

THE LEGACY

A Publication of the Center for Donation and Transplant

Volume 10, Number 3

CDT Donor Mom Rides in 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade

TAMMY Mitchell never thought she'd find herself in Pasadena on New Year's Day. The Victory Mills, NY mother of three had never even been to California before. Although Tammy could not have anticipated the circumstances that led her there, the journey she had taken is one shared by thousands of families each year; those that lost a loved one and made the decision to donate life.

In July 2003, Tammy's son Thomas "Tommy" Michael Gailor Junior was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident at the age of 21. Despite not knowing Tommy's wishes regarding donation, Tammy and her family made the decision to donate Tommy's organs. Through his gifts, Tommy saved the lives of five people. After receiving a letter of gratitude from a teenage girl who received a lobe of Tommy's liver, Tammy became a strong advocate for organ donation, even giving the proceeds of her annual "Ride for Tommy" motorcycle rally to the Center for Donation & Transplant in 2005.

In April 2006, the Center for Donation & Transplant was offered the opportunity to sponsor a donor family member to ride on the Donate Life float in the 2007 Rose Parade. This was the first time CDT

was able to sponsor a rider to appear on the Donate Life float and represent all of CDT's donor families. Tammy was a natural choice to appear on the float, given the obvious, heart-felt pride she has in Tommy giving life to others through donation. She graciously agreed to appear on the float and travel to California at the end of the holiday season, and so on December 29th, Tammy departed for Pasadena along with her husband Lawrence "Buddy" Mitchell and CDT staff member Lauren Quinn.

Tammy was in good company on the Donate Life float. Riding with her daughter who left college for a semester to selflessly donate one of her kidneys to her ailing mother. A father, the float's first Canadian rider, who made the decision to donate his daughter's organs; she became Canada's first organ donor after cardiac death. A mother who had personal experience with both donation and transplantation, as one of her four sons lived an additional four years thanks to a heart transplant, and another became a tissue donor after he succumbed to injuries sustained in a car accident. The twenty-three float riders were all strangers, but quickly grew close through a bond strengthened by hope, renewal and for some, loss.



Tammy Mitchell on the Donate Life float.

See *Tournament of Roses Parade*, page 3

From the Executive Director

By Jeffrey P. Orlowski

What's Old is New

RECENTLY, there have been a number of syndicated news articles regarding a "new" trend in organ donation known as "donation after cardiac death" or DCD. This term refers to the practice of recovering organs in the O.R. after life support has been withdrawn and palliative care administered at the request of the family.

As has previously been discussed in the Legacy, DCD is really an old technique that, prior to brain death legislation, was the manner in which all organs were recovered for transplant. After brain death legislation came into being, DCD dwindled to a minute portion of donors largely because the less effective organ preservation methods of the time and the resulting lower success rate for DCD organs made organs from such donors unappealing to most transplant centers.

See *Executive Director*, page 3

In The News

MANY CAPITAL REGION media outlets covered Tammy Mitchell's journey to California to ride in the 2007 Rose Parade, including: the Times Union, the Saratogian, the Daily Gazette, the Troy Record, the Glens Falls Post Star, NY Rider, and WRGB.



HOSPITAL and Community Services Specialist Christina Collins participated in a roundtable discussion of Jodi Picault's book, *My Sister's Keeper*, that aired on March 12th, on WMHT's program, HealthLink. The book explores many bioethical issues of medicine.

FOR THE SECOND YEAR, CDT will sponsor the Donate Life Float at the patron level, allowing CDT to select a float rider to appear on the float in the 2008 Rose Parade. The theme of the 119th parade will be "Passport to the World's Celebrations." CDT will provide more information on the float and the parade throughout the upcoming year.

New Faces

JACKIE BROWN joined CDT in January as an organ procurement coordinator. Brown was previously employed at Samaritan Hospital as an OB technician for the past four years. CDT extends a warm welcome to her.

DONATE LIFE AMERICA, the non-profit organization founded by the transplant community to educate the public about organ, eye and tissue donation, has new materials to support their ongoing Empowering Testimonials education campaign. The new material features the true stories of transplant recipients from a variety of diverse backgrounds. The Empowering Testimonials campaign originally debuted in 2003 and is based on research that indicated that testimonials from real people affected by donation and transplantation were the most motivating approaches to educating the public to make a decision regarding donation.

