



Vermont Launches Groundbreaking Registry Initiative

from the CEO
by Jeffrey P. Orlowski



We Americans tend to be a very independent lot. Thus, when certain legislators in several states (including New York) have proposed that we move to an

“opt-out” system of “presumed consent” for organ donation, it raises quite a bit of public interest and mostly public opposition.

Let me first clarify that most groups involved in organ donation are opposed to a so-called “opt out” system. Donation has historically been built upon altruism, individuals’ desire to help others, and more recently upon registries of consent where personal choices are firmly and legally made. Many people ask me why we, as an organ procurement organization, would not support an “opt out” system?

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Donate Life VT on Facebook, Twitter

A new effort to increase the number of organ donor registrants in Vermont began on November 1, 2010 with the launch of Vermont’s online organ and tissue donor registry. The launch of The Donate Life Vermont online registry coincides with the start of the Center for Donation & Transplant’s (CDT) community-based initiative to increase awareness and registrants in the state of Vermont through both online and offline campaigns.

The new online registry is a confidential database of individuals who have made the decision to donate their organs and/or tissues at their time of death to those that are in need. “More than ever, there is an urgent need for organ donors,”

stated Jeffrey P. Orlowski, Chief Executive Officer for CDT. “With the new online donor registry, Vermonters can quickly and easily make the decision to save lives through donation.”

Each week, over 100 people will die due to the lack of available organs. In the state of Vermont, there were only 289 people signed on as volunteer organ

“More than ever, there is an urgent need for organ donors.”

donor registrants at the start of this initiative, which was less than .001% of the total population of the state. As of March 2011, there are just over 1,000 volunteer registrants.

To join the list of organ donor registrants in the state of Vermont, please visit www.DonateLifeVermont.org. To learn more about the Donate Life Vermont campaign, visit the Donate Life Vermont page on Facebook and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/donatelifevt.

The Legacy is published on a quarterly basis and covers the healthcare community that CDT serves in Northern and Eastern New York and Western Vermont.

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we want to hear from you!

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 Natalia Kutzer at 1.800.256.7811 or via email at nkutzer@cdtny.org



CENTER FOR DONATION & TRANSPLANT
NEW YORK – VERMONT

staff updates



New CDT employees Amanda Boos (L) and Lauryn Drescher

Welcome to CDT

The Center for Donation and Transplant is pleased to welcome Lauryn Drescher, MS and Amanda Boos, MS as Organ Procurement Coordinators. Lauryn and Amanda both come to us from Ohio, where they received Master's degrees from the University of Toledo in Human Donation Science.

in the news

Russell Sage College Students Donate Fundraiser Proceeds to CDT

On Friday evening, February 18th, CDT Finance Manager Martin Benoit accepted a check in the amount of \$1,353.95 from students at Russell Sage College during their annual "Rally Night." Kayla Bronson, a senior at Russell Sage, advocated for CDT to receive the funds; her mother is currently on the waiting list for a double lung transplant from Ohio's Cleveland Clinic. She said of her decision to choose CDT, "Organ and tissue donation and transplantation have been causes I have believed in wholeheartedly for many years. If I can get just one person to think about donating their organs, I feel as though I've made the world a better place for others like my family and me." Russell Sage's



CDT Finance Manager Marty Benoit accepts a check from Russell Sage students

contribution will support CDT's family and community programs, which include aftercare for our donor families for three years following their loved ones' donation.

Transplant Recipient Travels the Country for Registries

Kidney and pancreas transplant recipient Mike Grenier recently traveled through New York State with his family in an effort to enroll as many residents as possible in the NYS Donate Life Registry™. In April 2010, the Grenier's sold their

home and most of their belongings to embark on a 50-state tour for organ donation awareness.

For more about the Grenier's mission, please go to www.MyStateCares.org

CDT Honored by Federal Government

At a special ceremony at the National Learning Congress on November 4, 2010, CDT received the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) "Gold Level Award", given to select organizations that succeeded in increasing the amount of organs available for transplant by meeting or exceeding three critical goals set by HHS. CDT was one of a select group of "high performing" organ donation organizations in the United States honored at the ceremony.

"We are thrilled to receive this recognition," said Jeffrey Orłowski, Chief Executive Officer of CDT. "It is a testament to the incredible generosity of the families who chose to donate life. With an average of 19 people who die every day due to the

shortage of donors, we must do everything we can to maximize the number of organs available for transplant."

Only 8 organ donation organizations were recognized with the Gold Level Award, which measured the following benchmarks over an 18 month period:

- Increasing the percentage of eligible (potential) donors that become actual organ donors
- Increasing the average number of organs recovered per organ donor
- Increasing the percentage of organs recovered after cardiac death

During that timeframe a total of 183 organs were transplanted due to CDT's efforts.

from the CEO

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The answers are basically straightforward. First, because of our strong sense of personal rights, there is fear of a negative backlash toward donation if the public believes it is being forced upon them. The broad, negative public reaction to presumed consent legislation would tend to support this fear.

