



CENTER FOR DONATION & TRANSPLANT
NEW YORK – VERMONT

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Center for Donation and Transplant Celebrates National Donate Life Month, Shares Stories of Local Area Donor Families to Help Raise Awareness of New York State Donate Life Registry

April 2015 – The Center for Donation and Transplant (CDT), the organ procurement organization serving the Capital Region and outlying areas, is recognizing National Donate Life Month, a month-long celebration held every April that showcases the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation, and encourages New Yorkers to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Donor Registry.

In addition to sharing the stories of local area donor families through a brand-new “Why I Said Yes” video series, throughout the month of April CDT will be hosting several community awareness events. This includes a Donate Life Symposium and Celebration Day on April 23rd and the KlaVoy 5K Race on April 25th. Both events are located in Saratoga Springs. The Symposium and Celebration Day, held at the Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn, offers a unique learning opportunity for healthcare professionals during the day and a celebration dinner at night to recognize the gifts of life given by donors and the exceptional work done by local community partners and Donate Life advocates. The 5K race, held at the Saratoga Spa State Park, is a continued celebration of donors and donor families.

Additionally, CDT will be holding a number of Donate Life registry drives and information tables throughout the month at local hospitals and area health fairs to help honor donors and highlight the need for New Yorkers to sign up on the New York State Donate Life Registry.

“This April, we are excited to work with several partners, donor families and community members in the Capital Region to celebrate the gifts given by donors and donor families who have made the generous decision to say “yes” to donation,” Lauren Quinn, Director of Hospital and Community Services at the Center for Donation and Transplant said. “Every registered donor provides hope for the more than 10,200 New Yorkers currently on the national transplant waiting list. By keeping an active and visible presence in the area we are hoping to raise awareness about the urgent need for registered organ donors in our state. We know that donation has the potential to save and heal thousands of lives, but it can only happen when New Yorkers get the facts they need and ultimately make the incredible and selfless decision to register as an eye, organ and tissue donor.”

Every 10 minutes, another person is added to the national transplant waiting list, where more than 120,000 Americans are currently awaiting a life-saving organ transplant. New York State is ranked as one of the lowest states in the nation when it comes to the number of eligible residents (adults 18 years of age and older) registered on their state’s Donate Life registry. Despite making up 8.5 percent of all Americans on the national transplant waiting list, currently only 18% of New Yorkers have joined the New York State Donate Life Registry, compared to an average of 42% of residents in other states.

In the Capital Region, the percentage of eligible residents registered remains slightly higher than the state average: 28.2% in Albany County; 29.9% in Rensselaer County; 41.5% in Saratoga County; and 35.5% in Schenectady County.

To learn more, to register as a donor or for more information about how to get involved, please visit the Center for Donation and Transplant's website at www.donatelifecd.org.

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About The Center for Donation & Transplant:

The Center for Donation & Transplant facilitates organ and tissue donation in northeastern New York and western Vermont. CDT ensures that the option of donation is offered to families in an informative and compassionate manner, and provides long-term support and comfort to families and hospital personnel involved in the donation process.