

Monthly news and information about organ and tissue donation from LifeCenter Northwest.

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Partnering with hospitals and community partners in Alaska, Montana, North Idaho, and Washington to save lives through organ and tissue donation.

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"Leader in Donation" Vickie Groeneweg, Chief Nursing Officer, Bozeman Health

The medical professionals we work with have a significant and direct influence on donation outcomes. Just as the geography and demographics of our vast service area differ from place to place, so

Did You Know?

Accurately describing the body condition of potential tissue donors during the referral call is critical for tissue donation because many conditions including skin tears, ulcers, broken bones, lacerations, large abrasions, jaundice, distended abdomen and more could potentially affect the sterile incision where recovery would take place. Without accurate information, a case could be discontinued causing a secondary loss to the family who was looking to donation

does the donation experience. In an effort to celebrate the successes and highlight the unique obstacles of our donation partners, we interviewed leadership from around our region to ask why donation is important to them and what they enjoy most about living and working where they do. We are proud to feature Vickie Groeneweg, Chief Nursing Officer for **Bozeman Health** in Bozeman, Montana, as this month's "Leader in Donation."

Bozeman Health is a non-profit, integrated healthcare delivery system comprised of two hospitals, several specialty treatment centers, a network of physician and urgent care clinics, outpatient treatment facilities and retirement and assisted living facilities. Since 2016, Bozeman Health had a total of six organ donors resulting in 22 lives saved through transplantation.



What does organ and tissue donation mean to you?

It means three things to me. First, when we have a patient that we know is going to become an organ donor, it's generally a very difficult time for the family, but it also means we have the opportunity to honor the wishes of that patient or the family. Secondly, it's a tremendous gift. It speaks of their compassion, their commitment to their fellow human beings, and it means that multiple people will have a better quality of life because of that loss. Third, when the caregivers and staff have committed to taking care of a patient, connect with a patient, and then lose that patient, it helps the grieving process of the caregiver to know others have been given a better quality of life or life itself.

Key point: Many healthcare providers find comfort in the gift of donation along with the donor families.

What makes you most proud of working at your hospital and why?

One of our core values is people and that is one of the things I am most proud of - unanimously across the board - that the staff here care. They believe that what they are doing is a sacred calling, that it is a valuable service, and that they are making a difference in the lives of people. They conduct themselves that way. Everyone from the nursing staff, the physicians, the housekeepers, the people who do registration; all give care to the patient. It's our community, our friends, and neighbors! It's the feeling organization-wide that these are our friends and families, and we are able to make a difference together.

Key point: Staff committed to the mission of the hospital typically have strong commitments to the organ donation process as organ and tissue donation often align closely with the hospital mission.

as a source of hope in a time of grief.

For examples of important items to report related to body condition, click [here](#).

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CEU Opportunities



In need of annual continuing education credits? [Check out](#) our growing list of CEU courses and specialty events. For further questions and additional offerings, [click here](#) to find your Hospital Development Program Manager.

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LifeCenter Northwest is Growing!

Current job openings at LifeCenter Northwest:

Anchorage, AK

[Hospital Development Program Manager](#)

Bellevue, WA

[Donor Information Specialist](#)

[Organ Recovery Coordinator](#)

[Quality Improvement Program Manager](#)

[Senior Accountant](#)

[Surgical Recovery Coordinator](#)

[Tissue Recovery Coordinator](#)

Why has your donation program been so successful/ what drives you to make donation a priority in your hospital?

I think it is tied back to my first two answers. We have a commitment to excellence. We strive for excellence with every patient, in every case. And because donation is such a valuable way to give life to others and to impact others' lives it behooves us to do it as excellently as we can.

Key point: Strong processes and commitment from the hospital leadership and staff has been a key factor for Bozeman Health's strong donation program, as six out of seven potential organ donors since 2016 have been realized.

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LifeSaver Series: Autumn Lane, Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center

We couldn't do our job without the amazing support of our hospital partners. The OR staff at a hospital can make a huge impact on the outcomes of an organ donation case. Having great support from the OR team helps the LifeCenter recovery team with scheduling, navigating needed supplies, and assisting with all aspects of the recovery process. Without the dedication of the OR, LifeCenter is not able to perform at the highest level.



We are proud to honor Autumn Hutchinson, Surgical Technologist, **Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center** in Spokane as the July LifeSaver. If at all possible, Autumn prioritizes organ recoveries. If she is unable to be on the case, she finds a way to make sure the scrub tech assigned to the case is well versed in everything LifeCenter needs and that LifeCenter staff never has to ask for

anything. Autumn is extremely passionate about donation and demonstrates this by taking an interest in donation cases, keeping a positive attitude, and acting as a liaison between the hospital team and LifeCenter. The entire LifeCenter recovery team appreciates when Autumn is assigned to a case, as they are assured that everything will go smoothly.

