

## Upcoming Events...

- February 14, 2009  
**Saturn National Donor Day**
- February 22, 2009  
**Five Points of Life Marathon - Gainesville**  
[www.fivepointsoflife.com](http://www.fivepointsoflife.com)
- March 8, 2009  
**Gainesville Remembrance & Recognition Ceremony**

March 22, 2009, 1-3 p.m.  
**Jacksonville Remembrance & Recognition Ceremony**  
FCCJ Wilson Center for the Arts - 11901 Beach Blvd.  
[www.donorcare.org](http://www.donorcare.org)

- April 18, 2009  
**Katie Ride for Life - Amelia Island**  
[www.katierideforlife.org](http://www.katierideforlife.org)  
A premier cycling event for novices to advanced riders can participate to raise awareness for tissue and organ donation and education.

- May 2, 2009  
**Donate Life Day - Jacksonville**  
The Landing

Check out the websites for all information and on-line registrations.

## A Dream - A Heart Valve for Life



We all have dreams. Some of us dream of being educators, a professional football player or even President of the United States. For Christina Locke, her dream was very simple...a strong beating heart. And because of the generosity of a donor, her dream was fulfilled.

Christina was born with Shone's Syndrome, a form of heart disease that obstructs the left side of the heart. Due to this obstruction, Christina was kept off the playing field and in and out of hospitals for several surgeries at the beginning of her young life. Her mother, Donna Albright remembers that day when her daughter did not have the stamina to take part in sports with the other kids her age. "She could swim, but she couldn't swim the whole length of the pool."

Christina went in for open-heart surgery in August 2002 to receive a heart valve transplant. A transplant that without, left Christina lying in bed completely exhausted. Today, Christina is an advocate for donation and shows families how their gift of donation can make the dreams of those waiting for organ and tissue transplantation come true. As a recipients does not understand why some might have fears about considering donation. "In my point of view, their loved one isn't going to be using them (organs and tissues) anymore, so why not help somebody else out who is going to use them for as long as they possibly can." And when she got her license, she signed up to be a donor.

## A Show of Unity

**Q:** Take an innocent email with a simple suggestion, mix in an inspired community, top it with a collaborative effort and what have you got?

**A:** A recipe for a national program honoring donors and recipients - and directing Americans to their state registry to designate themselves as organ, eye, and tissue donors.

And Flags Across America was born...this nationwide display of unity will show the American public how many people have been touched by donation and call attention to the need for more people to designate themselves as donors. Hospitals from California to Massachusetts, Texas to New Jersey and even Alaska will be flying the flag in April to raise donation awareness.

SETA, LifeQuest and the Lion's Eye Bank will be working together during the month of April with Donate Life America to have hospitals collectively raise the Donate Life flag to honor donors and recipients in their communities. If you would like more information about this program or sign up to fly a flag at your hospital, please contact your local SETA hospital representative. To find your rep, go to [www.donorcare.org](http://www.donorcare.org), click on **About** and then **Service Area**.



# Heart Valve Comparison

## Allograft-Donated Human Valves

### ADVANTAGES

- Superior long-term durability
- Superior hemodynamic performance
- Superior performance in the endocarditis patient population due to its biologic nature and tissue flexibility
- Reduced incidence of thromboembolic events (TE)
- No anticoagulation required
- Valve of choice for children and women of childbearing age, patients presenting with endocarditis
- Improved patient quality of life



### DISADVANTAGES

- Limited supply
- More technically demanding implantation technique
- Increased cross-clamp time

## Mechanical Valves

- Availability
- Ease of insertion
- Durable



- Increased risk of TE
- Increased risk of anticoagulant related hemorrhage events
- Increased overall risk of complication
- Fixed diameter limits hemodynamic performance
- Reduced quality of life due to anticoagulant regime

## Bovine/Porcine Valves

- Availability
- No anti-coagulants needed
- Satisfactory long-term durability
- Ease of insertion



- Primary failure mode is intermediate to late leaflet calcification
- Glutaraldehyde fixed preservation stiffens tissue and reduces natural leaflet flexibility
- Fixed diameter and muscle bar in noncoronary leaflet limits hemodynamic performance

## Speakers Bureau

SETA would love to speak to your group to discuss tissue and organ donation. Contact Becky Melvin at 352.514.4376 or email [SETAPR@donorcare.org](mailto:SETAPR@donorcare.org) for more information. Remember, April is National Donate Life Month!

this 'n  
that

## because you asked...**BYA**

Do you have a question you need to know the answer to?

Each month, we will take questions that we receive from you and answer them...because you asked!! We look forward to hearing from you. Email your questions to: [SETAPR@donorcare.org](mailto:SETAPR@donorcare.org)

**Q:** Will tissue donation interfere with funeral arrangements?

**A:** Tissue donation should not alter the funeral plans of the donor's family, including their wishes for a viewing. The donor body is treated with great respect and dignity throughout the donation process. The donor's appearance following the recovery of tissues still allows for an open casket funeral. The time frame necessary for tissue recovery to take place also will not postpone funeral arrangements. Just as the family does not receive any reimbursement for donation, there should not be any additional charges to the family for the "gift" of donation.

**The Giff** is a bi-monthly newsletter published by SETA working with hospitals in Central and Northern Florida to enhance lives through tissue donation.

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Jean Hess, RN, MHS, Director of Professional Relations

Becky Melvin, Editor

We welcome your feedback and ideas. Please email questions, comments or suggestions to [SETAPR@donorcare.org](mailto:SETAPR@donorcare.org) or call 352.514.4376.

**The Giff** is also available on-line at [www.donorcare.org](http://www.donorcare.org)

