



DMVs Support *Donate Life Month in New York*

from the CEO
by Jeffrey P. Orlowski



We often talk about the fact that a person who makes the decision to donate can save as many as eight lives through organ donation, and touch or enhance

as many as fifty more through tissue donation. Recently, I was reminded that the singular decision to donate can, if the donor family shares their story, have a ripple effect and touch far more lives than just those who received organs or tissues.

I was reminded of this fact while attending an award ceremony at the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). The award being presented was the Second Annual National Donor Memorial Award of Excellence which recognizes an outstanding donor family member who has volunteered their time to promote donation. On this night, the

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Initiative Seeks to Raise Awareness and Increase Donor Registrations

In an effort to promote the New York State Donate Life registry, DMVs from four counties within CDT's donor service area launched initiatives to increase registry enrollment in April. County clerks and staff from Greene, Herkimer, Rensselaer and Essex counties proudly wore Donate Life t-shirts and encouraged CDT volunteers to staff booths within their respective locations. Throughout Donate Life month, volunteers were able to distribute materials, answer questions about donation for DMV patrons, and collect registry cards.

Sylvia Rowan, Herkimer County Clerk, said of the experience, "Thanks to the outstanding efforts of my office, I feel we made a real difference in promoting the organ donor program in our area. This worthwhile program benefits recipients in so many ways."

In Greene County, CDT volunteer Arnie Zepel staffed the Donate

Life booth and was interviewed by the county newspaper, The Daily Mail. Arnie and his wife decided to donate their son's



Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola (R) helping to staff the Donate Life table

organs in 1994 after a workplace accident left him brain dead. His gift saved seven lives.

Additionally, the county clerk's offices of Herkimer county, Rensselaer county and Essex county were honored at CDT's 2011 Education Day and Awards Dinner (EDAD) for their region-wide leadership promoting organ donation. For more on CDT's annual EDAD,

please see page 3.

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.

Jeffrey P. Orlowski, M.S., C.P.T.C.

Chief Executive Officer

Bill McTague, R.N., C.P.T.C.

Director of Clinical Operations

Lauren Quinn
Editor

Heather Hickland
Contributor

Natalia Kutzer
Contributor

Overit Media
Art & Design

Contact Information

218 Great Oaks Boulevard
Albany, New York 12203

PHONE 518.262.5606

FAX 518.262.5427

24-HOUR PHONE 1.800.256.7811

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



Natalia Kutzer and Andrew Sigond, new CDT employees

Welcome to CDT

The Center for Donation & Transplant is pleased to welcome Natalia Kutzer, MBA, and Andrew Sigond, MBA, to the team. Natalia and Andrew will be serving CDT's hospitals as Hospital & Community Services Specialists.



Denise Floeser receiving the Employee of the Year Award from CDT CEO Jeff Orlowski

Congratulations to Denise Floeser, CDT's 2010 Employee of the Year. Denise has taken on countless additional responsibilities since starting with CDT. She was recognized for her work with CDT's donor families through the volunteer program, as well as her work on donor family services, including volunteer coordinator and assisting with family services efforts.

in the news

CDT Co-Sponsors Movie Night in Cooperstown

On the evening of May 6, 2011, CDT and Bassett Medical Center (BMC) joined forces to host a community movie night to raise awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation. The classic movie "Return to Me," the story of a man who falls in love with his wife's heart transplant recipient, was screened at the Fenimore Art Museum auditorium to an engaged audience of more than 30 people. Following the movie, BMC Emergency Room nurse Lisa Hamilton, RN, shared the touching story of her sister-in-law who gave the gift of life to six individuals after her death two years ago. Chief Nursing Officer for Bassett Healthcare, Connie Jastremski and Heather Hickland from CDT were also on hand to distribute information and answer questions about donation.

Education Day & Awards Dinner Recap

On Wednesday, March 31st, 2011, nearly 200 nurses, health care practitioners, and volunteers attended CDT's annual Education Day & Awards Dinner at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York. Internationally renowned speakers included Charlie Alexander, RN, President of the United Network for Organ Sharing, and Dr. Linda Cendales of Emory University, who joined us via teleconference after completing her first successful hand transplant the week prior.

The daytime program concluded with Helen Bottenfield, Executive Director of the Organ Donation & Transplantation Alliance, empowering audience members to become donation champions in their own respective organizations.

The evening program began with a visit from a surprise guest, Lily Allen, who became a liver recipient at the age of 2 and is now a healthy and thriving 25 year-old woman. The remainder of the evening was spent honoring the champions within our donor service area, whose tireless efforts have resulted in making organ donation a priority in their hospitals and communities.

A complete list of the evening's winners can be found below:

Community Service Awards:

The DMV of Rensselaer County, Office of the County Clerk; The DMV of Herkimer County, Office of the County Clerk; The DMV of Essex County, Office of the County Clerk; The Broome County Sheriff's Office; Sister Maureen Denn, CSJ, Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare.

Volunteer of the Year Award:

Liz DeVivo, Binghamton, New York.