LifeCenter appreciates Autumn's dedication, hard work, attention to detail and passion for donation!
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LifeCenter Northwest Welcomes New Director of Tissue Donation Services

LifeCenter Northwest is proud to welcome Catherine Hankins to our

Vice President, Clinical Operations

Missoula, MT
 Tissue Recovery Coordinator,
 Per Diem

For information about LifeCenter Northwest, including links to more job openings click [here!](#)
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Register to Become an Organ Donor



If you want to learn more about how you can help

others through organ and tissue donation or want to register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor, [click here](#).

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We'd Love to Hear From You!



Your feedback is important to us. It helps us maximize collaboration and serve our stakeholders as best we can.

Please [click here](#) to share your feedback!

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leadership team as the new Director of Tissue Donation Services.

“Catherine is an outstanding leader and team player, and we are very fortunate to have her join our team. She has extensive experience in donation, and she will surely take the Tissue Donation Services team and program to new heights” says Kevin O’Connor, President, and CEO of LifeCenter Northwest.

Catherine joins LifeCenter Northwest after a 13-year tenure at the Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency (ARORA) where she served as Manager of Tissue Recovery. At ARORA, Catherine helped the tissue recovery program achieve record numbers by working with a team to successfully deploy a statewide electronic referral system for outside of hospital referrals. In 2011, Catherine helped with the development and implementation of ARORA’s in-house communication center.



Throughout her tenure, Catherine has served on several committees and taken leadership roles within the transplant community most recently serving as Chair of the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) Tissue Council in 2016.

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LifeCenter is Searching for our Next Vice President of Clinical Operations



Do you know someone who is a proven leader and wants to help save lives? The **Vice President of Clinical Operations (VPCO)** is a critically important role at LifeCenter, and we are looking for a strong leader ready to collaborate and lead LifeCenter clinical services to even greater success.

The VPCO is also responsible for planning and executing programs that maximize donation and transplantation, ensuring compliance

with regulatory and accrediting bodies, and improving the performance of all clinical services. This position directly oversees both the Organ and Tissue Donation Services departments and is accountable for maximizing organ and tissue donation and fostering interdepartmental collaboration throughout LifeCenter Northwest.

For more details, click [here](#).

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Stories of Hope

Seattle man saves life of Alaska Woman through heart transplant




A Seattle man, Joel Eggert, sadly passed away after a tragic motorcycle accident and graciously donated his heart to an Alaskan woman saving her life and

restoring her health! King5 News reporter Alex Rozier's story of "Joel," not only brings donation awareness to the surrounding communities but also recently won the National Edward R. Murrow Large Market Television Feature Award!

Click [here](#) to read the article and learn more about Joel's legacy!

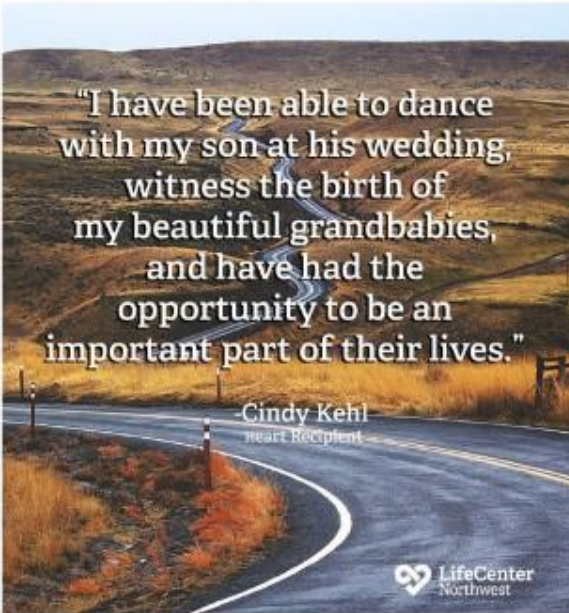
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**The simple choice
that saves a life**




Cindy Kehl

After becoming tired from everyday activities, Cindy Kehl's lungs would fill with fluid. It was determined that she had congestive heart failure. Eventually, she was forced to live in the hospital due to the long distance between her home and medical care. Luckily after just a month, a donor heart was found for her. Cindy is now living a rich and full life.



"I have been able to dance with my son at his wedding, witness the birth of my beautiful grandbabies, and have had the opportunity to be an important part of their lives."

Cindy Kehl
heart Recipient

 LifeCenter Northwest

By making the referral call within 60 minutes of clinical triggers, and time of death, you can change a life.

1-888-543-3287



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