Tournament of Roses Parade, from page 1

The Donate Life float incorporated the symbolism of the "gifts of life" into its design. The number of presents, bows and bouquets that adorned the float represented the number of lives that can be saved through organ, tissue and blood donation. The most striking aspect of its design was the large, red heart positioned at the front of the float; the first thing one could see as the float made its way down Pasadena Boulevard. The heart was composed of over one thousand roses, each one a personal dedication to those who have given, received, or wait for the gift of life. The night before the parade, Tammy placed each rose dedicated from the state of New York on the float.

Back at home, Tammy and her journey to Pasadena generated a good deal of attention. All of the major newspapers and several television news outlets from the Capital Region featured her story. Most importantly, the inspirational message to donate life and to share that decision with family was communicated to not only to those in the Capital Region, but to the millions of people around the world that watched the Donate Life float in the Rose Parade.



The Donate Life float makes its way down Pasadena Boulevard.

In 2008, the Donate Life float will make its fifth appearance in the Rose Parade, and CDT is proud to announce that it will once again sponsor a float rider. The 119th parade will be themed, *Passport to the World's Celebrations* and fittingly, will provide another opportunity to show the world the importance of donation.

The Legacy

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We Want to Hear From You!

If you are a member of an affiliated hospital who would like to advertise an upcoming event or submit an article to the Legacy, contact Lauren Quinn at (800) 256-7811 or via e-mail at lquinn@cdtny.org.

The Legacy is published on a quarterly basis and covers the health care community that CDT serves in northern and eastern New York, and western Vermont.

Organ Placement to be Made Easier with Electronic Placement System

BY THE END OF APRIL, a new organ placement system will help organ procurement organizations and transplant centers place organs more easily and quickly, reducing the critical time period between consent for donation and placement of the organs. On April 30th, all organ procurement organizations and transplant centers will be required by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) to make and receive organ placement offers through the electronic organ placement system DonorNet® 2007.

Currently, when an organ procurement coordinator places organs for transplant, he or she calls the transplant center of each patient on the waiting list; the first patient on the list is contacted first, the second patient is next and calls continue down the list if a transplant center has not accepted the offer. After it has received the call, the transplant center has one hour to decide if it wants to accept the offer on behalf of its patient. In most cases, it is only after a surgeon rejects an offer that the call is then made to the next person on the list. Under this system, placement can take hours if the offer needs to be extended to several transplant centers.

The new electronic system will save a tremendous amount of time by allowing multiple organ offers to be made simultaneously. Under the electronic system, an organ procurement coordinator will enter clinical data about the organs into the DonorNet® online system and then send an electronic notification to transplant centers that have patients on the waiting list. In addition to the electronic text message, the centers will also receive a phone call with an automated message relaying that an offer has been made. The coordinator will decide how many transplant centers should be notified of the offer, which can vary depending on the quality of the organ but will still follow the policy stipulating that patients receive the

offer in the order in which they are ranked on the list. The advantage to making an offer to several centers simultaneously is that if one transplant center rejects the offer, the center with the next patient on the list has already been informed of the pending offer. In cases where a coordinator is attempting to place an extended criteria organ, the ability to send the offer to several transplant centers ensures that the more aggressive transplant centers are aware of the offer.

After receiving the electronic notification, the transplant centers will then log onto DonorNet® to view the clinical information, which patient is being offered the organ, where the patient is ranked on the list, and if any transplant centers with patients ranked higher on the list have already rejected the offer. The center will have one hour to log onto DonorNet® after receiving the electronic notification. Once the center has logged on and viewed the information, it has the option of selecting, “no” it will not accept, or a “provisional yes.” A “provisional yes” allows the center one hour to decide if it wants to accept the organ on behalf of its patient.

Organ procurement coordinators and transplant staff will be equipped with wireless mobile devices and laptops to ensure that they can access electronic information regardless of their location. The United Network for Organ Sharing has been conducting extensive training on the new system over the past several months, and has already implemented the system in some regions of the country to ensure it is fully operational prior to the national implementation date. Moving to an electronic offer system is another step that UNOS, the organ procurement organizations and the transplant centers are taking to decrease the number of patients waiting for a life-saving transplant by ensuring that every donated organ is successfully transplanted.

Contact CDT if you would like to:

- **ENROLL** in the New York State Organ and Tissue Registry
- **OBTAIN INFORMATION** or donor cards
- **REQUEST SPEAKERS** for schools, civic organizations or health fairs
- **BECOME A VOLUNTEER** and help raise awareness of donation!