Health Care Practitioner of the Year Award:

Amelia Hopkins, MD, Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Nurse of the Year Award:

Karen Jean Sage, RN, BS, Bassett Medical Center.

CEO Award:

Toni Nash, RN, UHS Wilson Medical Center.

EDAD is generally held in late spring and is a wonderful opportunity for health care practitioners to earn continuing education credits while learning about the changes and challenges occurring within the world of organ donation. For more information on how your hospital or community can be involved, please contact CDT at 1-800-256-7811.



From left: Mike Garlough, In House Coordinator, UHS Binghamton, Toni Nash, RN, and Jeff Orlowski presenting Toni with the CEO Award



Guest speaker and liver transplant recipient Lily Allen sharing her Donate Life fairytale



2011 guests with CDT CEO Jeff Orlowski, from left: John Weakley, Jeff Orlowski, Helen Bottenfield, Charlie Alexander

award was being presented to one of our own, Jim Carter, who was selected unanimously by the award committee from a pool of nineteen nominees.

As part of the ceremony, I was offered the opportunity to say a few words and present Jim with the award. Speaking about Jim's contributions to donation, I was struck by the amazing ripple effect his daughter Andrea's donation has had.

To begin, there were four lives saved, and two individuals had sight restored as a direct result of transplants that occurred through her donation. Since that time, the ripples have spread rapidly and far. Over the twenty-one years since that fateful day when Jim and his wife Sue agreed to donate Andrea's organs, Jim has conducted well over one thousand educational programs aimed mostly at high school and college-aged young people. His messages: always wear a seat belt, make the choice to be a donor, and tell your family that you are a donor.

Not that long ago, one of those ripples touched a young man in the audience who in fact went home and told his family that he wanted to be a donor. Tragically, shortly thereafter, this young man was in an accident and his family recounted that he wanted to be a donor because of the message he heard from "the man" who came and talked about his daughter.

Jim, congratulations on this honor; it is well-deserved. And thank you for keeping Andrea's ripples reaching ever-outward to touch more people and save more lives.

in our community

kLaVoy5K Runners Raise \$6,500 for CDT

Over 100 runners, walkers, and supporters attended this year's kLaVoy5K race in memory of Kristen LaVoy, who got a second lease on life and 18 more years with her family after a kidney transplant at the age of 18. Four years ago, at the age of 36, she succumbed to autoimmune kidney disease, and since then, her twin sister Kara and friend, Tonya Pellegrini-Lawrence, have

hosted the 5K in her honor. CDT personnel were available the day of the race to answer questions about donation and distribute materials. Several CDT staff members also participated in the race. Proceeds from the event will assist with providing community programs and family support services in the CDT donor service area.



Spotlight On: Binghamton General Hospital

In 2010, for the first time in 17 years, the staff at Binghamton General Hospital called on CDDT to help honor the wishes of one of their patients to give the gift of life. Incredibly, two weeks later, they needed again to make a call to CDT. Organ Procurement Coordinator Mike Garlough states "The facilitation of two donors within one week is a true testament to the incredible staff here at Binghamton General. They responded quickly and confidently in order to transplant four organs, and consequently save four lives".



In addition, CDT recognized the Broome County Sheriff's Office at our Annual Education Day & Awards Dinner for their willingness to coordinate transportation for the aforementioned donor cases.

CDT Expands Social Media Presence

Social media has become an increasingly effective way to reach large numbers of people at one time, and organ procurement organizations within the United States are jumping on the proverbial bandwagon. CDT recently increased its presence on Facebook and launched an account on Twitter. Postings of pertinent stories in the world of organ donation and transplantation, as well as news and events taking place right here within CDT's donor



service area are being sent out almost daily.

To "Like" us on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/CDTNYVT. On Twitter, follow us at www.twitter.com/DonateLifeCDT.

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

Reaching out to Donor Families and Recipients Guidelines for how to approach this personal decision

Contacting a donor family or a recipient of your loved one's organs can be a difficult decision, and is never a requirement for anyone involved in the process. Should you decide you would like to proceed with making contact, the following guidelines can help walk you through the process:



- Share only the information you are comfortable with, which may include hobbies, interests or occupation.
- Include only first names of anyone mentioned in your letter, including yourself.
- If you are a donor family, include special things you and your loved one may have done together.
- If you are a recipient, discuss the overall transplant experience, and how it has impacted your life since.

When completed, include a separate sheet of paper with your full name, the date of your loved one's death or your transplant, and your contact information.

