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The mission of Nebraska Organ Recovery System is to maximize the recovery and quality of organs and tissues for transplantation while maintaining sensitivity, compassion and respect for people of all cultures.

We accomplish this by working in partnership with hospitals in the service area and by providing education to potential donor families, healthcare professionals and the public we serve.

Give the Most Precious Gift of All...

LIFE!



A Donate Life Organization

Father of transplant patient also gets new heart

Written by Andrea McMaster of The Nebraska Medical Center

Bruce Prenosil's word for 2009 is "Believe." A "believe" sign sits on his fireplace mantel. And wherever he goes, the word just seems to jump out at him. A bag appeared on his doorstep this month with the word "believe" printed on it. And while recently stuck in traffic, the license plate in front of him read, "BLV 2 RCV" (Believe to Receive). Since he was put on the top of the heart transplant list in April, Prenosil believed he would get a new heart in time to keep him alive.

Church announcement ushers in new life

On July 19, Prenosil didn't need to believe anymore, he knew. Even before he received the call from UNMC's hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center, he seemed to know the phone would ring.

That Sunday morning he told his wife, Joan, that he had a dream that a heart was offered. Later that day, in the middle of the church service, an announcement was made from the pulpit: "Sorry to interrupt. Bruce Prenosil, they have a heart for you."

Prenosil had turned off his phone for the church service and didn't realize The Nebraska Medical Center had been calling



Bruce Prenosil, front row, headed home just 10 days after his transplant. Pictured with Prenosil are his family, from left, Tom, Joan, Josh and Sarah.

Father daughter transplant continued from page one...

him. The congregation erupted in applause and the family rushed to the hospital.

Sunday at 8:30 p.m., Prenosil was wheeled into the operating room at The Nebraska Medical Center. At 11 p.m., the new heart arrived. The transplant, performed by Mohammed Quader, M.D., associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery at UNMC and director of the medical center's heart transplant program and his team, lasted four hours.

Family faces familiar prospect

The Prenosils are familiar with the heart transplant process. Their daughter, Sarah, now 23, was born with heart problems and had a heart transplant at age 14 at St. Louis Children's Hospital (before The Nebraska Medical Center had a heart transplant program). She became a high school swimmer for Roncalli High School and is now a student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. "I don't think there are too many of us, father-daughter heart transplant patients," Sarah Prenosil said.



Bruce and Joan Prenosil, pose side by side in a wheelchair at The Nebraska Medical Center.

Device buys patient time

In 2003, Prenosil was diagnosed with heart disease and received a pacemaker-defibrillator. Eventually diagnosed with congestive heart failure, he received a mechanical assist device in February called the Thoratec HeartMate II Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD).

"The FDA had just approved the use of HeartMate II," said Ioana Dumitru, M.D., assistant professor of cardiology at UNMC and heart failure specialist at The Nebraska Medical Center. "Bruce was an excellent candidate for the device. He would have died without it."

How the device works

The mechanical assist device takes over the function of the left ventricle, a pumping chamber of the heart. The HeartMate II uses a small turbine, similar to a screw, which spins and moves the blood into the aorta. The device also requires a constant energy supply and made it necessary for Prenosil to wear a mobile battery pack or stay close to an electrical outlet.

"The HeartMate II made Bruce strong enough for transplant," Dr. Quader said. "The



Bruce and Daughter Sarah, also a heart recipient joke that she will be giving him advice on how to handle his first year post transplant.

Father daughter transplant continued from page two...

mechanical assist device gives patients waiting for heart transplant needed time to regain nutrition, strength and mental preparation to go forward with heart transplantation surgery. Bruce needed all of them and he made the most of the HeartMate II support.”

Quick recovery ensues

Just twelve hours after transplant, while still on a ventilator, Prenosil motioned to his wife Joan for a piece of paper. As his hand shook, Prenosil scratched jagged letters across the paper; a note to his wife and sister. It read, “I love you both. I feel...” Not able to finish the sentence, Joan did it for him after she received a nod of approval from her husband. She added, “Great.”

Prenosil was amazed at how well he felt shortly after transplant. And just ten days post-transplant, he headed home. “I want people to know about the wonderful transplant team here at the medical center,” Prenosil said. “It’s really a great team and people should know they don’t have to travel to other cities to get this kind of care.”

York General Health Care Services leads the way with their Workplace Partners for Life Program

Nebraska Organ Recovery System would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to York General Health Care Services (YGHCS) for their recent effort to promote organ and tissue donation throughout their facility. Their efforts have resulted in new donor designations and awareness in their facility, ultimately resulting in more lives saved!

Over the past quarter the facility has taken the initiative offer educational sessions to their department directors educating them on the benefits of organ and tissue donation as well educating their employees with paycheck stuffers, registration cards and table top displays. In addition to this they have included an article in their hospital newsletter, which is also distributed with the local newspaper. This article featured a testimonial from an employee who is an organ recipient. Finally, YGHCS CEO, Chuck Schulz, routinely included information on organ donation in his “Staff Update”.