Call or write to:
The Center for Donation and Transplant
218 Great Oaks Boulevard, Albany, New York
12203

Or visit
www.cdtny.org

Executive Director, from page 1

Today however, as the list for transplant has swollen to near 95,000 people and the preservation solutions have improved, DCD has been making a comeback. In our own area, CDT has recovered 7 DCD donors with 17 organs successfully recovered and transplanted.

As I write this, 8 to 10 of our hospitals currently have DCD policies in place and the rest have or should have a policy in the development phase as JCAHO standards require all hospitals with ventilators to have a DCD policy. If you are unsure of your hospital's status relative to DCD, please contact your CDT liaison at 518-262-5606.

CDT has a standard DCD protocol that we are happy to share with any hospital as a model or template for their use. This protocol was developed by a large multi-disciplinary group including

ethicists, critical care physicians, surgeons, nursing, and hospital administrators. As currently structured, it has been followed successfully to guide the recovery of 5 DCD donors (the other 2 were recovered utilizing a hospital-specific protocol that pre-dated it).

In its current form, it assures appropriate and compassionate care of the person who donates, requires that the family initiate discussion regarding withdrawal of care prior to donation being discussed, and clearly separates the roles of the hospital-based care team (who provide palliative care and pronounce the patient) from the OPO-based staff and surgeons who recover the organs. It also addresses and adheres to the Institute of Medicine's guidelines for DCD.

If you would like to learn more about DCD, please go to:
<http://www.unos.org/news/newsDetail.asp?id=814>

CDT To Host 2nd Annual "Celebration of Life" Picnic

FOR THE SECOND YEAR, CDT will bring together donor families, and transplant recipients and their families for a "Celebration of Life" picnic. The picnic will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, June 3, 2007 at the Columbia pavilion in Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs, NY. The event is hosted by CDT to allow donor families and recipients to come together in a casual, family-friendly atmosphere.

Last year close to 300 guests gathered to share stories, get to know each other, and enjoy some barbeque cooking. CDT will once again be offering lunch along with a variety of activities during the day for both adults and children. A "save the date" mailing will be sent to families and transplant centers in April with official invitations arriving in May.



CDT volunteer John L. Callahan with Jodi Picoult, author of *My Sister's Keeper*. The Schenectady County Public Library recently hosted Ms. Picoult to speak about her book, which touches on organ donation. The library is also sponsoring a donor registration drive in conjunction with the author's visit.

In Memory Of

CDT GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS financial donations that we use to fund programs to educate the public about donation and to support our donor families. Often, the contributions are given in recognition of a CDT organ or tissue donor. Below is a list of people who were honored through donations given to CDT in 2006, as well as a list of organizations that generously support our cause. We would like to express our appreciation to all contributors for their support.

Amanda Emberley

Carl Lindroth

Daniel Rising

Donald Washock

Douglas Gracey

Eric Lawrenz

Helen McCullen

John Kelly

Linda A. Fox

Russell Collins

Barrett Associates

**New York State Assembly
Press Office**

NYSEG/Stephentown Employees

**Scotia-Glenville Teachers
Association**

TC Productions

United Way Schenectady County

United Way-Golub Employees

Verizon Foundation

2006: Year in Review

IN 2006, CDT continued to make great strides in increasing the number of organs and tissues available for transplant. The center facilitated donations from 52 organ donors, which ties CDT's record for the second greatest number of organ donors in a year. In the final six months of the year, CDT facilitated recoveries from 32 organ donors, which equates to three more donors than CDT has ever recovered in a six month period. A total of 149 organs were recovered from these donors and successfully transplanted.

The national goal relating to donation after cardiac death is for DCD donors to comprise at least ten percent of the total number of organ donors facilitated by an organ procurement organization. In 2005, DCD donors made up 3.85% of CDT's total number of organ donors. In 2006, DCD donors constituted 9.62% of CDT's total number of organ donors. The number of DCD donors at both of the Level 1 Trauma Centers in CDT's region (at Albany Medical Center and Fletcher Allen Health Care) comprised more than ten percent of the hospitals' total number of organ donors. The JCAHO standard concerning donation after cardiac death went into effect on January 1, 2007 so CDT expects its number of DCD donors to increase in the upcoming year.

The year 2006 was also a very successful one for tissue donation. CDT recovered tissues from 173 tissue donors, a substantial increase from the 133 tissue donors CDT facilitated in 2005. In the last six months of the year, CDT recovered tissues from 94 donors, the greatest number of tissue donors in any six month period in the center's history.

