



Donate Life West Virginia

Fourth Annual Learning Conference

Stonewall Jackson Resort

October 13-14, 2009

Donate Life West Virginia Conference 2009

The first day of the conference featured presentations from Michael Glass, Certified Tissue Bank Specialist, Tissue Coordinator, Lifeline of Ohio, and Steve Hendricks, Senior Technologist, the West Virginia Eye Bank.

The presentations were entitled “Life Enhancing Tissues” and “Enhancing Life through the Gift of Sight.”



A Mother's Perspective



Sue Landacer, RN, United Hospital Center, Clarksburg, gave the moving and inspirational presentation “A Mother’s Perspective.” Sue lost her youngest child and only son in a car accident. Her decision to donate his organs saved four separate lives. The smiling little boy on the screen is Sue’s son.

Quilt Pinning Ceremony



Donor families offer continued respect for their loved ones through quilting programs provided by West Virginia's organ procurement officials (OPOs): the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE); Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA); Lifeline of Ohio; and Lifenet Health. Here, hospital staff were given the honor of placing quilt pieces for donor families onto a new Donate Life West Virginia Collaborative Quilt. It is a joint effort by all of West Virginia's OPOs.

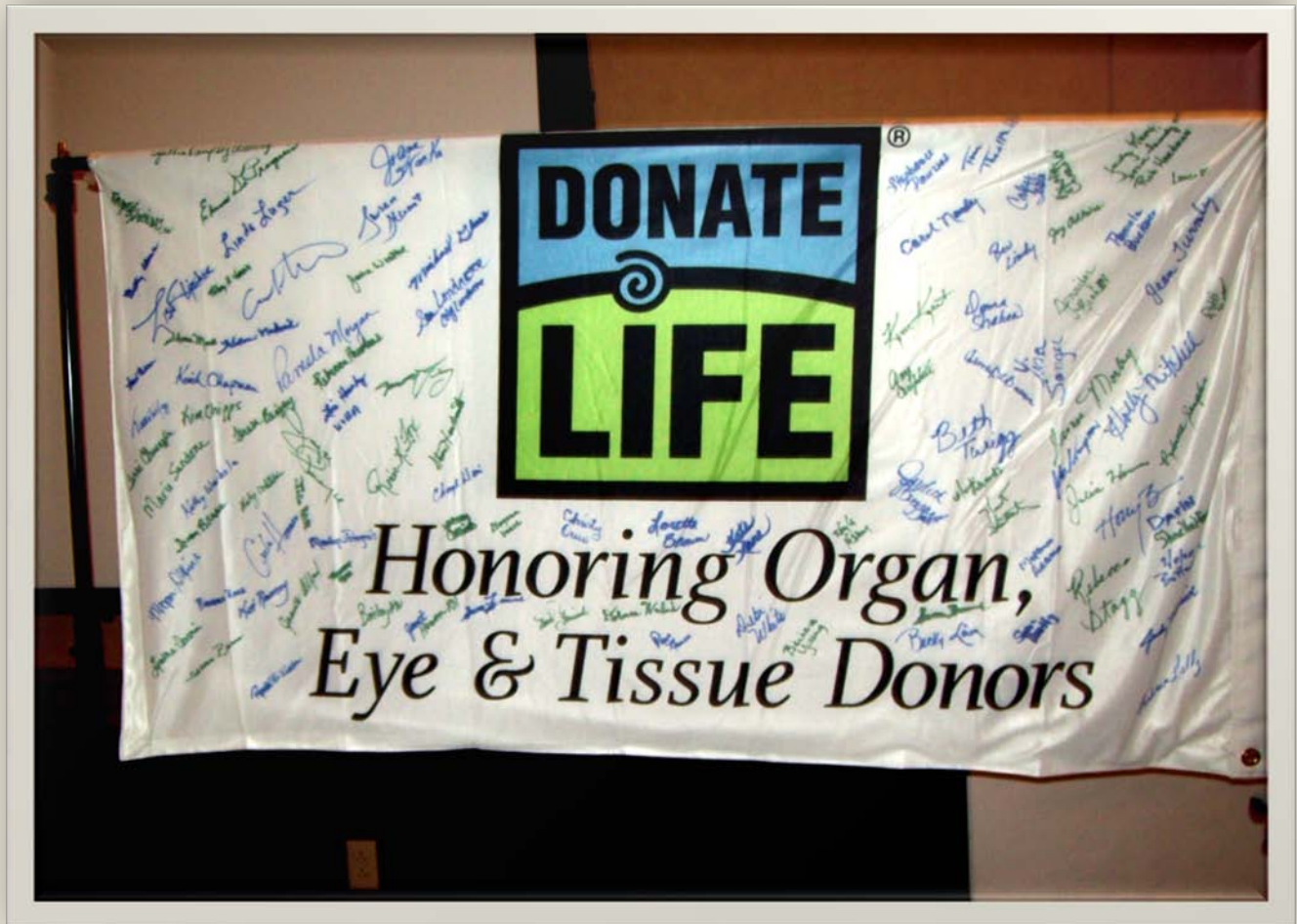
Breakout Sessions



After breakout sessions, hospital participants discussed what they had learned and talked about ways to improve their organ donation policies. Breakout sessions were varied, and included: "Models for Advancing Tissue and Eye Donation," presented by Linda Luger, RN, and Pam Buckner, RN, both of St. Francis Hospital; "Pastoral Care: Family Support Scenarios: Advocacy in Action," presented by Charleston Area Medical Center's Sister Frances Kirtley and Dr. Debbie Cotes; and "Public Relations: Do Negative Stories Affect the Public's Willingness to Donate?" by Joy Adkins of Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates.

Participants' Signatures

