

THE LEGACY

A Publication of the Center for Donation and Transplant

Volume 10, Number 2

CDT & Hospitals Recognized with Medals of Honor

ON OCTOBER 19th, the Center for Donation & Transplant and four hospitals in its region received a total of six awards from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for their performance in the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative and the Organ Transplant Breakthrough Collaborative. The hospitals honored at the event included Albany Medical Center, St. Peter's Healthcare Services, St. Elizabeth Medical Center and Fletcher Allen Health Care. The medals were presented at the 2nd Annual National Learning Congress on Organ Donation and Transplantation in New Orleans.



Albany Medical Center & CDT Staff

The hospitals each shared a Medal of Honor with CDT in recognition of their accomplishment in achieving the goal of the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative, reaching an annual conversion rate of 75% or higher for a period of 12 continual months. The conversion rate is the percentage of patients that become actual organ donors out of all eligible organ donors at a hospital. The conversion rates of the recognized hospitals in CDT's area ranged from 100% to 75.9 percent. Hospitals with eight or more potential organ donors during a 26-month award period ending in June 2006 were eligible for the Medals of Honor. Out of the 787 hospitals that met eligibility criteria, 371 hospitals were recognized.



Fletcher Allen Health Care and CDT staff with (second from left) James Burdick, M.D., Director of the Division of Transplantation and (third from left) RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Surgeon General

CDT received an additional two awards for its accomplishments in the Organ Transplantation Breakthrough Collaborative. The center is one of seven organ procurement organizations in the country that met or exceeded the HHS goal to recover and transplant an average of 2.5 organs from extended criteria donors within a six month



St. Peter's Health Care & CDT Staff

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From the Executive Director

By Jeffrey P. Orlowski

A Ride to Remember

ON January 1, New Year's Day, a TV audience of millions in 150 international territories will tune in to watch the 118th Annual Rose Parade®. Among the mass of bands and floats will be one local woman riding aboard the Donate Life float. This float is sponsored by numerous organ donation and transplant organizations throughout the United States and Canada including the Center for Donation & Transplant. This will be the fourth year the float makes an appearance in the Rose Parade® and the first time that a resident from CDT's region is riding the float in honor of CDT's donors and their families.

Aboard the float will be Tammy Mitchell, a donor mother from Victory Mills, New

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In The News



CDT staff members Lauren Quinn and Christina Collins were promoted to Hospital and Community Services Specialists. In their prior roles at CDT, Collins was a tissue/perfusion technician and Quinn a public relations specialist. In their new roles, Quinn and Collins will be responsible for hospital development, public education and donor family services.

Organ procurement coordinator Joey Nuqui has been designated a Certified Procurement Transplant Coordinator. The CPTC certification is bestowed upon those who pass an exam given by the American Board of Transplant Certification and who have at least one year of professional experience in the field of procurement or transplant coordination. Nuqui has been an organ procurement coordinator at CDT since 2001.

New Faces

Barbara York joined CDT in August as an organ procurement coordinator. York has over ten years of experience in emergency medical services. She was last employed as the director of operations at New Paltz Rescue Squad.

Steve Ruggles accepted the position of tissue/perfusion technician at CDT in August. Previously he worked at Mohawk Ambulance as an EMT. He lives in Altamont with his wife and two children.

Scott Taylor joined CDT in October as a tissue/perfusion technician. Previously he was employed in sales at Laser America. He has over 15 years of experience as a scrub tech.

CDT extends a warm welcome to all new employees.



From left: Scott Taylor, Barbara York and Steve Ruggles

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York. Tammy's son Thomas (Tommy) Michael Gailor Jr. died three years ago as a result of injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident. Tammy and her family generously donated Tommy's organs. As a result, five people received life-saving organ transplants.

Since Tommy's passing, Tammy and her family have sponsored a motorcycle rally/ride to honor him and to benefit various organizations that helped Tommy before and after his tragic accident. In 2005, Tammy donated the benefits of the second "Ride for Tommy" to the Center for Donation & Transplant. For each rally Tammy creates patches to commemorate the event that she hands out to all of the participants. In 2005, the patch read, "A Ride to Remember: Give the Gift of Life." Over the last couple of years, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Tammy a bit through her volunteer work at CDT and find her to be a wonderful spokesperson and ambassador for donation. When, some months ago, the decision was made to sponsor the float at a level which would allow CDT to have a

rider onboard, Tammy was an obvious choice to be that rider.

