



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Donate Life Northwest

www.donatelifenw.org

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DONATE LIFE NORTHWEST RECEIVES \$21,000 FROM OREGON CHAPTER OF FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES AUXILLARY

Klamath Falls Woman Leads Successful Fundraising Effort

Klamath Falls, OR (January 22, 2009)---Since nonprofit organizations depend greatly on financial donations for their operation, the current economic climate can cause sleepless nights for executive directors and their development staff. The concern is that belt-tightening will result in diminished donations. So when **Bonnie Cobb of Klamath Falls** telephoned Donate Life Northwest to say she was sending a check for \$21,762 to the organization, executive director Mary Jane Hunt and her staff were ecstatic.

Cobb had just finished her term as State Madame President of the Fraternal Order of Eagles of Oregon. In addition to the organization's ongoing support of several designated national charities, each statewide president selects a cause to focus on during her one-year term of office. Cobb selected Donate Life Northwest, the nonprofit organization that educates Oregon and Southwest Washington residents about organ, eye, and tissue donation, and motivates them to sign up as donors through an online registry and designation on driver's licenses.

The recipient of a heart transplant herself in 1999, Cobb knows the importance of increasing the donor pool. The greater the number of donors, the better the chance a patient has of receiving the lifesaving transplant they need. There are now more than 2,200 men, women and children in the Pacific Northwest waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. There are over 100,000 on the national waiting list. Each day, 18 people die while they wait.

Cobb rallied the 34 Eagles chapters throughout Oregon to help raise the \$21,000 through community-size events like raffles, cake walks and dinners. She's quick to credit everyone who worked so hard, including the male members of the Eagles, the Aerie. "I'm amazed at our results," Cobb said. "I'm so thankful to everyone for their time and energy in raising funds for Donate Life Northwest. I'm also excited about the number of people we got signed up on the registry at the events we held."

The electronic registry is one of three easy ways to indicate first person consent to become a donor in Oregon. Register online at www.donatelifenw.org; place a "D" on your driver's license at any Oregon DMV office; or request a paper registration form by calling 503-494-7888 or 1-800-452-1369.

"We are so grateful for this generous donation that will be used for our educational programs," said Hunt. "Bonnie's designation of Donate Life Northwest as her charity of choice has helped spread the message about the lifesaving importance of donation and added to our donor registry. What a great example of community spirit!"

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About Donate Life Northwest

By providing current information on organ, eye and tissue donation, Donate Life Northwest, a nonprofit organization, has been successfully advocating for improved donation laws, educating the public, and raising the region's donation rate since 1975. For more information visit www.donatelifenw.org or call 800.452.1369.