



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dawn Hall

Carolina Donor Services

Phone: (919) 489-8404

E-Mail: dhall@carolinadonorservices.org

Thursday, May 06, 2010

NORTH CAROLINA DONOR REGISTRY MEETS CHALLENGE OF ENROLLING FOUR MILLION

Durham, NC – The 4 millionth North Carolinian joined the state’s organ, eye and tissue donor registry last month, making the registry the 6th largest in the nation. Just over 30,000 North Carolinians joined the registry during March and April, an increase of more than 50% from the same time period last year, enabling North Carolina to reach this milestone by the end of April, National Donate Life Month. The challenge to reach this registry goal by April 30th was issued by Governor Perdue and Representative Dale Folwell (R-Forsyth) in late March.

“We’re grateful for the generosity of North Carolinians who want to save lives by being a donor and for the DMV driver’s license personnel who give them the opportunity to register by placing a heart on their license,” said Tamara McLaughlin, Executive Director of Donate Life North Carolina.

The Heart Prevails legislation, passed in 2007, made the heart on a North Carolina license or ID card legal consent to donate. “This milestone belongs to the people of North Carolina starting with the DMV license examiners who ask that important question. North Carolinians can be assured that their decision to save lives through donation will be honored,” said Representative Dale Folwell, donor father and sponsor of the legislation.

Since 2007 more than 2,231 life-saving organ transplants have been performed in North Carolina and more than 10,000 North Carolinians have given the gift of life through organ, eye and tissue donation.

For more information about donation please visit: donatelifenc.org and carolinadonorservices.org

About Donate Life North Carolina

Donate Life North Carolina is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Made up of a group of members and

organizations with an interest in organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation, the coalition works as a statewide educational group to promote the life-saving gifts of donation. Its mission is to inspire all North Carolina residents to save and enhance lives by registering as organ, eye and tissue donors.

Member Recovery Agencies:

Carolina Donor Services is the federally designated organ procurement organization serving 6.1 million people in the eastern part of North Carolina. The service area includes 79 counties, 102 hospitals, and four transplant centers that perform heart, lung, liver, kidney, and pancreas transplants. With offices in Durham/Chapel Hill, Greenville and Winston-Salem, Carolina Donor Services performs public and professional education, as well as coordinating the entire organ and tissue donation process.

LifeShare Of The Carolinas is an organ procurement organization designated by the federal government to serve 40 hospitals in 22 counties in southwestern North Carolina. In addition to facilitating organ transplants, LifeShare also operates an eye facility and recovers tissue for transplants. Established in 1970, the agency works to inspire all North Carolina residents to save and enhance lives by registering as organ, eye and tissue donors.

The North Carolina Eye Bank was founded in 1951 after advances in ophthalmology led to the first corneal transplants in the 1940s. After legislation was passed for the funding of an eye bank, the North Carolina Eye Bank was founded and became the fifth eye bank established in the United States. Its mission is to procure, process and distribute ocular tissue for the restoration of sight through corneal transplantation and related medical therapy and research.

For more information, please visit www.donatelifenc.org and www.carolinadonorservices.org.

###