



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CAROLINA DONOR SERVICES HONORS
AND REMEMBERS THE TRUE HEROES OF
ORGAN AND TISSUE TRANSPLANTATION
– THEIR DONORS**

**CAROLINA DONOR SERVICES HELD THE ANNUAL
CELEBRATION OF LIFE CEREMONY THIS APRIL**

Durham, NC – Carolina Donor Services holds three regional Celebration of Life ceremonies each year to honor and pay tribute to their donors and their donors' families. On April 22nd, almost 200 donor family members gathered together at North Hills Club in Raleigh with Carolina Donor Services staff and Friends for Life volunteers. For over 15 years, Carolina Donor Services has hosted this moving event, which commemorates a time to remember, comfort and heal.

Katie Paulson, Carolina Donor Services' Life Anew Program Coordinator, opened the ceremony by welcoming all those in attendance. Teresa Hart, Family Support Coordinator, served as the evening's emcee. Ms. Delores Benton Evans, donor mother and kidney recipient gave a heartfelt testimony about her donation experience. Then the donor families had the opportunity to share memories of their loved ones and present beautiful and meaningful quilt squares that they created. The quilt squares will be sewn together into quilts, which Carolina Donor Services uses for a multitude of events and will be on display at next year's Celebration of Life ceremonies.

To symbolize the everlasting memory of their loved ones, the families recited a reflective poem while Carolina Donor Services staff lit remembrance candles. The evening concluded with the donor video tribute, which is comprised of photographs that each donor family submitted. One of the songs featured during the slideshow was from R&B group All-4-One, "When I Needed an Angel." This song was

written for Donate Life America after the group heard the stories from both sides of the donation process.

“These ceremonies are often the only times where our donor families can look around and see a room full of individuals who know the pain but also the pride of losing a loved one who gave the Gift of Life. We cannot tell them enough how much we appreciate them,” Katie Paulson, Life Anew Program Coordinator, stated.

There are currently over 106,000 Americans awaiting a life saving organ transplant. One organ, eye and tissue donor can save or enhance the lives of over 50 people. On average, 18 patients die every day in the US waiting for a donated organ.

About Carolina Donor Services

Carolina Donor Services is the federally-designated, non-profit organ and tissue donation organization serving 6.1 million people in 78 counties of North Carolina and Danville, Virginia. Carolina Donor Services maximizes the passing of the heroic gift of life from one human being to another through organ and tissue donation. In North Carolina, over 3,000 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant, and nationally, over 106,000 people are on the organ waiting list. For more information, visit www.carolinadonorservices.org; call 1-800-200-2672 or write 3621 Lyckan Parkway, Durham, NC 27707.

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