



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NORTH CAROLINA DONOR FAMILY TO  
ATTEND U.S. TRANSPLANT GAMES JULY  
30-AUGUST 4, 2010**

**TRANSPLANT ATHLETES AND DONOR FAMILIES TO  
GATHER FOR  
OLYMPIC-STYLE EVENT**

**Durham, NC** – North Carolina resident, Judi McCartney, and her daughter, Amanda Stickle, are packing their bags for Madison, Wisconsin. McCartney, an active volunteer for Carolina Donor Services, will attend the 2010 National Kidney Foundation's U.S. Transplant Games in honor of her son, Jacob DeDarmo. Jacob, died in a car accident in 2002, at the age 19, and became a tissue donor.

The Transplant Games are an Olympic-style event for athletes who have received life-saving organ transplants of every type – kidney, liver, heart, lung, pancreas and bone marrow. Transplant athletes will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals in 12 different sports, including track and field, swimming, tennis, basketball, cycling and golf. In addition to athletic competition, the Games will feature special ceremonies honoring living organ donors and families of deceased organ donors. The Games will also offer four days of special workshops for donor families, an educational program for professionals involved in transplantation, a special Celebrate Life Night and a Community 5K Run to promote organ and tissue donation.

" My daughter and I are so excited to be attending the Transplant Games at the end of this month. This past Sunday, we met some of the Team Carolinas athletes and their families from both North and South Carolina and also donor families from South Carolina at the kick off meeting in Charlotte," says McCartney. "We are planning to attend a number of events at the Games including the Donor Recognition Ceremony and the Quilt Pinning Ceremony. I look forward to seeing the finished quilt

piece I made for my son, Jacob DeDarmo, Amanda's twin brother.”

Attendance at the 2010 U.S. Transplant Games is expected to reach 7,000 people, including transplant athletes, their families and friends and families of organ and tissue donors. More than 108,000 Americans are currently on the waiting list for life-saving organ transplants, over 3,000 of them are right here in North Carolina. The purpose of the Transplant Games is to showcase the success of transplantation, demonstrate the life-saving power of organ donation and encourage every American to consider becoming an organ donor.

#### **About Carolina Donor Services**

Carolina Donor Services is the federally-designated, non-profit organ and tissue donation organization serving 6.8 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 3,400 people are currently waiting for an organ transplant, and nationally, over 107,000 people are on the organ waiting list. For more information, visit [www.carolinadonorservices.org](http://www.carolinadonorservices.org); call 1-800-200-2672 or write 3621 Lyckan Parkway, Durham, NC 27707.