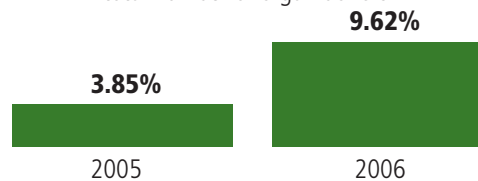
The last four years have been remarkable as the average number of organ donors annually recovered

by CDT grew from 47 donors annually (1999-2002) to 51 donors annually (2003-2006); recovering an average of three organs per donor that's nearly 50 more lives saved in the last 4 years as compared to the prior four years. Over the same time frames, the average annual total of tissue donors has grown from 133 to 152 donors; which equates to roughly 1,000 more tissue grafts provided per year.

These achievements would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the health care professionals at all of the hospitals that CDT serves. The staff at CDT will continue to work hard in 2007 to decrease the gap between the number of organs available for transplant and the number of patients waiting for the gift of life.

DCD donor percentage and tissue donation rose significantly in 2006

DCD donors by percent of CDT's total number of organ donors.



CDT facilitated tissue donors



Nominees Sought for "Nurse of the Year" & "Healthcare Practitioner of the Year"

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! CDT is accepting nominations for its 2006 "Nurse of the Year" and "Healthcare Practitioner of the Year" awards. Every year CDT honors a nursing professional and healthcare practitioner employed at a hospital served by CDT that have shown exemplary dedication and commitment to donation. The "Healthcare Practitioner of the Year" nominees can include doctors, patient care technicians, respiratory therapists or any hospital staff involved in the donation process. The winners are chosen from nominations provided by physicians, nurses, administrative and support staff. They will be formally honored at CDT's "Education Day and Awards Dinner," held on May 1, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY. All nominees will be formally recognized at the event.

You can nominate a colleague for either award by requesting a nomination form from your CDT coordinator. You can also e-mail your nomination directly to CDT at lquinn@cdtny.org or fax it to 518-262-5427. Nominations should include: name, title and phone number of nominee, hospital and unit where nominee is employed, narrative of why you think nominee is deserving of award, and your own (nominator's) name, title, hospital, unit and phone number.

Please nominate a deserving nursing and healthcare professional and help us honor a colleague dedicated to saving lives through donation.

CDT's Annual Education Day & Awards Dinner Will Be Held May 1, 2007

Once again, CDT is offering an educational program to accompany its annual appreciation and award dinner. The program is geared toward nursing professionals and will run from 1:00pm - 5:00 pm. Featured presenters include:

Michael Moncure, MD - Michael Moncure, MD, is currently the medical director of trauma at the University of Kansas Medical Center and co-chair of the Organ Transplantation Breakthrough Collaborative. He is a committed physician champion for donation and will lecture on optimal care for organ procurement from the trauma patient.

Trey Schwab - Trey Schwab, currently an outreach coordinator at the Wisconsin organ procurement organization, was an assistant basketball coach at Marquette University when in 2001, he was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a disease that was rapidly destroying his lungs. Mr. Schwab will share his incredible story and detail his journey from coach to patient to recipient of a double-lung transplant.

Jean Colaneri, ACNP, CNN - Jean Colaneri has 18 years of acute care experience as a practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, and nurse practitioner in renal transplantation. She is currently an acute care nurse practitioner for the renal transplantation program at Albany Medical Center. She is scheduled to present on, "Transplant 101."



The Center for Donation & Transplant's "Education Day & Awards Dinner" Reservation Form

Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at 1:00pm

Name _____ Hospital Affiliation & Unit _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone Number _____ Work Phone Number _____

Event Choice:

- I will attend the educational programming (1:00-5:00 pm) and the awards dinner (5:00-8:00 pm).
- I will attend the education programming only.
- I will attend the awards dinner only.

Dinner Choice:

- Veal Marsala
- Sole Florentine
- Chicken Cordon Bleu
- Penne with Vegetables & Feta Cheese

Due to the popularity of this event we are not able to offer you the option of bringing a guest. To reserve a hotel room at the Holiday Inn at a discounted rate, call 518-584-4550 by **March 30, 2007**.

