



3rd Quarter 2009

394
tissue donors
23,640
lives enhanced

the Gift
a donation newsletter

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www.donorcare.org

866.432.1164

Upcoming Events...

- November 6, 2009
Nick Oelrich Golf Tournament - Gainesville
Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club
- November 13-15, 2009
National Donor Sabbath
is an interfaith celebration of the gifts of hope provided through organ and tissue transplantation and donation.

WE WANT YOU!

Are you a tissue recipient? Has your quality of life been improved because of the gift you've been given? We are looking for you and would like to tell your story. If you have received tissue and would like to share your experience, please contact SETAPR@donorcare.org

Check This Out!

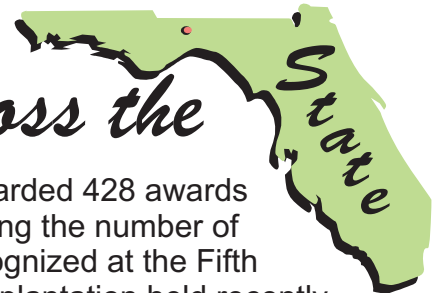
Social media is everywhere and everybody is doing it. Whether it is Facebook, Twitter, MySpace or LinkedIn we've all heard about social media. If you are on the world wide web, check out the many organizations that are going "social" by doing a search.



If you follow on Twitter, here are two for you to check out:

SoutheastTissue and **DonateLifeFL**. Happy tweeting!

From Across the



The Department of Health and Human Services awarded 428 awards to the nation's hospitals for their success in increasing the number of organs available for transplantation. They were recognized at the Fifth National Learning Congress for Donation and Transplantation held recently in Texas.

Gold medals were received by: Baptist Hospital (Pensacola), Bay Medical, Florida Hospital, Halifax Medical Center, Health First-Holmes Regional Medical Center, Lakeland Regional, Munroe Regional Medical Center, Shands at UF, Shands Jacksonville, and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

They all reached or exceeded all three of the goals of the Community of Practice: improve donation rates, increase the number of organs donated per individual donor to 3.75 or higher, and expand clinical processes for recovering organs. SETA applauds their continued effort in the arena of donation and we congratulate them on their success.

Jacksonville



Friends for Life, an organized group of volunteers, began this year's first of four training classes with 19 new recruits in October. These donor families, transplant recipients and their families are dedicated to raising awareness about the critical need for organ and tissue donation.

SETA participated in the City of Pensacola Health Fair for all city employees in September. Area hospitals offered health screenings and we were able to reach over 270 employees with the message of donation. The Donate Life Florida registry was available for first-time sign-ups as well as for donors already on the registry to check their profile. We welcomed this opportunity to share the importance of organ, tissue and eye donation to the community and present the new on-line registry.

Pensacola



Alive today...
because someone like you said, "YES."

Towana, kidney recipient

Click here >>



New Possibilities from Tissue Donations

(NewsUSA) When Justin Thorpe crashed his car into an embankment, he was a new driver and just 16 years old. His life was instantly changed.

Following the accident, the car caught on fire. Thorpe was severely burned over 40 percent of his body. He did not wake up for two months, as he was placed in a medically induced coma in the hospital while his serious burns were treated.

What Thorpe discovered after he awoke was that the generous gift of life from numerous human tissue donors had helped to save his life.

While in the coma, Thorpe was treated at the University of Colorado Hospital by Dr. Gordon Lindberg and Dr. Joshua Goldberg. The doctors used allograft skin, a gift from deceased human donors, to cover his wounds and promote healing. Although skin substitutes or animal skin can also be used in the treatment of burns, human allograft skin is considered the gold standard.

"Human allograft skin works the best because it adheres better, it stimulates new blood vessel growth and is not as prone to infection," said Dr. Lindberg, M.D., Ph.D, director of the hospital's burn unit. "Once Justin had recovered from his injuries, we replaced the allograft with his own skin. However, the initial life-saving treatment with allograft wouldn't be possible without the generosity of tissue donors."

Although the 7,000 square centimeters of allograft tissue that were used to treat and cover Thorpe's burns only stayed on his body for two weeks, it provided critical protection in the early stages of his treatment.

"In the U.S. someone is burned every 29 minutes. Stories like Justin's are a lesson for everyone - tissue donation can have the same life-saving impacts as organ donation," said Thomas A. Cycyota, president and CEO of AlloSource, one of the nation's largest providers of allograft skin used by burn centers to treat severely burned patients.

It is easy to help save or improve the lives of others by registering to become an organ and tissue donor by simply visiting Donate Life America at www.donatelife.net.

Now months after his accident, Thorpe is back to being a teenager - playing video games and biking. Although scars remind him of the crash, he is also reminded of the second chance he was given by the generous donors he never met.



Tissue donations can provide critical protection to burn victims in the early stages of their treatment.

Lourdes...A Story of Sight for the Future



In her early 20's, Lourdes was an active young woman, full-time student, and mother of one with the rest of her life ahead of her. While attending the New York School of Medical & Dental Assistants she awoke one morning to find that she was unable to see clearly. Her vision was blurred and she was experiencing double vision. She immediately went to the doctor where she was diagnosed with stigmatism. Lourdes was pleased to be told that the problem should be easily solved with eyeglasses. Unfortunately, the glasses did not help.

In 2003, Lourdes was diagnosed with keratoconus, a degenerative disorder of the eye, which causes the cornea to thin. She was prescribed special gas-permeable lenses that would help her to see, but they caused her excruciating pain, and she had to discontinue use. As her vision kept worsening and she was no longer able to do things that she used to do on her own, Lourdes thought that she would simply have to get used to the idea of being blind. She could not drive a car, take her son to the park and watch him play, or even read a book. Her life changed completely and she was now fully dependent on others. She constantly fell and had to deal with terrible migraines. However, an unexpected solution came when a co-worker told Lourdes that her son had had a successful corneal transplant and suggested that Lourdes visit her son's doctor. The doctor's diagnosis was the same, keratoconus, but the solution was different. She would need cornea transplants in both eyes.

By the spring of 2008, Lourdes received both of her transplants and she is now able to see again. "These transplants changed my life; I'm now able to do the things I once loved to do. I was even able to play in a kids vs parents baseball game with my son," says Lourdes. "That was a great day because I was able to see the ball."

Story and picture courtesy of Donate Life America

The Gift 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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We welcome your feedback and ideas. Please email questions, comments or suggestions to SETAPR@donorcare.org or call 352.514.4376.

The Gift is also available on-line at www.donorcare.org

