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CDT TO RECEIVE MEDALS OF HONOR FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ALBANY, N.Y., October 16, 2006 – On October 19, the Center for Donation and Transplant (CDT) will receive a total of six awards from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the center's performance in a series of initiatives set forth by HHS to increase organ donation and transplantation. The awards will be presented at the 2nd Annual National Learning Congress on Organ Donation and Transplantation in New Orleans.

CDT will share four Donation Medals of Honor with the hospitals in its service area that achieved the goal of the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative, reaching an annual conversion rate of 75% or higher. The conversion rate is the percentage of patients that become actual organ donors out of all eligible organ donors at a hospital. The hospitals that will be recognized include Albany Medical Center and St. Peter's Hospital, St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Utica and Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vermont. There are just over 300 hospitals in the country that will be recognized for this accomplishment. It is estimated that achieving a nation-wide conversion rate of 75% would save thousands more lives through organ transplantation. There are currently over 93,000 people waiting for an organ transplant in the United States.

CDT will receive 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; these 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 is also receiving an award for increasing its total number of organ donors by providing more families with an opportunity to donate after cardiac death.

The Center for Donation & Transplant is one of 58 federally designated organ procurement organizations in the United States. The center coordinates the retrieval of donor organs and tissue at 46 hospitals throughout northeastern New York state and western Vermont.