

## Focus

# The Organ and Tissue Donation Newsletter

### Donor Family Profile

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#### Did You Know?

- Deceased persons up to the age of 80 may donate tissues for transplantation
- Families find comfort and solace in their decision to donate organs and tissues
- Families may choose an open casket after tissue recovery
- Donated tissue including skin, heart valves and bone may be stored up to five (5) years

At a time of immense grief, Pat O'Shea and his daughter Katelyn made a decision that continues to bring them comfort. Faced with the death of Norma, beloved wife and mother, they chose organ donation, determined that others should benefit from their loss. "Nothing was going to change what happened to Norma," says Pat. "We had an opportunity to give someone a second chance, and to change the lives of others. It's an amazing gift."

Pat and Katelyn knew Norma would have made the same choice - they had discussed organ and tissue donation candidly as a family following the death of

Norma's nephew and his family's decision to donate. Organ and tissue donation was very much in line with Norma's giving spirit. "She was always so up and bright - seeing the good in everybody and every situation," says Pat. "This is what she would have wanted."

The O'Shea family now proudly displays a framed letter on their mantle. It tells of how seven different people benefited from Norma's gift. "In such tragedy, there is greatness," says Pat. "It's amazing to be part of it." On Nov. 23, Pat and Katelyn dedicated a painting to the Intensive Care Unit in Norma's memory. The painting depicts boats sailing on a beautiful day, and a quote



engraved on its frame speaks to the philosophy of the O'Shea family: "You cannot change the wind...but you can adjust your sails."

### Exciting News and Updates

**The Gift of Life Donor Recognition Ceremony** will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Select, Halifax. This important celebration is held every year to honor organ and tissue donors and their families who have given the gift of life and sight. This year's master of ceremonies will be Parker Barss Donham and guests will be welcomed with opening remarks by Kathleen Graham - VP of Acute Care at Capital Health, Dr. Stephen Beed, Donor family member Pat d'Molitor, ICU nurse Deb Enders, and transplant recipients Scott Livingstone and Cindy Kays. The donor families will be presented with certificates and

medals of honour by Lynn and Peter Roberts (donor family). 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

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 **David Foster and Friends presented Crescendo**, a charity gala and concert event of world-class magnitude!!! The purpose of the gala was to raise money in support of The David Foster Foundation; a charity whose aim is to help children requiring organ trans-

plants and their families in their time of greatest need. The generosity of Atlantic Canadians was evident as the event raised over \$1.6 million. Lucky attendees were able to enjoy a wide range of musical talents including Maritime icons Lennie Gallant and Gordie Sampson, 11 year old prodigy Jamia Simone Nash, Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and **Natalie Cole**. Partygoers were almost "Dancing on the Ceiling" when **Lionel Richie** performed, and he closed the gala by almost bringing down the house. It was an event of a lifetime and successfully raised awareness about donation and transplantation!

### Did You Know?

- Heart valves (aortic and pulmonic) are used by cardiovascular surgeons to repair birth defects, leaky valves and to treat endocarditis
- Recipients who receive mechanical heart valves require life long anti-coagulation therapy. Surgeons prefer to use donated human heart valves for women of child bearing age and children
- Bone is the second most transplanted tissue in the world, second only to blood
- The following bones may be recovered: Humerus, tibia, fibula, femur, ileum
- Donated bone is used daily in Operating Rooms across the country to treat traumatic injuries, bone loss due to cancer and hip replacements
- Rigid screening and testing ensures only the safest tissues are transplanted
- Sclera is used to treat traumatic eye injuries and is used for many glaucoma procedures
- Corneas are transplanted within 7 days of recovery, restoring sight to two (2) recipients
- Plastic surgeons use donated skin to treat critically burned patients
- A critically burned patient may require up to two hundred (200) skin grafts during their recovery and rehabilitation

### Donation After Cardiac Death

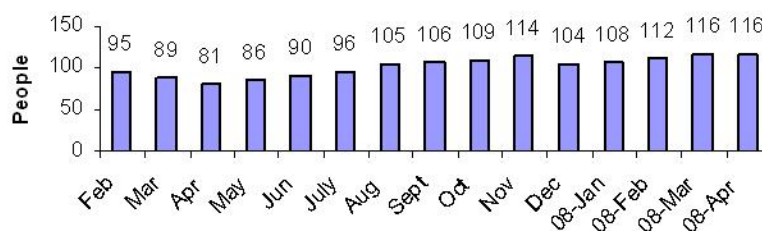
A program entitled "Donation after Cardiocirculatory Death (DCD) – Is It Right for Us?" was held on March 29, 2008 in Halifax, sponsored by the Canadian Council for Donation and Transplantation (CCDT). Co-chaired by Dr. Stephen Beed and Dr. Brendan Carr from Capital Health, the guest speakers

included Denise Klavano (Regional Tissue Bank), Kim Young (CCDT), Dr. Michael Molinari, Dr. Sam Shemie, Dr. Hazel Markwell (St. Joseph's Health Centre, St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto), Kevin O'Connor (New England Organ Bank), Frank Markel (Trillium Gift of Life Network), Dr. Joe Pagliarello

(Ottawa Hospital) and Amy Taylor (London Health Sciences Centre). The presentations and discussions were very informative and the day was a great success.

A working group under the direction of Dr. Stephen Beed has been organized to define the policy and procedures for DCD at Capital Health.

Cornea Waitlist 2007 2008



### Dual Advocacy: A Value Positive Approach to Obtaining Consent for Organ/Tissue Donation

Interacting with a grieving family and providing end of life care can be stressful for even the most experienced and competent clinician. Building a relationship of trust and empathy with the family when they are most vulnerable requires time and great skill.

Consideration for organ and tissue donation is standard end of life care and must be offered to all families where appropriate. Historically, the "family approach"

practices evolved around our concern of protecting families and resulted in standard donation conversation.

The traditional approach was neutral; the information shared with the family met the legal requirements of an informed consent but is the family truly empowered in their decision if the impact of their gift is not discussed?

Most families, given the chance will want to help someone. Over 50 % of all Nova Scotians have regis-

tered their wish to be an organ and tissue donor with MSI.

Dual advocacy philosophy asserts that an honest and meaningful conversation about donation that includes discussing the benefit and impact of the gift facilitates the grieving family in making an informed choice. The legacy of their gift and benefit to the recipient is shared with the family in a respectful and honest conversation.

### 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 2E3  
Tel (902) 473-5523  
24 hours - QEII Locating (902) 473-2220  
Ask for Donor Coordinator on call

Regional Tissue Bank  
5799 University Ave.  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1V7  
General Inquiries (902) 473-4171  
24 hours - QEII Locating (902) 473-2220  
Ask for Tissue Bank Specialist on call

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