

Focus

The Organ and Tissue Donation Newsletter

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Donor Family Profile

"Making the decision to be an organ donor family and giving the gift of life turned out to probably be one of the best presents we ever received. Seven and a half years ago my brother Scott Hubley died and left behind 5 young children. Although he is gone we often talk about how he lives on in others and that brings us enduring great comfort. We still look back with pride, contentment and a great sense of accomplishment. The gift we gave turned out to become a present to us all. Sign a donor commitment.

Discuss your wishes with your loved ones. Make the right choices if you are ever faced with the decision to donate. I would also like to strongly encourage all donor recipients to write to donor families. Your notes are cherished beyond belief."

- Heather Horne, Sister of donor Scott Hubley (fall of 1999) -



Did you know ???

- 1 organ donor can save up to 8 lives. A single tissue donor can help over 50 people.
- People of any age can donate organs and most people less than age 70 can donate tissues if they are medically suitable.
- By donating heart valves, you may save 2 lives. These valves may be surgically transplanted to children born with defective valves or congenital heart defects.

News and Updates

◦ The Critical Care Organ Donation Program here at Capital Health is participating in a *National Organ Donation Collaborative* to improve organ donation within our institution. Improving the donation process will increase the referral and conversion rates and enhance quality end of life care for potential organ

donors and their families. This initiative was started in November 2006 and will continue until July 2007. Please contact the program manager Peter MacDougall (902-473-4122) for more information.

◦ Bereavement Support Group - *Mother of Angels Society* is a non profit support

group for mothers who have lost a child. Currently in its 2nd year, it has 30 members that help each other through the grieving process. The founder, Lynn Roberts (902-543-1702) encourages mothers to use this group as a resource to assist with the healing.

Education

◦ On March 15-17 the Canadian Association of Transplantation hosted their annual conference in Banff. This year the program included end of life, donation after cardiac death, recipient and donor family perspectives. Please

visit the official web site for more information <http://www.transplant.ca/index.htm>

◦ Kate Hackett and Heather MacDonald will be presenting at the VGH Auditorium Tuesday May 8th to discuss "The

Gift of Sight Through Cornea Donation". Lunch will be provided (12:00-13:00 hours); all are invited to attend. RSVP to Karen Nicholls (902-472-3811) by May 1st.

Upcoming Events

o The *Gift of Life Donor Family Recognition Ceremony* will be held on May 6, 2007 at the HolidayInn Select, Halifax. This important event is held every year to honour donors and their families who have given the gift of life. This year's master of ceremonies will be Tony Quinn and guests will be welcomed with opening remarks by Chris Power - President and CEO of CDHA, Dr. Ward Patrick and Dr. J.F. Legare. Guest speakers for the event will be transplant recipients David Parker and Nena Naus. The donor families will be presented with certificates and medals of

honour by Lynn and Peter Roberts (donor family) and a closing blessing will be delivered by Patricia O'Halloran. The Critical Care Organ Donation Program and the Regional Tissue Bank wish to acknowledge the generous support of The Multi-Organ Transplant Program and the Nova Scotia Department of Health in presenting this year's ceremony.

o The Critical Care Organ Donation Program and the Regional Tissue Bank are celebrating *National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week* (April 22 - 29,

2007). Activities include staff education sessions at The Halifax Infirmary, Eastern Shore Medical Centre and The IWK. Watch for our information cards in the HI, VG and IWK cafeterias and for our displays in the Dartmouth General Hospital lobby and IWK lobby. Everyone is welcome to visit an awareness booth:

- *Halifax Infirmary: April 25*
 (1200 - 1400 hours) *Summer St. Entrance*
 - *Cobequid Community Health Centre: April 27* (1200 - 1400 hours) *Food Kiosk*
 - *Dartmouth General Hospital: April 24* (1200 - 1400 hours)

Critical Care Organ Donation Program and Regional Tissue Bank Contact Information

Critical Care Organ Donation Program
 RM. 4091 A.J. Lane Memorial Bldg.
 5909 Veterans' Memorial Lane
 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2E2
 Tel (902) 473-5523
 24 hours - GBI Locating (902) 473-2220
 Ask for Donor Coordinator on call

Regional Tissue Bank
 5788 University Ave. Halifax
 B3H 1V7
 General Inquiries - (902) 473-4171
 24 hours - GBI Locating (902) 473-2220
 Ask for Tissue Bank Specialist on call

Did you know ???

- Any health care team member can call the Donor Coordinator with a referral for a potential organ or tissue donor. For a potential tissue donor, call the Regional Tissue Bank Specialist.
- Tissues such as tendons, bone, corneas, pericardium and fascia can improve and restore quality of life to patients.
- Organ and tissue donation do not cost the donor's family any money.
- Call with any questions—a referral does not always lead to donation and does not imply commitment from the family to donate.

Website Information

Local Websites:

- <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/tissuebank/tissueBank.html>
- <http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/criticalcare/index.html>

Canadian Council for Donation and Transplantation

- <http://www.ccdt.ca>



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