoming events,  
please contact Lauren Quinn at (800) 256-7811.**