



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAN NORTH CAROLINA REACH 4 MILLION REGISTERED DONORS IN APRIL, NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH?

State Legislator to Issue Challenge at Press Conference on March 25

Durham, NC – North Carolina is approaching a milestone of 4 million registered donors as April, National Donate Life Month, draws near. The month is a time to celebrate the tremendous generosity of those who have saved and enhanced the lives of others by becoming organ, tissue, and eye donors. Rep. Dale Folwell (Winston-Salem) will issue a challenge to North Carolinians to reach that goal by April 30 which will require nearly doubling the normal pace of registered donors. The press conference will take place on Thursday, March 25, 2010, at 2:00pm in front of the state legislative building in downtown Raleigh. Rep. Folwell said, "After a long winter, North Carolinians are ready to rally around something positive like organ donation. If everyone would simply look at their driver's license and respond on-line at www.donatelifenc.org or by going to a DMV office and adding a heart, the great state of North Carolina can hit the unprecedented four million donor mark. Anywhere in North Carolina where twenty people or more are gathered someone has been impacted by organ donation as a donor family, recipient, or lost a loved one waiting for an organ."

Tony Spence, the Director of Driver and Vehicle Services for the NC Department of Motor Vehicles, will also make remarks about the important role the DMV and driver's license examiners plays in donation. Spence said, "It's exciting that we're approaching 4 million North Carolinians who have signed up with the DMV to save lives through the donor registry. We applaud the response of our citizens and the efforts of our driver license examiners to reach this milestone while performing the multitude of tasks they do on a daily basis. We believe that the fact our examiners take this lifesaving

program seriously is a major factor in its success."

Delores Benton Evans, of Durham, NC, received son Ryan's kidney the day after he died and will share her touching story. Travis Hardee, a recent heart recipient from Greenville, NC, will share how thankful he is to have a second chance at life.

Nationally, there are over 105,000 people on the waiting list for a transplant and over 3,300 people are currently waiting in North Carolina. Approximately 12 new names are added everyday and, sadly, 18 people in the United States die every day waiting for a life-saving transplant.

To register, North Carolinians can have a red heart added to their driver's license at their local DMV office or register anytime online at www.donatelifenc.org. This registration constitutes first person consent so everyone is encouraged to share their decision with family and friends.

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 ensure that every person in North Carolina understands the critical need for organ and tissue donation, and is able to make an informed decision about donation.

Members:

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.

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