Many nations have presumed consent systems now. With the exception of Spain, none outperform the U.S. in terms of donors per 1,000 deaths. When you take into account that Spain utilizes family or registry consent rather than relying upon their presumed consent law, there would appear to be no evidence that "opt out" would provide more donors.

Finally, moving to presumed consent assumes that our shortage of organs would be solved by improving consent rates. In fact, nationally, 75% of eligible donors are currently being converted into donors; this requires a high consent rate. In reality, it is becoming apparent that the biggest challenge we face is a shortage of eligible brain dead donors relative to the need for organs. Increasing living donation, increasing organ donation after cardiac death (DCD), and increasing yield of transplantable organs through more effective and aggressive management of those donors already being recovered are the challenges we face.

In the year ahead, expect to hear more from CDT about strategies whereby we can work together to increase DCD and increase the yield of transplantable organs. There is no one thing which will solve the shortage we face...only by a broad array of strategies can we hope to eliminate deaths on the waiting list.

in our community

Schenectady Woman Gives the Gift of Life

There are many things that define Angela Stimpson.

She lives an active lifestyle, her family and friends are her world, and she loves the New York Yankees, specifically, Derek Jeter. But since September 22, 2010, Angela has been defined by something else, her choice to donate one of her kidney's to a stranger, **a decision made by only about 100 people in the U.S. each year.** You might think that Angela made this decision to help a relative or a close friend in need, but surprisingly, that is not the case. Angela is what is known as an altruistic kidney

donor, meaning that she gave up one of her kidneys to a stranger. Her kidney now lives inside of a woman who got a second lease on life with the transplantation of Angela's healthy kidney. Angela's decision came from her overwhelming desire to find a way to do some good in the world. After listening to a friend recount the struggles a family member was experiencing while trying to receive a transplant, the wheels in Angela's brain started turning as she researched living donors. The rest, as they say, is history – and Angela's kidney is thriving with its recipient in sunny California.



Read in full detail about Angela's journey on her blog "ok solo" at:

<http://oksolo.blogspot.com>.

Right: Heart transplant recipient and CDT volunteer John Weakley riding the Donate Life America float. Below: Floragraph of organ donor Lindsey Baron.



2011 rose parade

The 2011 Donate Life Rose parade float featured heart transplant recipient and CDT volunteer John Weakley, as well a floragraph of organ donor Lindsey Baron, whose parents were also invited to participate in the parade.

Below: The Donate Life America "Seize the Day!" Rose Parade float



CDT Volunteer Program Expands

The CDT volunteer program has had an influx of new members, increasing our ability to staff community events and enhance awareness of the need for more registered donors. Some of the new events our volunteers have attended in recent months included; the O+ Festival in Hudson, an education day at

Columbia-Greene Community College, the Diabetes Health Fair in Schenectady, and a month-long outreach initiative at the Rensselaer County DMV. We were also able to send representatives to the Dustin K Watson Memorial Walk in Otsego County, the Katie Dawn Beadnell Memorial Golf Tournament in Warren

County, the Adirondack Spintacular in Mayfield, and the 4th Annual Donor Awareness Softball Tournament in Glenmont. If you or someone you know is interested in representing CDT at community events, please contact Denise Floeser at (518) 262-5606.

get involved!

Contact CDT today if you would like to:

» *enroll*

in the New York State Donate Life 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 & Transplant
218 Great Oaks Blvd
Albany, NY 12203

or visit:

www.donatelifecd.com

for our families

"Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak knits up the o'er-wrought heart and bids it break."
- William Shakespeare (MacBeth)

Web Sites Offer Help and Hope Recognizing online memorials and support systems



The insurmountable grief that accompanies losing a loved one is one of the most difficult challenges a family will face.

We recently discovered three websites that allow families to express their feelings in a way that aids in the healing process, honors those that have passed on, and offers them hope for the future.