And so, just after Christmas Tammy and her husband Lawrence "Buddy" Mitchell, along with CDT staff member Lauren Quinn, will set out for Pasadena to participate in this great event. During the three days immediately preceding the parade, Tammy will have a number of opportunities to tell Tommy's story to the media, to explain why donation was the right thing for their family, and to encourage others to choose donation. In addition, Tammy and her husband will help finish decorating the float with some of the thousands of flowers that make up these beautiful rolling works of art. Knowing Tammy, among those flowers will no doubt be many roses for Tommy, lovingly placed by those who keep his memory alive.

I know this will be a "ride to remember" not only for Tammy and the 22 other float riders, but for the millions of people around the world watching the parade, inspired to make a commitment to "donate life" because of a float built with love, compassion, and hope.

The Legacy

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Medals of Honor, from page 1

period of time. Extended criteria donors are donors that are older and/or had a history of illness or medical issues that may compromise the function of one or more organs. CDT was also honored for increasing its total number of organ donors by increasing the number of organ donations after cardiac death (DCD). CDT met the HHS goal of DCD donors comprising at least 10% of all of its organ donors over a six month period of time.

Since the start of the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative in November 2003, there have been unprecedented increases in organ donation rates. In 2004, organ donation increased by 10.8% and was surpassed by an additional 6.2% in 2005. The organ donation rates for the first seven months of 2006 surpass the trend established in 2005. CDT will continue partnering with its hospitals to implement best practices designed to increase



St. Elizabeth Medical Center & CDT Staff

conversion rates and increase the average number of organs recovered per donor.

2007 Education Day Speakers Confirmed

CDT's annual Education Day and Awards Dinner (EDAD) will be held on May 1, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. The program will feature two presenters nationally known in the fields of organ donation and transplantation. 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. Michael Moncure, M.D., 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 organ donation and will lecture on optimal care for organ procurement from the trauma patient. More information about the EDAD program will be available in the upcoming months.

JCAHO Organ Donation Standards Revised on January 1, 2007

REMINDER to all hospitals that JCAHO standards regarding organ donation will be revised as of January 1, 2007. There are three key items which place new responsibility on hospitals. They include the following:

- In the rationale section of the standard, JCAHO places responsibility on hospital leadership to be committed to and create a culture supportive of organ donation.
- The hospital is required in multiple performance elements to refer donors in a timely manner before removal of any life-sustaining therapy and to support donors so that necessary evaluation and testing may be done, thereby preserving the option of donation for the family.
- The hospital is required to work with the OPO to develop a policy which addresses the recovery

of organs from asystolic donors. Such a protocol, known as a "Donation after Cardiac Death Policy" or DCD policy, allows for the recovery of organs from patients who do not meet the criteria for brain death. Such policies, in general, are instituted once a family has initiated the process of withdrawing ventilatory support from a loved one.

In August, CDT sent each of its hospitals a letter updating hospitals of these changes as well as a sample DCD policy. The staff at the Center for Donation & Transplant can assist hospitals in evaluating their compliance with these revised standards, and if necessary, to assist in developing and implementing changes. For more information, please call CDT at 1-800-256-7811.

Donor Designation Collaborative is Launched

IN OCTOBER, Donate Life America (formerly known as the Coalition on Donation) announced an exciting next step in increasing the number of lives saved and enhanced through organ, eye and tissue donation. The organization will be spearheading a new initiative, the Donor Designation Collaborative, in an effort to increase the number of actionable donor designations in the United States to 100 million. Achieving this aim means that 100 million Americans will have taken the appropriate steps in their home state to ensure that their personal decision to become a donor is recognized and honored. Currently, there is estimated to be 50 to 60 million Americans who have registered their intent to be a donor. The Collaborative aims to double this number.

