



Summer 2011

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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

Nebraska Hospitals, Transplant Professionals Celebrate National Donate Life Month

Each year, April marks the month set aside by transplant professionals, and the general public to recognize and honor those who have given the gift of life, while also bringing attention to the drastic need for organ and tissue donors. Across the state, Nebraska Organ Recovery System (NORS) worked with its hospital partners and the general public to honor those gifts given.

On April 10th, NORS and the Lions Eye Bank of Nebraska (LEBN) sponsored the annual Donor Family Reception, hosted by the New Hearts Transplant Support Group. The reception serves as a time for individuals and families to gather to honor their loved ones who have given the gift of life. Attendees heard stories of gratitude and success from recipients as well as words of encouragement from other donor families. Next year's event is tentatively scheduled for April 15th.

Across the state in Kearney, NE the Good Samaritan Hospital held their own donor remembrance ceremony at the hospital chapel. Participants were joined by those doctors and nurses who played a vital role in caring for their loved ones, and attendees were able to honor and remember their loved ones by releasing butterflies at the end of the ceremony.

Toward the end of April, NORS staff raised awareness by attending an Omaha Storm Chasers game and handing out Donate Life hand



Above: Donate Life Flag is blessed by the Donor Awareness Council in Kearney, NE during their donor remembrance ceremony.

Donate Life Month Continued...

clappers to fans as they entered the stadium. 11 year-old liver recipient, Peter Jurich was able to attend the game with his friends and family and was given the opportunity to throw out the first pitch to celebrate and honor the person who gave him the gift of life two years earlier. As well, a NORS representative was interviewed on field before the game to give information on the need for organ and tissue donors and tell Storm Chasers fans how to register their decision to give the gift of life.

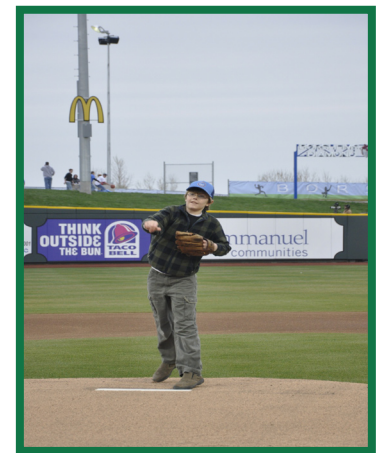
Students from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Public Relations Student Society of America Chapter (PRSSA) held their annual National Organ Donor Awareness Campaign (NODAC) during April. NODAC is a national competition among college PRSSA chapters to raise awareness for the need for organ and tissue donors. This year's campaign included on campus donor drives and a panel of speakers including transplant professionals, living donors and recipients.

Again this year, numerous hospital partners showed their support for donation by flying Donate Life flags outside of their facilities, or by displaying them in prominent places throughout the hospital. Many hospitals held donor registration drives and health fairs promoting organ and tissue donation and made information available to staff and the public throughout the month.

Looking back, Donate Life Month was a huge success and raised awareness at both the state and nationwide level. NORS would like to thank its hospital partners as well as its community and individual partners for their continued support of our mission. To learn more about how you can get involved visit www.nedonation.org.



Above: NORS Staff at an Omaha Storm Chasers game



Above: Liver recipient, Peter Jurich throws out the first pitch at an Omaha Storm Chasers game.

Hospital Donation Statistics

Statistics from 01/01/2011 through 06/30/2011

Hospital	Organ	Tissue
Beatrice Community Hospital	0	2
Bergan Mercy Medical Center	0	1
Blair Memorial Community Hospital	0	1
BryanLGH Medical Center	6	8
Children's Hospital & Medical Center	1	3
Columbus Medical Center	0	1
Creighton University Medical Center	5	12
Community Medical Center- Falls City	0	1
Fremont Area Medical Center	0	1
Good Samaritan Hospital	0	1
Gothenburg Memorial Hospital	0	1
Great Plains Regional Medical Center	0	1
Immanuel Medical Center	0	4
Kearney County Health Services	0	1
Lakeside Medical Center	1	4
Mercy Hospital- Alegent	0	1
Methodist Health System	0	2
Midlands Hospital	0	1
Regional West Medical Center	0	2
St. Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center	1	3
St. Francis Medical Center	0	2
The Nebraska Medical Center	5	4
VA-Omaha	0	1
Total	19	58



MTF Musculoskeletal
Transplant
Foundation
Changing Lives
Through Tissue Donation



Tissue Recipient Vicki Stephenson with her granddaughter, Sierra Wise.

