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The Ultimate Valentine's Day Gift



Around this time last year, there was snow on the ground. Melissa was enjoying the beautiful day, playing and having fun with her family and friends. She struggled with asthma for most of her life, and on this night, she had a severe asthma attack. She lost consciousness, and fell into a coma for five days. During her week in intensive care, her family learned that Melissa was a registered donor. Melissa died on February 14, 2014, Valentine's Day, and was able to donate her heart, liver, kidneys and corneas.

Melissa's mom, Cheryl, had hoped to meet her daughter's recipients one day. In May, on Memorial Day, her prayer was answered – she met Melissa's liver recipient, Mark. Cheryl and her family have become very close with Mark and his family. But they also hoped to meet Melissa's other recipients one day. Early this past summer, Mark and Cheryl spoke at the OHSU Transplant Picnic. They spoke about their story and struggles, and the beautiful gift that her daughter was able to give to so many. Little did they know that another of Melissa's recipients was sitting in the audience listening to them speak -- Melissa's heart recipient, Connie.

That day, Cheryl was able to meet her daughter's heart recipient and listen to Melissa's heart beating.

Many people think of Valentine's Day as a commercial holiday with candy and treats. But Melissa, her family, and her recipient families remind us that Valentine's Day is about love in all its forms. We celebrate Valentine's Day by remembering all the people who have been touched by donation, through struggles, triumphs, and love.

Thank You, Fred Meyer Shoppers!

If you linked your Fred Meyer rewards card to Donate Life Northwest, you helped earn nearly \$1,000 last year to build cultural appreciation for organ, eye and tissue donation. If you haven't yet linked your rewards account, please visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards to earn contributions for Donate Life Northwest — while still earning all your own usual rewards.



2015 Wish List

Are you willing to donate an item or service to a great cause? Donate Life Northwest is looking for amazing items to use as raffle and event prizes throughout 2015.

Two ways you can help:

1. Donate an item or items! Do you have sports tickets or backstage passes? Restaurant or hotel/resort connections? Would you like to put together a themed gift basket? [Click here to see our complete wish list.](#)
2. Help Donate Life Northwest solicit donations from your network. Reach out to your company, colleagues, vendors, and customers, as well as family and friends who may want to donate an item for a charitable cause.

100% of funds raised support our mission of saving lives and improving health in the Pacific Northwest!

If you can help, please contact Valerie Egan at 503.494.5388 or eganv@ohsu.edu. Items can be directly mailed to or dropped [at our office](#).



Translators Wanted!



As the Multicultural Education Program Coordinator, one of my main goals is to make the organization as inclusive as possible, while spreading awareness about our great mission to as many people as possible. To do so, I will need your help! Our service area has over 100,000 people who are native Russian speakers, and yet we do not currently have any materials available in Russian. There is also a large need for translation of our materials into the following languages: Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, and Tagalog. If you are fluent in these or any other language that you think might be of help and would like to translate some of our materials on a volunteer basis, please contact Deirdre Perez at perede@ohsu.edu or 503.418.4035. Thank you!

Deirdre Perez, Multicultural Education Program Coordinator

2015 Threads of Life Quilt

“Each square is unique and tells the story of incredible courage, faith, and generosity.”

It is an honor and privilege each year to have donor family members and friends, living donors, recipients, and recipient family members entrust us with the stories and memories. That time of year has come again when we get to celebrate these folks and put together the annual Threads of Life Quilt. If you would like to share a quilt square on this year's quilt, please get it in immediately, as the quilt ladies need to begin preparing the squares before the end of February. You can email Matt at webbema@ohsu.edu for more details. You can also find more information on our [Quilts](#) page.