The Donor Designation Collaborative will follow the framework of previous collaborative programs by identifying and implementing best practices. The goal for this Collaborative is to close the gap between the 90 plus percent of Americans who believe organ, eye and tissue donation is the “right thing to do” (as identified in a recent national quantitative study) and the estimated 20 percent who have effectively documented a donation decision. Achieving this goal will have an immediate life-saving and life-enhancing impact on those awaiting transplantation and will support the ongoing collaborative efforts to achieve conversion rates of more than 75 percent and 3.75 organs transplanted per donor.

State-based teams are being formed to work towards goals appropriate to their state. Teams located in states without a donor registry will aim to establish a registry; teams in states with registries that need development (such as those with intent registries instead of consent registries) will work to improve their registries, and teams in states that have highly functioning registries will work towards increasing the number of state residents who are enrolled in the registry. The members of each team will vary according to the state’s needs. Carla Williams, executive director of the New York Alliance for Donation, will lead New York’s team. Since Governor Pataki recently signed legislation converting New York’s donor registry to one of consent, the New York team will mainly focus on increasing the number of New Yorkers who have registered their intent to become an organ and tissue donor. Each participating team will plan, design, test, implement and measure changes in their respective state.

It is anticipated that the goal of the Donor Designation Collaborative will be met by Donate Life Month (April) 2008, meaning that donor registrations will increase by 40-50 million within 18 months. This initiative will work alongside the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative and the Organ Transplant Breakthrough Collaborative to increase the number of lives saved or enhanced through organ and tissue donation.



Carol Madeiros, vice president of Positudes and founder of the Lawrence Madeiros Scholarship, presents Cory Kruger of Fonda, NY with a \$1,000 scholarship for 2006. CDT is a co-sponsor of the Spintacular Race, which raises awareness of organ donation and hemophilia and benefits the Lawrence Madeiros Scholarship fund, which provides funds for incoming college freshmen living with a chronic disorder.

CDT Donor Mother Tammy Mitchell Will Ride Donate Life Float in Rose Parade®

ON JANUARY 1, 2007 Tammy Mitchell of Victory Mills, NY will ride the Donate Life float in the 2007 Rose Parade® in memory of her son Tommy and in honor of all of CDT's donor families. In July 2003, Tammy made the decision to donate her son's organs, saving the lives of five people. Since that time, she honors her son and the gifts he gave by being a strong advocate for organ donation. "I am thrilled that CDT asked me to ride on the float to represent of all their organ and tissue donor families," said Mitchell. "Donating Tommy's organs not only saved the lives of five people but gave hope and comfort to my family, knowing that a part of Tommy lives on in others."



Thomas Michael Gailor Jr.

not the case for us. June 30th was the day our world came crashing down. At 9:30 that evening, the doctors did Tommy's last neurological test. With great sadness I have to say Tommy had no response. Doctors said Tommy had a severe brain stem injury and there was nothing else they could do for Tommy. Not knowing what way to turn and having no hope, we had just pain and sadness. We were approached by two people from the Center for Donation and Transplant, asking us if we would consider donating Tommy's organs. Never really having talked about it in our house, I was



Tammy Mitchell

unsure as to what Tommy would want. Tom and his sister Brandy were very close. She was the one that helped us make the decision to donate his organs.

Tammy will be one of 23 riders from across the country and Canada to ride on the Donate Life float, themed *Giving From the Heart*. Every rider has a direct connection to donation as either a donor family member or a living organ or blood donor, reflecting the 2007 Rose Parade theme *Our Good Nature* by bringing to life the good nature of all organ, tissue and blood donors. This is the fourth year that the donation and transplant community has appeared in the Rose Parade, and the first year that CDT has sponsored a rider.

The 118th Rose Parade® will take place on Monday, January 1, 2007 at 8:00 am PST featuring spirited marching bands from throughout the world, majestic floral floats and high-stepping equestrian units. Read below about Tammy's personal story and visit www.donatelifefloat.org for more information about the float and its riders.