Does your hospital or organization want to get involved in our Workplace Partners for Life program? It’s simple and easy, just contact us and we will give you all the materials, and support you need, free of charge. We will provide you with educational articles to include in your company newsletter, provide paycheck stuffers and brochures, and even provide speakers to come educate your organization about the need for organ and tissue donors. All organizations welcome, no need to be healthcare related!

To find out more, or to get involved, contact Public Relations Coordinator, Stephanie Lochmiller at (402) 733-1800.

Nebraska Organ Recovery System to Honor “Moose” in the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade.

For most, New Year’s Eve is a time of reflection, looking back on the year that passed, and pausing to gaze into a future that will unfold in the months ahead. On New Year’s Eve 2005, 6 lives became forever entwined.

After suffering a traumatic head injury at the hands of an armed assailant, Thomas Varney V, “Moose”, was taken to a regional trauma center. Despite the best of care, it was evident that the gunshot wound was non-survivable and Moose was pronounced brain dead. His parents, Barb and Tiff, and sisters, Elizabeth and Alexandra, all of Arnold NE, thought back to when Moose came home with his first driver’s license. He had told his parents that he had decided to register as an organ donor by choosing “yes” on his driver’s license. After pausing to reflect, Tiff, the Director of Arnolds Funeral Home, said, “We’re donating anything. Anything you can recover, recover it.”



On January 1, 2006, Moose saved five lives. Recipients were found for his heart, liver, pancreas, and kidneys. In addition, Moose gave the gift of sight to two individuals who received his corneas, and many other are benefiting from life-enhancing tissue transplants because of his donation of bones and tendons.

In December, the Varney family will travel to Pasadena, CA to create a floragraph in honor of Moose. The floragraph will be one of 77 on this year’s Donate Life Float honoring organ, eye and tissue donors. The Varney’s will travel to Pasadena to help create the floragraph, and then return to Pasadena over the new year to watch the float from the sidelines.

Someday, the Varney’s hope to meet the recipients of Moose’s organs. “This is one of the major things that helped us,” Barb shares. “This is something tangible to hang on to.” Tiff adds, “Do it. There’s no reason not to help someone else improve their quality of life.”

November marks National Donor Sabbath Month

May our faith fill us with the compassion to Donate Life.

National Donor Sabbath will be observed November 13th-15th this year. The 3-day observance seeks to include the days of worship of most major religions practiced in the United States. Donation and transplant professionals join together with faith communities to focus on the life-affirming gifts that can be given to others through organ and tissue donation.

Every major religion in the United States officially supports organ and tissue donation. Donation is considered a final act of charity and love towards ones fellow man. For more information about National Donor Sabbath or to request bulletin inserts, or more information for your church please visit www.donatelifenebraska.org.

Hospital Donation Statistics

Statistics from 01/01/09 through 09/30/09

Hospital	Organ	Tissue
Alegent Hospice Care	0	1
Annie Jeffery Health Center	0	1
Beatrice Community Hospital	0	1
Bergan Mercy Medical Center	1	7
Bryan LGH-East	0	8
Bryan LGH-West	9	12
Children's Hospital and Medical Center	3	1
Columbus Community Hospital	0	3
Creighton University Medical Center	8	5
Faith Regional Medical Center	0	3
Falls City Community Medical Center	0	1
Fillmore County Hospital	0	1
Fremont Medical Center	1	3
Good Samaritan Hospital	3	12
Gothenburg Memorial Hospital	0	1
Great Plains Medical Center	0	3
Harlan County Medical Center	0	1
Immanuel Medical Center	1	5
Jefferson Community Hospital	0	2
Jennie Melham Memorial Medical	0	2
Johnson County Hospital	0	1
Lakeside Hospital	0	7
Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital	0	1
Mercy Hospital	0	2
Methodist Hospital	2	4
Midlands Hospital	0	6
Nebraska Heart Hospital	1	4
Nemaha County Health System	0	1
Ogallala Community Hospital	0	1
Omaha VA Medical Center	0	1
Regional West Medical Center	1	4
Seward Memorial Hospital	0	1
St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center	2	7
St. Francis Medical Center	0	2
The Nebraska Medical Center	7	6
York General Hospital	0	2
Total	39	123

Family Circle Rose Dedication Program Offers Opportunity to Honor Donors and their Families

The Family Circle program is a part of the Donate Life Float in the 2010 Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, CA. The program offers families, individuals, and organizations the opportunity to honor a donor or donor family by purchasing a rose to be placed in the Donor Family Circle that will be a part of this year's float.

Each rose comes with the opportunity to write a message to your honoree and packages range in price. For more information on the Family Circle Rose Dedication Program, the Donate Life Float, or to purchase a rose, please visit www.donatelifefloat.org.



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