Conference participants were asked to sign the Donate Life flag honoring organ, eye and tissue donors. The flag was displayed during the conference, and will be kept by CORE for later use.



Feature Speakers: Charlotte and Emmitt Ray

In their feature presentation, the Rays told of an experience they had in the hospital after their son's death in a motor vehicle accident. Emmitt was adamant with hospital staff that his son would never want to have his organs removed. His wife, Charlotte, however, had by chance had a recent discussion with her son during which he spoke of his desire to be an organ donor. Mrs. Ray told her husband about the conversation with her son, and the two decided to honor his wishes.



West Virginia Governor's Award



Several member hospitals were honored with the West Virginia Governor's Award for excellence in organ donor efforts. These hospitals included: CAMC General Hospital, CAMC Memorial Hospital and CAMC Women & Children's Hospital; Cabell Huntington Hospital; Fairmont General Hospital; Ohio Valley Medical Center; Plateau Medical Center; Summersville Memorial Hospital; Thomas Memorial Hospital; United Hospital Center; West Virginia University Hospitals; and Wheeling Hospital.

Thomas Poloziani Living Legacy Scholarship



Linda Luger, RN, St. Francis Hospital, was the recipient of the 2009 Thomas Poliziani Living Legacy Scholarship. The award is presented to allow hospitals to create donor awareness projects. St. Francis Hospital had its first organ donation this year.

WVHA *Member Hospital Participants*

Bluefield Regional Hospital

Broaddus Hospital

CAMC General Hospital

CAMC Teays Valley Hospital

Fairmont General Hospital

Grant Memorial Hospital

Monongalia General Hospital

Preston Memorial Hospital

Roane General Hospital

St. Joseph's Hospital, Parkersburg

United Hospital Center

Wheeling Hospital

Braxton County Memorial Hospital

Cabell Huntington Hospital

CAMC Memorial Hospital

Davis Memorial Hospital

Grafton City Hospital

Highland Hospital

Ohio Valley Medical Center

Raleigh General Hospital

St. Francis Hospital

Thomas Health System

West Virginia University Hospitals