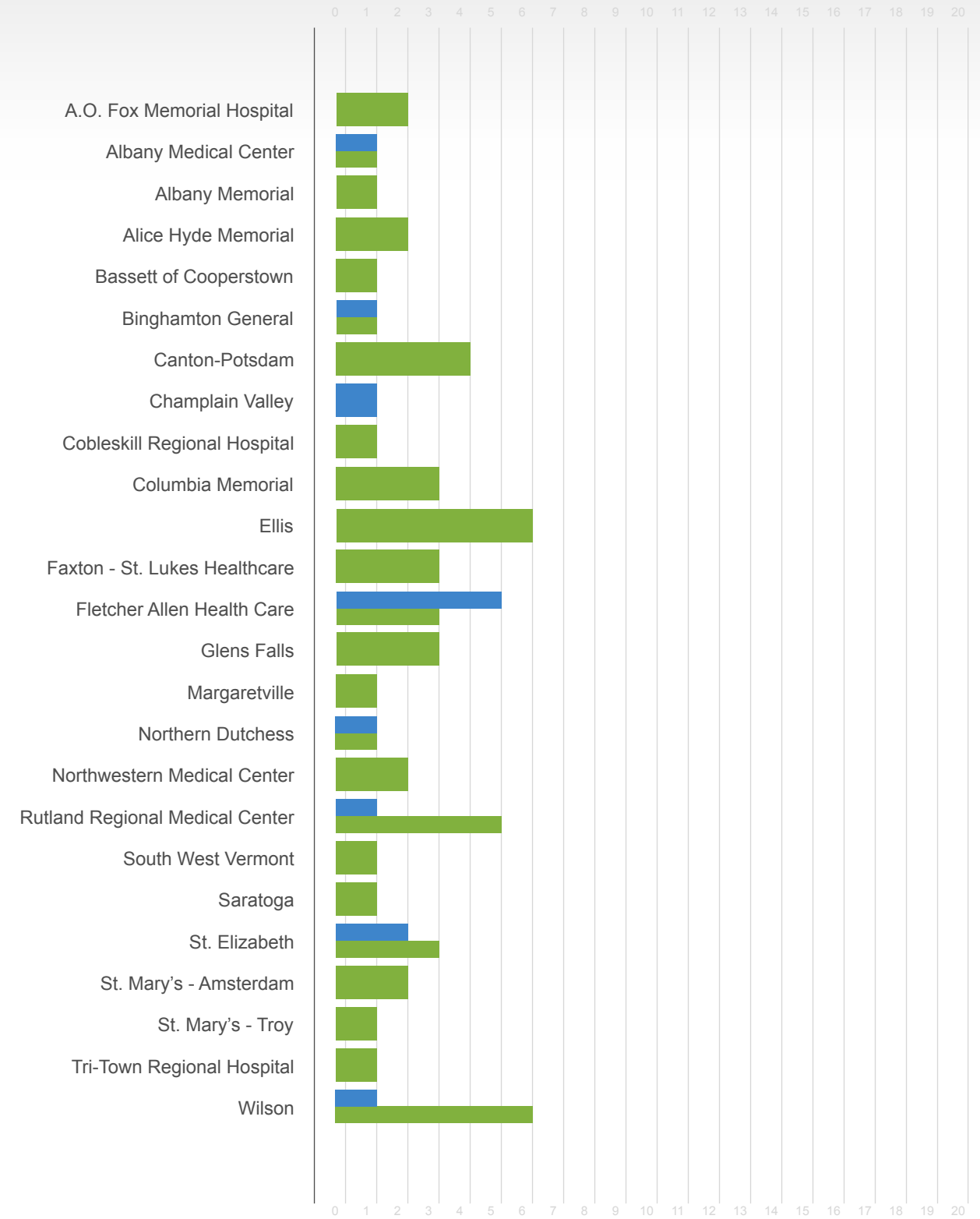
Send all of the above to:
The Center for
Donation & Transplant
Attention: Family Services
218 Great Oaks Boulevard
Albany, NY 12203

We will review all letters to ensure confidentiality, and then forward them to the appropriate recipients with their permission. Please allow time for this process to occur, Many donor families and recipients hesitate to respond to correspondence, however, it can prove to be a healing experience for everyone involved.

For questions or more information, contact CDT at 518-262-5606.

donor activity by hospital

Organ Donors ■
Tissue Donors ■



January 1, 2011 to April 30, 2011

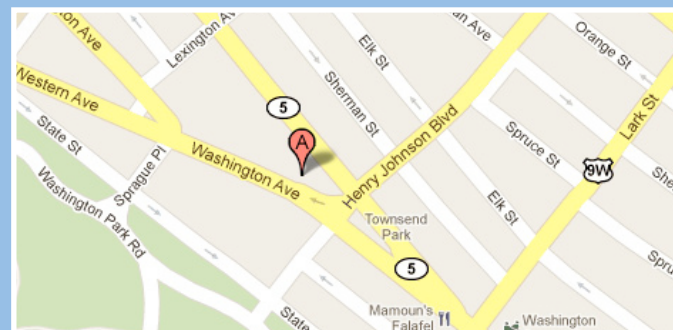
save the date

Donor Memorial Service

date: Sunday, November 6, 2011

time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

location: Italian American Community Center
275 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY





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

upcoming events & important dates

September 15 – October 15, 2011
National Hispanic Heritage Month

October 22, 2011
Transplant Speakers International Volunteer Education
Training Program | Center for Donation & Transplant, Albany, NY

November 6, 2011
Donor Memorial Service | Italian American Community Center, Albany, NY

November 12-13, 2011
National Donor Sabbath

January 2, 2012
Donate Life Float in 2012 Rose Parade™

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