

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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Did You Know?

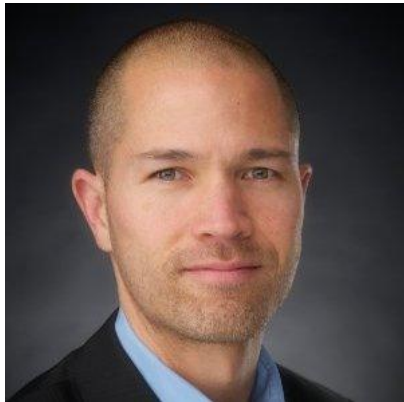
According to United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS), there is a considerable increase in authorization for donation when the donation agency and hospital staff coordinate the timing of the donation conversation.

Our goal is to provide the best care for the family and patient during this difficult time by delivering donation information in a respectful, time-sensitive, and unified manner.

If donation is mentioned too

"Leader in Donation" Dr. Derel Finch,

Chief Medical Officer, Cherry Hill Campus, Swedish Health Services



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, share what is unique about their region and what they enjoy most about living and working where they do. We are proud to feature Dr.

Derel Finch, Chief Medical Officer, Cherry Hill Campus, **Swedish Health Services**, as this month's "Leader in Donation."

Swedish Health is comprised of five hospital campuses including Ballard, Cherry Hill, Edmonds, First Hill, Issaquah, and a newly expanded organ transplant and liver center at First Hill; ambulatory care centers in Redmond and Mill Creek; and Swedish Medical Group a network of more than 118 primary care and specialty locations throughout the Puget Sound. In 2017, Swedish Health had 10 organ donors, who were able to save 28 lives through transplantation.

What does organ and tissue donation mean to you?

Well, it's really an amazing thing. We have an opportunity to provide lifesaving treatment and opportunity for patients who are in such dire straits. It's a juxtaposition and transition point from sadness, tragedy and loss around the donor, to life providing opportunities and joy for the next person. These things don't present themselves very often.

Key point: Donation offers the healthcare team an opportunity to see hope where there is otherwise tragedy.

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

It would have to be the people and the mission! Seeing the excitement of teams working together and the compassion they show around caring for our patients and each other, that I think is magic. Seeing the shiny eyes, enthusiasm and the amazing teamwork makes me feel really proud. People's hearts and minds are captured about doing better, helping our patients and being our best selves. It's exciting to be a part of this.

Key Point: Donation is a part of good patient care. Health care workers who are passionate about helping patients often see donation as an extension of patient care and as part of ensuring top quality end of life care.

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

I would say it has a lot to do with LifeCenter and our relationship. It's really the teamwork and the collaboration with LifeCenter that makes it successful. The donation process doesn't just start when

early, it can be detrimental to the family's experience and the donation process. Prior to discussing donation with families, LifeCenter will collaborate with the patient's care team to determine medical suitability, gather additional information, and plan for next steps if donation is an option. If the patient is a suitable candidate for donation, LifeCenter's highly trained family support staff specializing in traumatic grief will lead the donation conversation and support the family.

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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:

Bellevue, WA
Accounting Assistant
Clinical Services Manager

there is a specific candidate. It is there every day, all the time, as part of our care delivery. Celebrating donation events, following up after a case and figuring out how we can do things better, fine-tuning the way we work together as a team, and talking to families. It's an embedded program and that's what makes it successful. These moments around donation don't come around often but are so precious and it's important that we do everything we can to make it the best it can be.

Key point: Having a good working relationship with the organ procurement organization begins long before a donation case starts. When the hospital and OPO have regular communication, and work collaboratively to create streamlined processes for communication, escalation, education and follow up, the result is better donation outcomes for the donor, family, recipient, and hospital.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview.

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Save the Date! Compassion Fatigue for the Healthcare Team Workshop



Save the date! The Compassion Fatigue workshop is designed for the healthcare teams that work on units where organ and tissue donation happen. This workshop will explore ways to care for and reenergize yourself as you care for patients and families experiencing grief.

Topics include:

- Exploring and discussing ways to care for yourself while caring for patients and families who may be experiencing trauma or grief
- Practicing with tools and strategies for self-care
- Re-energizing to engage in difficult and rewarding work with patients and families

When: November 1, 2018 9AM to Noon

Where: LifeCenter Northwest Office, Bellevue, WA

Free parking

3 CEUs provided

If you have questions, contact us [here](#). Or find your LifeCenter hospital representative [here](#).

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LifeSaver Series: Tony Gehler, CHI Franciscan Harrison Medical Center

There are many teams throughout a hospital who impact organ

Organ Recovery Coordinator

Quality Improvement Program
Manager

Senior Accountant

Tissue Recovery Coordinator

Vice President, Clinical
Operations

Tri Cities, WA
Hospital Development
Program Coordinator

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!

donation. The nurses and physicians are often highlighted as the stars of these lifesaving cases. However, there are many others who have a direct impact on transplantation, and Respiratory Therapy is often a team that can make or break lung viability for transplantation.

This month we recognize Tony Gehler, Lead Respiratory Therapist, **Harrison Medical Center** with our LifeSaver award.

Recently, while working on a donor case, Tony approached Alice, the LifeCenter Organ Recovery Coordinator, to share the results of the most recent arterial blood gas test and discuss ways to improve the donor's lung function. Tony was very thoughtful when discussing the donor's current status and understood the importance of optimizing vent settings to increase the likelihood that the lungs could be transplanted. Tony made recommendations on vent settings that he believed would increase lung function.



