



March 2012 eNews

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NEWS OF NOTE

You're Invited! Madison High Students Plan Donation Awareness Events

By Valerie Egan, Program Coordinator

A group of bright young students have taken the idea of a student project with Donate Life Northwest to a whole new level. 18 seniors are working hard to plan and present a school-wide assembly and an evening concert, open to the public, on April 6th, 2012. Music, personal testimonials, videos and the opportunity to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor will make this a truly unique event, as well as an exciting kick-off for National Donate Life Month.



Madison High School Concert

The students' interest in donation and transplantation awareness began last spring, when they learned that classmate Alondra Soreque's mother, Maria Guadalupe, was in need of a kidney. More stories came to light, including a fellow student with cystic fibrosis, a teacher who received a lifesaving kidney transplant, and so on. Students soon learned that the need for transplants in many ethnic communities is disproportionately high (organdonor.gov). Troubled by these findings, the students committed themselves to designing an event which will increase the number of donors in their multicultural, multilingual community. Supported by their Health Occupations teacher Gillian Davis, the students hope to pack Madison's auditorium (the biggest in the state!) with supporters and community.

All are invited to attend the Madison High School "I Am Hope" Concert, April 6th at 7:00 pm in the Madison High School Auditorium, located at 2735 Northeast 82nd Avenue, Portland. You will hear the stories of health care professionals, living donors and recipients, as well as enjoy the talent of Madison's music and theater departments. Please join Donate Life Northwest in supporting this amazing event, as well as applauding these incredible students!

Todos están invitados a asistir a este evento bilingüe a Madison High School! Para más información contacta Valerie, eganv@ohsu.edu y 503-418-4035.

It's Almost That Time of Year!

By Judith Trujillo, Program Director



If April showers come in the form of donor registrations, Donate Life Northwest hopes it pours all month!

Please join in as annual and first-time events bring attention to the need for and impact of donation and transplantation. Quilt presentations in Bend, Eugene and Portland, a week-long Facebook event, and two student projects that have blossomed into community events highlight the excitement and creativity National Donate Life Month inspires.

For more information, please visit: www.donatelifenw.org/events/.

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Donate Life Northwest Wants to Share Your Story!

By Anna Pappert, Administrative Assistant



As part of Donate Life America's "I am Hope" 365 stories initiative, Donate Life Northwest will promote seven local stories about donation and transplantation during the first week of April, Donate Life Month. This important initiative raises awareness about organ donation nationwide through personal stories shared on social media channels, such as Facebook.

If you live in Oregon or SW Washington and have a donation or transplantation story to share, be a part of the story initiative by entering [the "I am Hope" Video Contest](#). The contest winner may be featured as one of Donate Life Northwest's stories of hope, as well as receive a \$150 gift card to Amazon.com.

A compelling video can be made using music and pictures representing your story of hope, with no actual filming required. Check your computer for movie making software. Both Macintosh and Windows operating systems generally come with software that easily piece together pictures and music.

For extra help, make an appointment to stop by the Donate Life Northwest office and staff will be happy to help assemble your video. Call 503-494-7888 or email info@donatelifenw.org to set up an appointment.

Go, Team!

By Judith Trujillo, Program Coordinator

Team Northwest, representing Oregon, Washington and Alaska, will join other teams of donor families and transplant recipients from across the U.S. for the [2012 National Transplant Games in Grand Rapids, Michigan July 28-31, 2012](#).

David Hall, Executive Director of the Seattle chapter of Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO), is the new manager of Team Northwest.



This Olympic-style event celebrates athletes who have undergone life-saving transplant surgeries, as well as living donors. From the Games website: "Competition is open to anyone who has received a solid organ transplant or bone marrow donation. More than just an athletic event, the Transplant Games of America highlights the critical importance of organ, eye and tissue donation, while celebrating the lives of organ donors and recipients."

For more information about joining Team Northwest at the 2012 Transplant Games, please email David Hall at team.akorwa@gmail.com.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION

Lions VisionGift Sponsors 2012 Golf Tournament

By Susan Chrzanowski, Development Coordinator



Lions VisionGift volunteers sport vision impaired goggles at the 2011 Golf Tournament.