My name is Tammy Mitchell, loving mother of Thomas Michael Gailor Jr. On June 28, 2003, I thought I was going to be preparing for a graduation party. Instead I was in Albany Medical Center's emergency room begging doctors to save my son Tommy's life. On June 28th at approximately 9:30 pm, my son Tommy had a bad motorcycle accident. Still to this day it is unclear what happened. For three days we stayed by his bedside looking for signs of hope. Believing with every little twitch he made, it meant he was coming back to us. That was

It was a short while after that we received a letter from the Center for Donation & Transplant as to which organs were donated and how the recipients were doing that received the transplants. Tommy was able to give the gift of life to five people. I was happy but still very sad. Not only because I lost my son, but because I wondered if this is really what he would have wanted me to do. Then one day I received a thank you card from a 14 year-old girl thanking me for making the decision that saved her life. She had been sick for a long time with a liver disease. From that moment on I knew we made the right decision.

Every year we organize a memorial motorcycle run in memory of Tommy. This year will be our 4th annual Ride for Tommy. Proceeds from this event are donated to charities that involved our son either before or after that tragic night. Last year's ride proceeds were donated to the Center for Donation and Transplant to help raise awareness that organs transplants really do save lives. I cannot stress enough how important it is to let your family and friends know if you have decided to become an organ donor, or to go ahead and sign up to be a donor. If they ever have to decide for you, they know your wishes.

Sincerely,
Tammy Mitchell
(Tommy's mom)

SUNY Albany Communication Class Sponsored by CDT

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, operating under a Health Resources and Services Administration grant administered by the New York Alliance for Donation, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany has offered its students a unique communication class. The purpose of the class is to increase the number of enrollees in the New York State Organ and Tissue Donor Registry by developing and implementing a public relations campaign that targets the college student population. Every spring semester, the class works as a team to develop a campaign that includes marketing, media outreach, and event planning focused on encouraging fellow SUNY Albany students to join the registry. The class sets a budget, creates a logo and brand, and develops an outreach campaign to educate students and encourage them to sign a registry card and discuss donation with their family.

The 2006 class developed a “Be Someone’s Hero” campaign based on the Superman theme. Among other activities, the class hosted two different campus

events to educate students; an informational session with speakers and a “Concert for Life” featuring various local bands. Their efforts resulted in over 300 signed registry cards and educated countless students on campus.

The 2006 class was the final class to operate under the HRSA grant, which ends this year. The Center for Donation & Transplant will now be funding the class and will become the “client” for the class during the development, implementation and evaluation of the campaign. “We are delighted that CDT and SUNY Albany can continue to offer the class to students,” said CDT Executive Director Jeff Orłowski. “The class offers the students an opportunity to gain valuable work experience by applying what they’ve learned in college to an actual public relations campaign. The community benefits from the efforts of the class; a well planned public relations initiative that educates the public about donation.” The class will next be offered to students in the spring 2007 semester.

Mod Squad Open to New Members

THE MOD (Mothers of Organ Donors) Squad is looking for donor family members interested in joining their program and supporting families in crisis. The mission of the MOD Squad is to support families facing the loss of a loved one and asked to consider the option of organ donation. When appropriate, the MOD Squad volunteers are called to a hospital to support a family in need. The volunteers do not discuss the option of donation with the family. Rather, they are there to help the family in any way needed; bringing dinner, making phone calls, or just listening and comforting the family.

Previously, the MOD Squad consisted only of mothers of organ donors. The program is now wel-

coming all immediate donor family members, such as fathers, brothers and sisters of organ donors. Volunteers are needed throughout CDT’s service area (northeastern New York and western Vermont) and particularly in the Capital Region.

All potential MOD Squad volunteers must be at least three years away from the loss of their loved one to participate in the program. Prior to joining the MOD Squad, every potential volunteer is thoroughly screened and trained to ensure that they are able to provide appropriate support to families in crisis. If you are a donor family member and are interested in learning more about the Mod Squad, please call CDT at 518-262-5606.

