



Winter 2010

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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

HHS Recognizes Hospitals with Highest Organ Donation Rates

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) presented awards to 428 of the nation's hospitals for their success in increasing the number of organs available for transplantation.

Hospital executives, together with their partners in all 58 federally designated organ procurement organizations (OPO's), received the Department's Medal of Honor for Organ Donation for achieving and sustaining national goals for donation, including a donation rate of 75 percent or more of eligible donors at their facilities. They were recognized at the Fifth National Learning Congress for the Donation and Transplantation Community of Practice held in Grapevine, Texas from Sept. 30 to Oct. 1.

The two hospitals within the Nebraska Organ Recovery System donor service area that received awards at this year's ceremony were Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney with the Silver One Award for achieving a conversion rate greater than 75%, and 3.75 organs transplanted per donor, along with Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha with the Silver Two award for achieving a 10% Donation After Cardiac Death (DCD) rate and 3.75 organs transplanted per donor.



From left to right, Jamie Bengston-NORS, Betsy Collins-Clark and Kimber Bonner-Good Samaritan Hospital, and John Stallbaum-NORS at the HRSA Medal of Honor Presentation.

“These hospitals have made incredible progress in increasing the number of organs available for transplantation,” said Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N., administrator of HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which leads federal efforts to increase organ and tissue donation. “Their efforts reflect the heights Americans can reach when they work together toward a common goal.”

Dr. Wakefield lauded the 30 hospitals that earned gold medals for reaching or exceeding all three of the goals of the Community of Practice: improving donation rates, increasing the number of organs donated per individual donor to 3.75 or higher, and expanding clinical processes for recovering organs.

“Today we honor the partners who have collectively demonstrated extraordinary acts of humanity,” said U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H. “We are humbled to recognize these public health stewards who offer such profound service to society.”

Each of the 428 winning hospitals had eight or more eligible organ donors during the 22-month award period ending in April 2009. Dr. Koh presented the awards to these hospitals based on their performance in meeting or exceeding one or more of the three goals identified above.

HRSA’s Donation and Transplantation Community of Practice brings together donation and transplantation professionals and hospital leaders to identify and share best practices to integrate organ donation into hospitals’ end-of-life care. This year’s event recognizes the importance of including donor designation specialists in hospitals’ efforts to increase donation rates at their facilities. The commitment of the individuals and organizations comprising the Community of Practice has helped make possible the transplant of 3,088 more organs from deceased donors in 2008 than in 2003.

Mark your Calendars! April is National Donate Life Month

Once again, April will mark National Donate Life Month, and with it comes a wealth of activities designed to honor those who have given the gift of life, as well as raise awareness of the more than 105,000 people currently awaiting a life-saving organ transplant. In the past we have had an overwhelming response from those in the community who want to get involved.

The following are a few ways you can do so: Join the Flags Across America initiative and purchase a Donate Life flag to fly at your home or business. Flags range in price and size and can be found at www.donatelife.net. Take part in our Workplace Partners for Life program for free by requesting a speaker, brochures, paycheck stuffers or table tents for your organization. All materials are offered free of charge. Hold a donor registration drive at your church, office or college campus.

If you would like additional information, materials, or ideas contact NORS at (402) 733-1800, or visit www.nedonation.org. Remember April fills up quickly so if you’d like a representative at your event call us early!

Rose Parade Float Celebrates Gift of Life Through Organ Donation

Nebraska Family's Story Comes Alive in Floragraph

Tiff and Barb Varney were proud but surprised when their son Thomas Varney V, affectionately known as “Moose” came home with a red heart on his Nebraska Driver's license, indicating he'd made the decision to become an organ donor. This was a mature move for a 16-year-old, they reasoned.

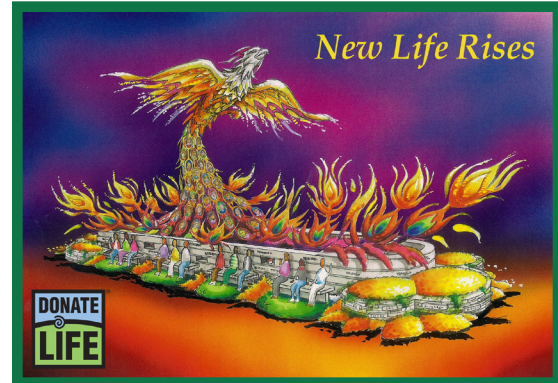
Little did the Varney's know that fate would soon step in, allowing Moose to carry out his wishes. At the age of 21, Moose Varney suffered a tragic gunshot wound to the head at the hands of an armed assailant. Tiff remembered Moose wanted to give the gift of life to others by donating his organs, so that's just what the family did.