National Donor Memorial

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) has put into place the National Donor Memorial, where families and friends of loved ones are free to post photographs and stories, and also to share how the donation process helped them to heal during a difficult time.
www.donormemorial.org

Compassionate Friends

Compassionate Friends has an online support system for parents that have lost their children, in addition to in-person support that has been available for over four decades.
www.compassionatefriends.org

MemoryFly

MemoryFly is a beautiful way to honor a loved one that has passed on by sharing their story,

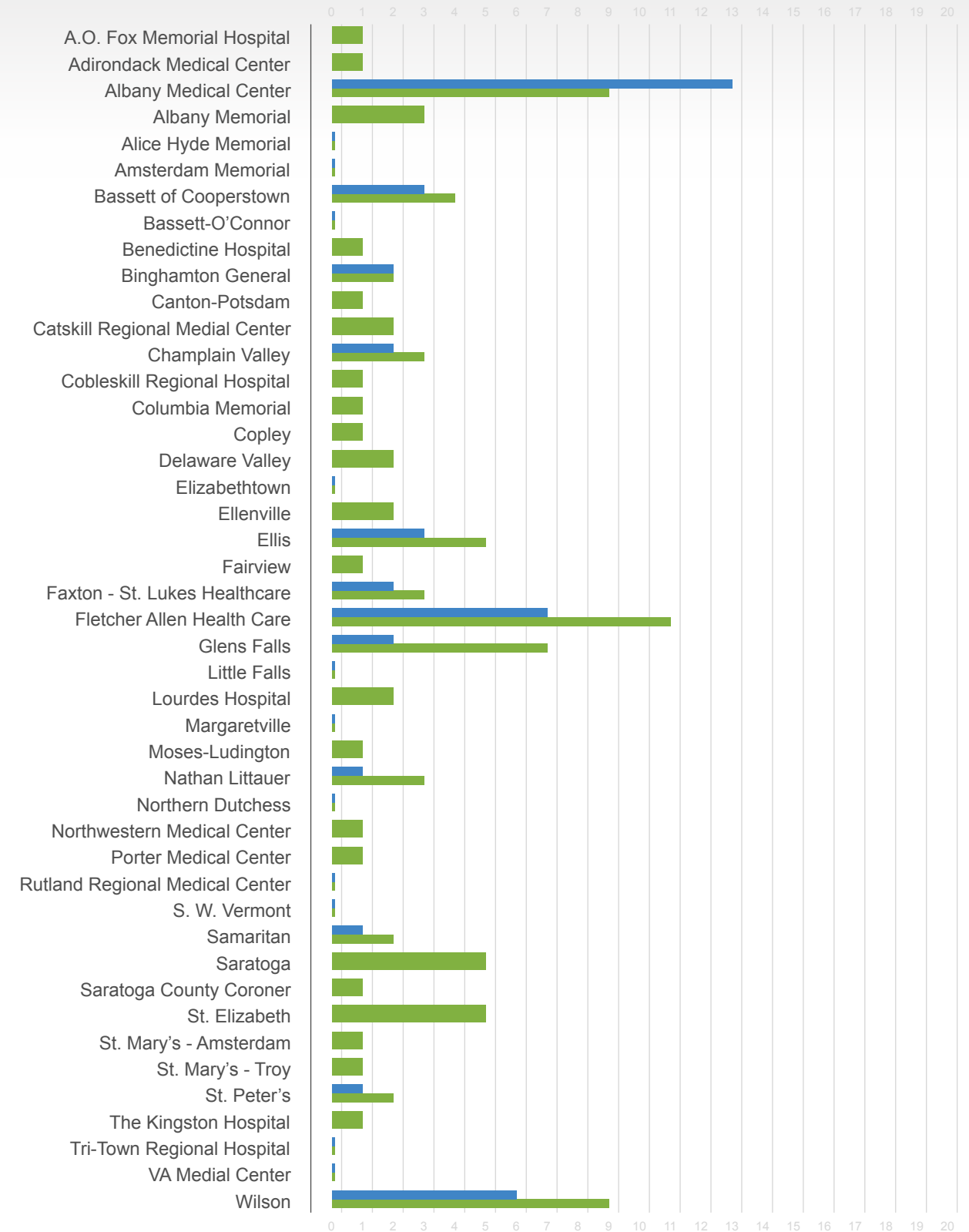
photographs, and memories. The personalized website can be accessed by friends and family in order to pay tribute to the memory of a special individual.
www.memoryfly.com

Healing the Spirit

Healing the Spirit is a website maintained by the Donor Family Services division of LifeNet Health in Virginia. The Healing Garden is a page intended to help children deal with their sorrow by tapping into their creativity and allowing them to express their feelings. For more information, please visit:
www.healingthespirit.org

donor activity by hospital

Organ Donors ■
Tissue Donors ■



January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010
96 total tissue donors, 43 total organ donors

save the date

Donor Family Picnic

date: Sunday, June 5, 2011

time: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

location: Saratoga Spa State Park
Saratoga Springs, NY





Center for Donation & Transplant
218 Great Oaks Blvd., Albany, NY 12203

upcoming events & important dates

April 2011

National Donate Life Month

June 5, 2011

Celebration of Life Picnic | Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs, NY

June 17-24, 2011

NKF National Kidney Transplant Games | Göteborg, Sweden

August 1, 2011

Minority Donor Awareness Day

Please contact CDT at 518-262-5606 for further information about upcoming events.