"I have found that placing lungs can often prove more difficult than other organs, and this case was no exception. For a few hours, it looked like we were losing the option of transplant for these lungs. Tony made excellent recommendations regarding some vent changes as well ensuring other pulmonary interventions were implemented. He checked in frequently and updated me on our progress. I believe his expertise is one of the major reasons the lungs were transplanted. His passion and commitment to helping others through donation was inspiring," said Alice.

Tony also shared with the LifeCenter team that his son is an organ recipient, so he was very familiar with the lifesaving impact that donation has on recipients and their families.

Tony and the entire respiratory team at Harrison Medical Center have always been supportive of donation and are a prime example of how teams outside of the ICU also have a huge impact on donation outcomes.

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LifeCenter Recognized by MTF Biologics with Best Practice in Tissue Recovery Award

LifeCenter has always been committed to recovering the best quality tissue grafts for surgeons and the recipients that need them, and this commitment has been demonstrated through numerous awards from our processors recognizing that effort.

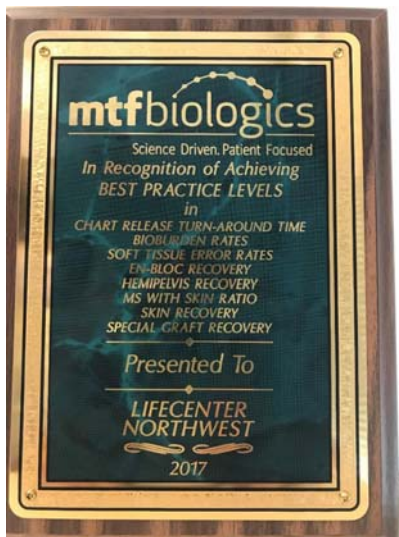
MTF Biologics recently recognized LifeCenter for Best



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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Practices in several categories in tissue recovery including:

Chart Release and Turn-around: This results in earlier release of tissue for transplantation back to surgeons, so patients can heal faster and get back to leading active lifestyles.

Bioburden

Rates: LifeCenter takes great care in septic recovery techniques so that tissue is not accidentally contaminated and the gift is

safe and transplantable for the patients in need.

Soft Tissue Error Rates: Low error rates mean tissue is maximized and not wasted or discarded because of errors made during the recovery process.

En-Bloc Recovery: Means more specialized grafts and options are available for surgeons to help young, active patients with severe trauma or degeneration without alternative treatment options.

Hemi Pelvis Recoveries: More hemi pelvis recoveries means more stem cells available to aid the development of evolving stem cell technologies for next-generation tissue grafts.

Musculoskeletal with Skin Recovery Ratio and Skin Recovery: LifeCenter has made great efforts to maximize our skin recovery techniques in order to provide lifesaving gifts for use in burn, breast reconstruction after mastectomy and other life-enhancing surgeries.

Special Graft Recovery: A special graft is tissue that is not normally recovered but has been requested by a surgeon for specific circumstances. Not all recovery agencies participate in this program.

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Every Act of Kindness Creates a Ripple: Washington Donation Celebrations

LifeCenter had an amazing turn out for our Washington Donation Celebrations in Eastern and Western Washington.

A big thank you to everyone who attended the celebrations! The events took place in Spokane at CenterPlace and in Bellevue at the Hyatt Regency. Both were beautiful events with nearly 200 guests attending in Spokane and an astounding 350 guests in Bellevue. The theme “*Every Act of Kindness Creates a Ripple*” was evident throughout the event as donor families and recipients shared how donation had touched them and people around them.



Guests connected with each other, community partners and medical professionals, shared brave stories of grief and gratitude, created ripple stones to share the [#donationripple](#) message out in the community and enjoyed a lovely brunch.

Donor families shared with us that this event was meaningful for them as they continue to remember the amazing gift their loved ones offered in their death.

It is our honor to share these events with you! Please click [here](#) to view our full photo gallery.

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Stories of Hope

Jana's story: First she got the flu, then she needed an organ transplant



Jana Morrelli with University of Washington transplant surgeon Dr. Jason Smith at the LifeCenter Northwest office in Bellevue, WA

Nine years ago, Jana Morrelli found herself facing an improbable situation. What started as lingering flu symptoms, turned into emergency room visits, CAT scans,


and the eventual discovery that her heart was failing.

From there, her journey became more complicated and challenging. Check out the [NPR story](#) about how Jana, as a 27-year-old, newlywed, overcame obstacles and hardships in an effort to save her life and she did it all with a smile.

[Click here for full story](#)

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The gift of tissue *can be life-changing*



Mike Blood & Wife

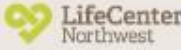
Mike was just 29 days away from retiring as a police officer when he was shot multiple times by a bank robber. Mike suffered many injuries including damage to his leg so severe that amputation was considered. After a year in the hospital, his doctors offered him the option of donated bone to save his leg.

“Because of tissue donation, I’ve been able to fish, golf, water ski, snow ski. This spring, I got to go out and see my grandchild in Utah and motorcycle ride with my son in law. Those things are a treasure to me. My life has been made whole!”

-Mike Blood
Tissue recipient

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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