Draft for Newsletter Copy…

_____ Champions Organ Donor Registry

(Name of Your Business)

By signing up on the donor registry in Oregon or Washington, individuals who want to be organ, eye and tissue donors can clarify their intentions to their families and to the organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies.

There are three ways for people at least 15 years old to sign up on the donor registry:

- online at www.donatelifenw.org
- with a donor code on their driver's permit, license, or ID card
- on a paper form – call 503-494-7888 to request

The registry serves as "consent to donate" for those age 18 and older, relieving the family of the burden of making the donation decision in a time of crisis, fear and grief. Only authorized employees of agencies that recover organs, eyes, and tissues can access the database to validate whether a person wished to be a donor.

(Name of your business) has taken an action that really counts – signing up as a Workplace Partner with Donate Life Northwest, the 501-c3 non-profit organization responsible for educating the general public in Oregon and SW Washington about the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation. This means (name of your business) has committed to helping spread the word to employees and their families /volunteers/patients/clients about the donor registry and the crucial need for organ, eye and tissue donors.

"We are very excited about (name of your business)'s wonderful support, and hope other Oregon businesses will follow your leadership as trusted voices in the community helping to promote this important project," said Judith Trujillo, Program Director for Donate Life Northwest.

Donate Life Northwest reports some startling facts about donation and transplantation:

- The number of people in the U.S. on the organ transplant waiting list is now over 100,000. Approximately 75% of those need a kidney transplant.
- About eighteen people die waiting every day and 6 are removed from the waiting list because they are too sick to undergo surgery.
- While 92 percent of the U.S. population supports donation, just 20 percent sign up as donors in their state. There is no national donor registry.
- Advances in medical research and transplantation technology make it possible for one organ/eye/tissue donor to save or enhance more than 50 lives.

"The registry is a crucial and effective component in solving the growing donor crisis," said Trujillo. "Your support is critical to those who await the 'gift of life.'"

DMV, a community partner of Donate Life Northwest, is required by law to ask people getting a permit, new or renewal license or ID card whether they wish to have a donor code on it.

To sign up to be a donor or for more information, go to www.donatelifenw.org or call 503-494-7888.