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:

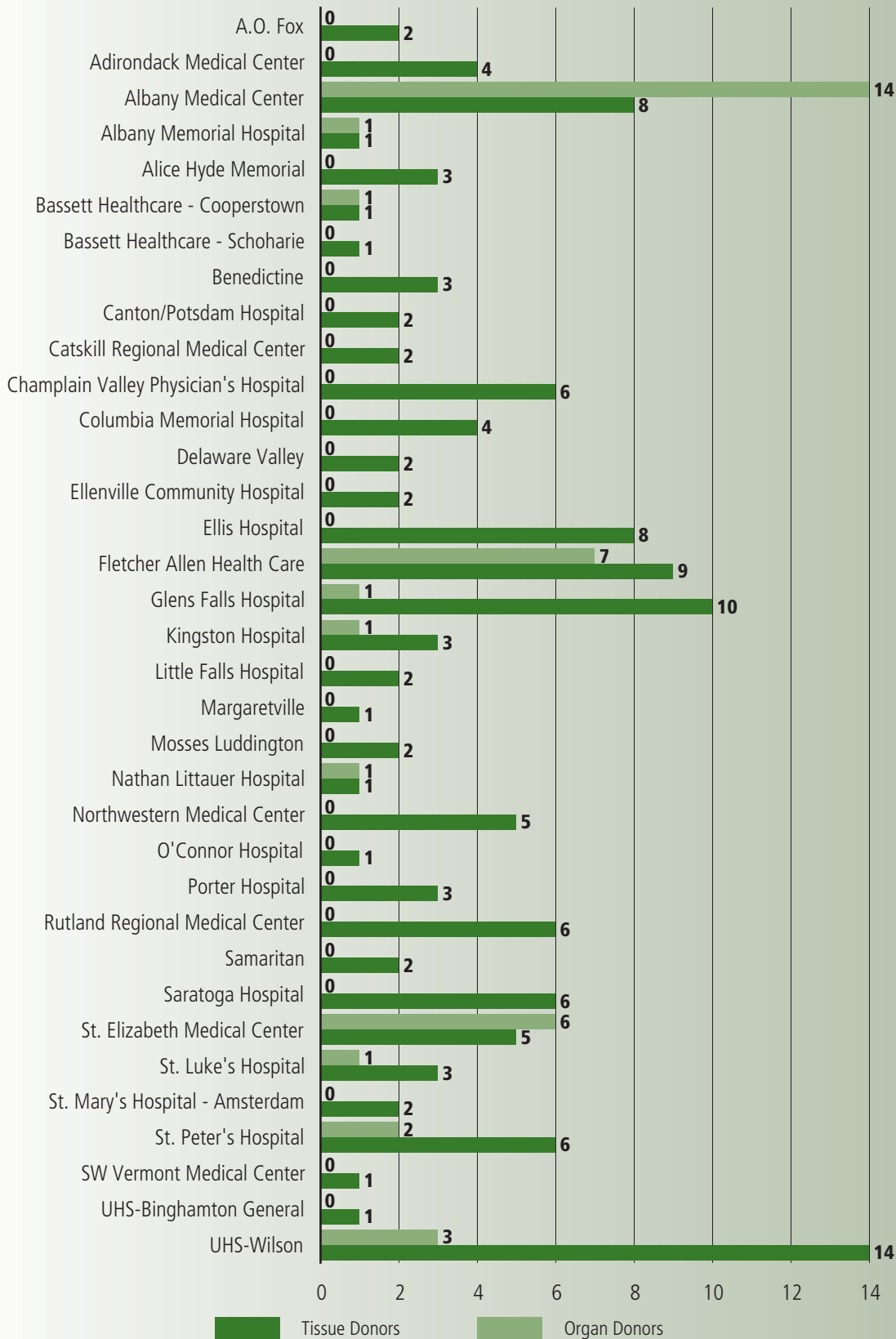
The Center for Donation and Transplant
218 Great Oaks Boulevard, Albany, New York 12203

Or visit www.cdtny.org

Donor Activity by Hospital

January 1 through October 31, 2006

132 total tissue donors, 38 total organ donors





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P2301



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

November 28NYAD Critical Care Conference, East Greenbush, NY

November 30RNAC Meeting, Albany, NY

January 12007 Rose Parade, featuring Donate Life float

February 14Saturn Donor Day

**If you have any questions about our upcoming events,
please contact Lauren Quinn at (800) 256-7811.**