Donate Life Northwest is pleased and honored to announce Lions VisionGift as the Presenting Sponsor of the 19th Annual Golf Tournament.

Corrina Patzer, Director of Business Development at [Lions VisionGift](#) says, "For over 35 years Donate Life Northwest and Lions VisionGift have engaged in an unparalleled partnership resulting in restored vision for thousands of cornea recipients throughout Oregon and the world. In honor of our donor families, Lions VisionGift is proud to sponsor the 2012 Donate Life Northwest Golf Tournament with the goal to raise awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation so that many more lives can be saved or enhanced."

Donate Life Northwest is so grateful for Lions VisionGift's continued support and commitment to registering organ, eye and tissue donors and saving lives.

Join Donate Life Northwest and Lions VisionGift August 7, 2012 at the Reserve Golf Club.



For more information, or to get involved in the 2012 tournament, contact 503.494.7888 or chrzanow@ohsu.edu.

Join Every 1

By Sara Patinkin, Development Director

Have you ever considered making a financial contribution to Donate Life Northwest but haven't? Well, now is the time! Individuals new to Donate Life Northwest are encouraged to make a financial gift by June 30, 2012, and *Every 1 Counts* will match it, [doubling the impact of the gift](#).

Every 1 Counts is a strategy to increase revenue, but more importantly, to connect with people who are passionate about supporting organ, eye and tissue donation. The funds raised through *Every 1 Counts* will support the education and outreach efforts of Donate Life Northwest. With the majority of individuals supporting the concept of organ, eye and tissue donation, the biggest challenge is educating the public to take the formal step to register. This education requires financial capacity that the *Every 1 Counts* campaign will support.



Board member, Katie O'Neill, supported the *Every 1 Counts* campaign by contributing to the matching funds.

For this campaign, Donate Life Northwest board members and loyal supporters have raised \$10,000 as a dollar for-dollar matching challenge up to \$10,000. **The match will apply to first-time contributions made now through June 30th.** Whether your contribution is \$1 or \$500 it will be doubled! Please give generously and help spread the word.

Help Donate Life Northwest reach the \$10,000 goal:

1. If you have never given, [make your first financial gift today](#). A gift of \$25 will become \$50, \$50 will be worth \$100 and \$100 will become \$200.
2. [Build a personal fundraising page on FirstGiving](#) and encourage friends and family to make their first gift. [Click here for an example of one](#).
3. [Join us on Facebook](#) to track the success of this campaign and share with friends.

Questions about *Every 1 Counts*? Contact Sara Patinkin at patinkin@ohsu.edu or 503-494-2289.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



Star of the Month

By Debra Freedman, Program Coordinator



February: Jen Collins Watson, Sponsor/Donor Development Representative for American Red Cross in Bend, Oregon got involved with Donate Life Northwest in 2009 soon after being hired at Red Cross. Because her supervisor Michael Mawdsley was then Donate Life Northwest's board chair, Jen quickly learned how important the partnership between Red Cross and Donate Life Northwest is in increasing organ, eye, tissue and blood donation in Oregon. When Jen attended the annual Lifesavers Breakfast, she sat with a young boy named Justice Williams. Always exuberant, Justice greeted Jen, "Hi, my name is Justice, and I have a new liver!" He shared his story of receiving a partial liver transplant at age 6 months. Jen was hooked!

Jen says, "I am so fascinated that we can donate parts of ourselves after we are gone to help others! Blood donation is so easy, and organ donation is even easier. It gives me hope to think that if something went wrong with my body or the body of a loved one, there might be a way to prolong other lives or improve their quality by receiving someone else's heart or tissues. Or that I myself might be useful to humanity. It gives me a thrill to think that!"

Since that day, Jen has been a full supporter of Donate Life Northwest. She includes Donate Life Northwest volunteers at all special events and blood drives in the Central Oregon region. She does not hesitate to spread both agency messages every chance she gets: "Bring me some forms so I can sign people up!" She has a passion for Donate Life Northwest that never wavers and we are truly fortunate to have her on Donate Life Northwest's team. Thank you for all you do, Jen!

[click here to view
Current Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Join Donate Life
Northwest On-Line!!](#)

