

Upcoming Events...

November 13-15, 2009

National Donor Sabbath

is a time when clergy and their congregation unite to increase awareness of donation and transplantation and the critical need for organ and tissue donors.

Do You Need...

Is your group, church, or organization looking for a special speaker? SETA is available for speaking engagements on tissue and organ donation or the new donor registry. Please send your request to SETAPR@donorcare.org and someone will get back in touch with you to schedule.

SETA also has informational brochures and posters available. These posters can help meet Joint Commission Standards for promoting donation awareness in the hospital. Contact your local SETA hospital representative to obtain these posters/ brochures or email SETAPR@donorcare.org

If you would like to participate in the Donate Life Florida (DLF) Workplace Partnership for Life Program, please contact SETA today.

Growth of the Placenta Donation Program Takes Off

Up to 100 People Can Have a Better Quality of Life

St Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville, Baptist Hospital in Pensacola and Cape Canaveral Hospital in Cocoa Beach are the latest hospitals to participate in the placenta donation program that Southeast Tissue Alliance (SETA) offers. The birth of a child is a truly remarkable gift and now through the donation of placentas the healing gift can be extended to others not only in Florida, but across the world.

On July 3, 2009 Dr. Michael Phelan of North Florida OB/GYN Associates, PA in Jacksonville delivered a healthy baby boy by Caesarean section (C-section). It is because of this planned C-section that the gift of healing through placenta donation is now possible. The circle of healing continued at Baptist Hospital when Dr. Paul LaRose of First Physicians delivered Tydarrion, 7 lbs. 3 oz. on August 4, 2009. Mom Chanteria Fountain was honored to be able to donate her placenta to help others regain something that had been lost, their eyesight.

Amniotic membrane has been used in ophthalmology since the 1940s but because of improper preservation methods available at that time, amniotic membrane's effectiveness was diminished and the usage very limited. In the late 1990's, a new method of processing and preservation was discovered and Dr. Scheffer C.G. Tseng reintroduced the use of amniotic membrane for ocular surface reconstruction.

The inside layer of the amniotic membrane (or amnion) is the inner most layer of the placenta. This membrane has physical properties similar to the tissue of the surface of the eye and has natural biologic reactions proven to reduce eye surface inflammation, scarring and pain.

SETA recovers the placenta on behalf of BioTissue, Inc. of Miami. The sterilized tissue preserves the inside layer of placental tissue and it is processed into a special substance called AmnionGraft.

The natural healing properties of the placental tissue will enable future uses in surgical applications of healing and scientific studies can be furthered through the new uses of this incredible tissue.

At the time of the placenta recovery, the delivering Mom is given an infant onsie outfit from SETA in appreciation for their donation.

Since beginning in 2005 with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and the North Florida Women's Care, more than 500 placentas have been recovered, resulting in improved eyesight to 50,000 people.



Chanteria and baby Tydarrion with Paul LaRose, M.D.



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

Towana, kidney recipient

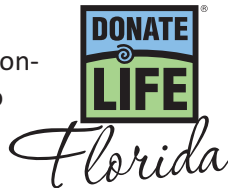
Click here >>



Florida

Florida's New On-line Organ & Tissue Donor Registry

On July 28, Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) launched the Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. Florida's new, on-line organ, tissue and eye donor registry is named in memory of lung transplant recipient and donation advocate Joshua Abbott, who passed away in 2006. This registry will allow Floridians to become donors on-line at www.DonateLifeFlorida.org.



AHCA has partnered with the statewide non-profit organization, Donate Life Florida, to oversee the registry and to educate Floridians about organ, tissue and eye donation. Funding for the registry comes solely from voluntary contributions to the HealthCare Trust Fund through the one-dollar donation Floridians make when obtaining motorist services at DMVs and tax collectors across the state. In October Donate Life Florida embarks on their first fundraising campaign, **What Can \$1 Do? Save a Life!**

The on-line registry also makes the exact wishes of registered donors more accessible and up-to-date for organ, tissue and eye recovery organizations. When someone dies, these organizations, such as SETA, will now be able to quickly determine, on-line, whether that individual is a potential organ, tissue or eye donor. They then carry out the donor's wishes, providing life-saving and life-enhancing gifts to patients in need of an organ, tissue or eye transplants.

Currently more than 104,000 Americans are waiting for life-saving organ transplants. "There are more than 3,700 patients waiting for an organ or tissue donation in Florida," says Kathy Giery, chairwoman of Donate Life Florida. "The on-line registry will help organ recovery organizations identify potential donors more efficiently in order to save more lives."

Donor Authorization - New SETA Policy

Donor authorizations will be handled a little differently at SETA beginning October 19, 2009 due to the 2009 amendment to Florida Statute 765 Part V – Anatomical Gifts, and the implementation of the new Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor Registry this past July. These changes affect how donation is addressed with the legal next of kin in cases where individuals have already documented their donation wishes on the Donor Registry.

The Donor Registry now provides us with a Verification of Gift. Since the wishes of the donor are clearly documented, and the next of kin cannot modify their wishes, any consent conducted with the next of kin would be contrary to the intent of the statute. As such, SETA's new approach will be to notify the next of kin of the donor's intent and provide them with information about the donation process.

This new procedure, sometimes called "First Person Consent", is part of the revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act that has been enacted in 39 states thus far including Florida. SETA understands from the experience of other like-organizations that in rare instances some families may still oppose the donation. We will do our very best to work with the family and treat them with the utmost respect and dignity while preserving the integrity of the donation process.

While the rights of the donor are paramount, SETA will handle discussions with family members compassionately and delicately with the understanding they have lost a loved one and have to deal with many end-of-life decisions. Our donor coordinators are trained to understand the family dynamics and answer questions about the donation process. We will continue to offer families the full range of our donation services including bereavement resources, the donor quilt program and remembrance and recognition ceremonies.

Check This Out!

- ✓ A new on-line Continuing Education (CE) Course - Tissue Donation for Research and Education is now available at the SETA website. Your SETA hospital representative will inform you when the next CE is published.
- ✓ The internet provides the opportunity for research and for us to find interesting stories from all over the U.S. From time-to-time, we will highlight such stories. "Paul's Gift", an hour long (eight part) documentary aired recently in Greenville, SC. The local NBC-TV station, WYFF 4 partnered with LifePoint and the Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center over the past two years to plan, coordinate and shoot this chronicle of life and death. It is well worth taking the time to watch this community educational tool about organ and tissue donation. www.wyff4.com/chronicle

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