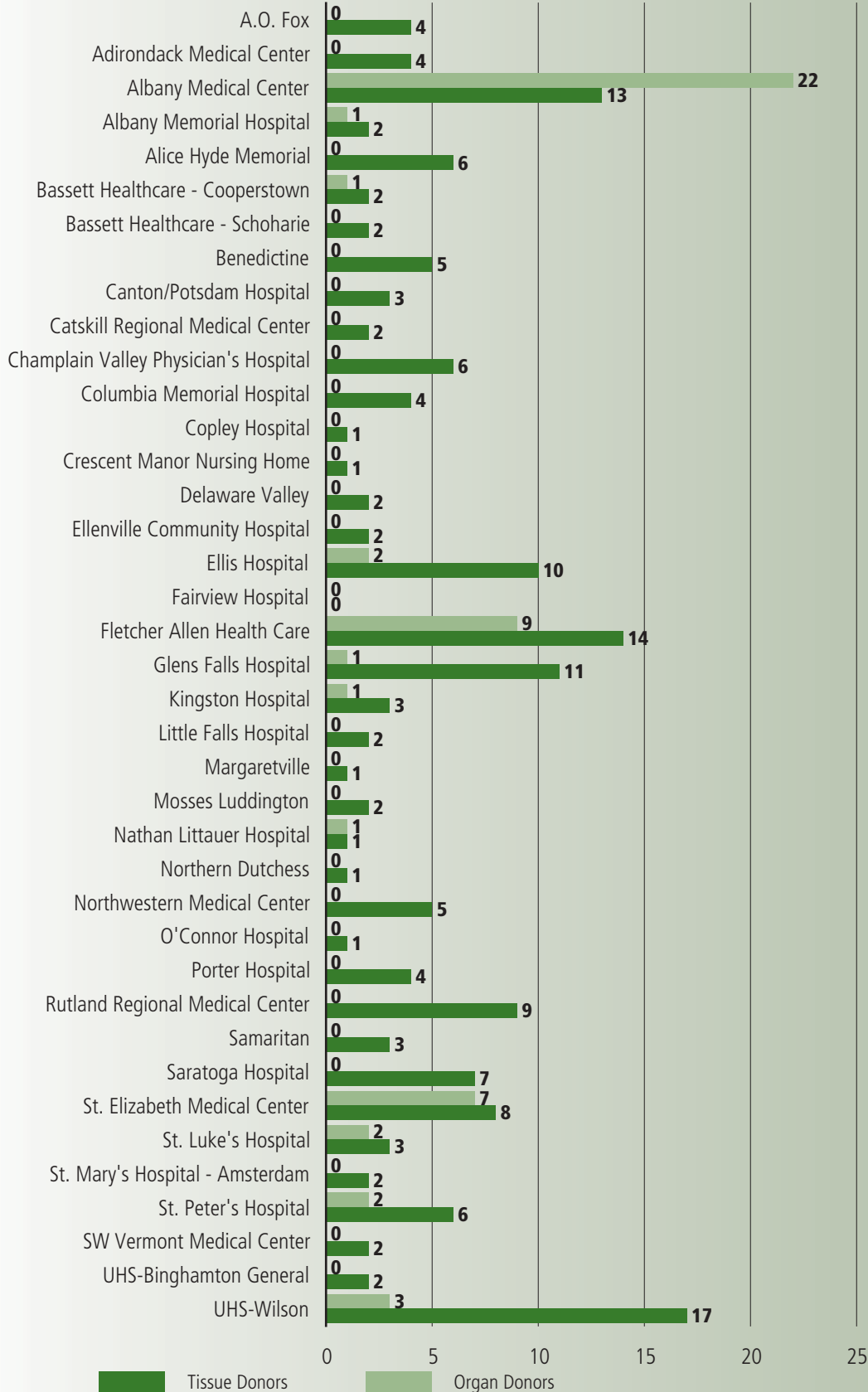
RSVP to event by **April 23, 2007** by sending reservation and full cost of \$10 to address below, or fax to 518-262-5427. You may also call (518) 262-5606 to reserve and pay at the door.

**Center for Donation & Transplant
218 Great Oaks Boulevard, Albany, NY 12203**

Donor Activity by Hospital

January 1 through December 31, 2006

173 total tissue donors, 52 total organ donors





Center for Donation & Transplant
218 Great Oaks Boulevard, Albany, New York 12203
Phone 518 262-5606, Fax 518 262-5427
P2301



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

April 1Donate Life Month begins

April 1Deadline for Amy Bindelglass Memorial Scholarship essays

May 1RNAC meeting

May 1CDT's annual "Education Day & Awards Dinner"

June 3.....CDT's second annual "Celebration of Life Picnic"

Please contact CDT at 518-262-5606 for further information about upcoming events.