After a dramatic weight loss, Vicki Stephenson started to experience a lot of pain. “Approximately 5 years ago, I had bariatric surgery in order to lose weight. I lost 150 pounds in a year. After I lost the weight I started experiencing pain in my right hip. I eventually went to my doctor and told him about the pain; thinking it was probably due to the change in my gait from the weight loss. The pain started radiating from my hip across to my lower back and then eventually down my right leg and foot. The pain just continued to get worse.” An MRI revealed that Vicki had three bulging discs in her back. “I had 7 epidural steroid injections over a three year period, and that didn’t seem to help. The pain began to get so severe I had problems doing ‘normal’ activities such as walking through a mall, picking up my grandchildren, etc.”

“I was in so much pain; I had to take prescription sleeping pills and pain pills in order to sleep at night. I was getting to a point where I wasn’t able to concentrate and it was affecting my job. I felt as if it was affecting my entire life. I began to feel very old and worn out. It was making me so unhappy. I had gained 60 pounds back and I wasn’t even able to exercise. I had started to swim and it was even getting difficult to swim without pain.”

Vicki eventually needed surgery. “My surgeon told me that I was going to receive donated bone that would be placed in between the rods he was going to put in place of my discs. They removed the L4 and L5 discs and placed pins and rods in my back. They then ground up the removed discs and packed them along with the donated bone in my back and eventually they would grow together making my back more solid and create a better curvature.”

Before her surgery, Vicki didn’t know anything about tissue donation. “I knew about donation for organs and eyes however I didn’t know anything about bone transplants. This was the first time I had ever heard of tissue donation.”

It has been several months since Vicki’s surgery and she is recovering well. “I have noticed that I am standing up straighter than I was before and the pain that I had in my hip and down my leg is completely gone.” I now feel like I will have the ability to be able to do things that I want to do such as play with my 6 grandchildren. I now have hope of a better life.”

“I am so grateful to be able to have been a recipient of this tissue donation. I am also glad that I was given the opportunity to thank the donor’s family for this wonderful gift so they would know that the loss of their family member has not been forgotten and a part of them will continue to live on.”

Hospitals Commit to Donor Drive 2011

Nebraska Organ Recovery System, in partnership with the Nebraska Hospital Association has launched an initiative to add 80,000 new names to the Donor Registry of Nebraska. NORS and the NHA are encouraging hospitals to commit to the drive and push donation throughout their facilities and into their communities.

Hospitals that have committed to the drive include:

- Alegent Health Bergan Mercy Medical Center, Omaha
- Avera Creighton Hospital, Creighton
- Avera St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill
- Boone County Health Center, Albion
- Brown County Hospital, Ainsworth
- BryanLGH Health System, Lincoln
- Butler County Health Care Center, David City
- Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Omaha
- Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus
- Community Hospital, McCook
- Community Memorial Hospital, Syracuse
- Dundy County Hospital, Benkelman
- Great Plains Regional Medical Center, North Platte
- Jefferson Community Health Center, Fairbury
- Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln
- Memorial Health Care Systems, Seward
- The Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha
- Nebraska Methodist Health System, Omaha
- Select Specialty Hospital, Omaha
- Valley County Health System, Ord
- Warren Memorial Hospital, Friend
- West Holt Memorial Hospital, Atkinson



Donor Drive 2011
Donor Registry of Nebraska

Join Nebraska Organ Recovery System as we partner with the Nebraska Hospital Association to add 100,000 new potential organ, eye and tissue donors to the Donor Registry of Nebraska!

More information will be available to your hospital soon!

- **Over 110,000 people are waiting for a life-saving transplant.**
- **One organ donor can save eight lives!**
- **One tissue donor can enhance the lives of 50 people!**

Visit www.nedonordrive.com to learn more!

To learn how your hospital or community can get involved and to access the Donor Drive 2011 toolkit with ideas and sample materials visit www.NEdonordrive.com.

How has Organ and Tissue Donation Changed your Life?

Are you a member of a donor family? Or perhaps you've received the gift of an organ or tissue life from a donor? Do you have a story to share?

Nebraska Organ Recovery wants to feature at least one donor family, or recipient story in each of our quarterly newsletters. If you have a story to tell about how donation has changed your life, we'd love to feature it! Simply email Stephanie Lochmiller at StephanieL@nedonation.org to submit your story.



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