“The timing of the Rose Parade coincides with the anniversary of Moose's death, so it's always a difficult time for us,” says Barb. “But knowing he was chosen to be honored in a floragraph has been a good feeling. I can't think of a better way to honor him.”

The gift of life was the subject of a breathtaking float at the 121st annual Tournament of Roses Parade that took place on New Year's Day, 2010 in Pasadena, CA. Moose's story was celebrated through a floragraph on the Donate Life float which was themed “New Life Rises”.

Moose Varney's floragraph was one of 77 on the float, representing 77 people across the country that became organ and tissue donors. The float also featured recipient float riders who were able to ride in honor of their donors who gave them a second chance at life.

Floragraphs, according to Rose Parade officials, are artistic, life-like portraits created with organic materials including flowers. The float featured a phoenix, the mythical symbol of life rising from the ashes of death, emerging from a bed of flames into the sky. The phoenix's tail feathers are adorned with dozens of floragraphs that depict loved ones who gave life to those in need. “When he came home with his first driver's license,



Above: New Life Rises Float rendering



Above: Tiff and Barb Varney traveled to Pasadena to decorate their son Moose's floragraph



Above: floragraph of Moose that will be displayed on the 2010 Doante Life Float

Rose Parade Continued...

Moose told us that he checked the organ donation box and we told him we thought it was a good idea, and that we were so proud of him,” said Barb, who along with Tiff, own and operate a funeral home in Arnold, NE. “Since we have the funeral home, he was probably more aware of organ donation than most kids his age.”

To learn more about the Donate Life Float, floragraphs, and honoree’s visit www.donatelifefloat.org.

Nebraska Organ Recovery Honors Nebraska Hospitals

For the first time, Nebraska Organ Recovery System honored top performing Nebraska Hospitals for their organ donation efforts. The awards were presented at the Nebraska Hospital Association’s Annual Convention held in October in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Six awards were presented in four different categories: tissue conversion rate, organ conversion rate, inspiration, and donation champions.

The tissue conversion rate award was presented to the two facilities that maintained the highest tissue conversion rate with a minimum of four eligible donors during the given time frame. The rate measured the percentage of actual tissue donors from those eligible to donate. The two awards were presented to Columbus Community Hospital with a conversion rate of 60%, and to Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center in Broken Bow with a conversion rate of 66.7%.

The organ conversion rate was awarded to the two facilities that maintained the highest organ conversion rate with a minimum of four eligible donors during the given time frame. This rate measures the percentage of actual organ donors from those eligible to donate. This year’s award winners were Bryan LGH West Medical center in Lincoln with a Conversion rate of 85.7% and Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney with a conversion rate of 100%.

The Inspire Award, was presented to the facility that best inspires others to donate life. This year’s award went to Fremont Area Medical Center for their efforts to allow the opportunity for Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD) despite their inexperience with the donation process. This was the first organ donor at this facility in more than 10 years.

The Donation Champion Award was presented to the one facility that best exemplified what donation should represent within a hospital. This award was presented based on a variety of criteria including organ conversion rate, tissue conversion rate, and organs transplanted per donor. This year the award went to Good Samaritan Hospital, who ranked at or near the top of all of these categories.

NORS would like to extend our thanks to all of the hospitals within our service area who have helped save and enhance countless lives through organ and tissue donation.

Hospital Donation Statistics

Statistics from 01/01/09 through 12/31/09

Hospital	Organ	Tissue
Alegent Hospice Care	0	1
Annie Jeffery Health Center	0	1
Beatrice Community Hospital	0	1
Bergan Mercy Medical Center	1	9
Bryan LGH-East	0	10
Bryan LGH-West	10	14
Children's Hospital and Medical Center	5	1
Columbus Community Hospital	0	4
Creighton University Medical Center	9	9
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	4	13
Gothenburg Memorial Hospital	0	1
Great Plains Medical Center	0	4
Harlan County Medical Center	0	2
Immanuel Medical Center	1	6
Jefferson Community Hospital	0	2
Jennie Melham Memorial Medical	0	2
Johnson County Hospital	0	1
Lakeside Hospital	0	9
Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital	0	2
Mercy Hospital	0	3
Methodist Hospital	2	5
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	9
St. Francis Medical Center	1	4
The Nebraska Medical Center	7	9
York General Hospital	0	2
Total	45	150

Mark Your Calendar!

February 14th- National Donor Day

April- National Donate Life Month

April 18th- Annual Donor Family Reception

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