

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

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

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## Did You Know?

When a loved one donates their organs, there is no cost to the donor's family for organ, eye, and tissue donation. All costs related to donation are paid by the donation agency. Expenses related to saving the individual's life and funeral expenses remain the responsibility of the donor's family.

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- o **Saranya and Harikumar: A Story of Giving Love and Life**

## “Leader in Donation” Dana Kyles, Associate Chief Nursing Officer, UW Medicine Harborview Medical Center

In an effort to celebrate the successes and highlight the unique obstacles of our donation partners, we interviewed leaders 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 Dana Kyles, Associate Chief Nursing Officer, UW Medicine Harborview Medical Center as this month's “Leader in Donation.”

### What does organ and tissue donation mean to you?

*For me, organ and tissue donation means honoring the donor and being able to save the lives of other patients waiting for either organs or tissue. Most of all, having the experience of being able to support the family during the worst days of their lives and making the experience as positive and memorable as it can be.*



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

*For Harborview Medical Center, donation is a priority for the entire team and is something that everyone takes seriously and prioritizes while making sure the donor and family are well taken care of. Having a common goal has made it successful. We've had projects that we've worked on internally over the year, including our donor website and a quality dashboard that displays how our quality metrics are doing. We also perform a post-case debrief to learn how we can do better in the future. We celebrate the donor and have had several donation celebration events. Most importantly, what's been most impactful, is that we have the buy-in of leadership, starting from the Executive Director down to our managers and staff. This has made it successful.*

## 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

Organ Recovery Coordinator

#### Bellevue, WA

Dev Ops Engineer

Director, Organ Donation Services

Human Resources Director

Organ Recovery Coordinator

Tissue Recovery Coordinator

#### Billings, MT

Hospital Development Program Manager

#### Missoula, MT

Tissue Recovery Coordinator, Per Diem

Tissue Resource Manager

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

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**Key point:** Successful donation programs include hospital leadership playing an active role in the hospital's donation program by setting goals and expectations for staff, continually encouraging positive donation culture, and honoring the donors and families.

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

*I am most proud of working at Harborview Medical Center because of the mission. Taking care of anybody from any walk of life. Secondly, I am proud of our culture and our common goal to provide excellent care for our patients and families.*

**What's unique about healthcare in your region?**

*Again, I'd say our mission is unique. We take care of a very vulnerable population. We are a safety net hospital that cares for patients from all walks of life in our four-state region. We do that with the focus on research and innovation for our patients.*

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**LifeSaver Series: Nicole Simons, Nurse Manager, Emergency Department, Summit Pacific Medical Center**

We established the LifeCenter LifeSaver Award, presented monthly, to honor those who demonstrate a commitment to improving donation outcomes and/or culture through their actions, time, and energy. We are proud to announce Nicole Simons, Nurse Manager, Emergency Department, **Summit Pacific Medical Center**, as this month's LifeSaver winner.

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**Register to Become an Organ Donor**

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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!**

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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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Summit Pacific Medical Center, a critical access hospital located in the City of Elma, Washington, about 30 miles west of Olympia, doesn't have an operating room or critical care unit, but they provide important care to their rural community and have the potential to further their impact through the organ and tissue donation process.

When a critically injured patient recently presented at the small hospital, the care team recognized that they had an opportunity to help the patient provide the gift of life to someone on the organ transplant waitlist. Even though the donation wouldn't happen at their own hospital, they were able to successfully stabilize the patient, place a referral call, and facilitate the transfer of the patient to another hospital for donation to occur.

Nurse Manager, Nicole, was a critical resource for LifeCenter staff during this time. From the beginning, Nicole treated the donor with great care and navigated many logistical challenges to ensure a successful transfer. As many bedside RNs know, working on a donor case can be both mentally and physically draining, but Nicole remained supportive and extremely helpful to our team. The LifeCenter team could not say enough about her kindness and compassion throughout the entire process. As a result of Nicole and the entire team at Summit Pacific Medical Center, this donor was able to go on to save five lives.

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**National Donate Life Month Resources  
Available Now**

April is National Donate Life Month and it's approaching quickly. Now is a great time to start thinking about how you can join the national campaign to encourage others to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors.

Donate Life America and LifeCenter Northwest have provided a variety of resources to help spread the word, including print materials, web banners, social media images, and twibbons (an overlay image to add to your Facebook profile picture) and are readily available to download.

LIFE IS a beautiful ride  
APRIL IS  
**National Donate Life Month**

National Donate Life Month is April, but you can start a campaign in your hospital today! Below are some easy donation campaign ideas.

**Ways to promote National Donate Life Month in the hospital:**

- Encourage employees to register as a donor
- Share donation stories in leadership meetings
- Set up staff donation education with LifeCenter
- Implement a donation campaign in staff email or newsletter
- Share on donation stories on social media
- Send out a donation press release to the local media
- Host an organ donation registration table
- Create in-hospital or clinic campaign signage
- Change building/campus lights to blue & green
- Celebrate Blue & Green Day
- Wear a Donate Life button, pin or bracelet

**Images available for download:**

- Web Banners
- Facebook cover images
- Twibbon profile
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Email
- Flyers to print

April 12 is Blue & Green Day  
LifeCenter Northwest

Click image to download social media images and printable materials

Below are some additional ideas to implement a National Donate Life Month campaign in your hospital:

- Encourage employees to register as an organ donor
- Share **organ** or **tissue** donation stories in leadership meetings
- Set up staff donation education with LifeCenter
- Implement a donation registry email campaign to staff
- Share a donation or transplant story on social media
- Send out a press release to the local media
- Host an organ donation registration table
- Create in-hospital or clinic campaign signage
- Change building/campus lights to blue & green
- Celebrate Blue & Green Day
- Wear a Donate Life button, pin, or bracelet

Click [here](#) to be directed to the Donate Life America website where you can download graphics and print materials, or contact your **Hospital Development representative** to discuss other creative ideas to celebrate this month

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## Awareness Campaign

National Burn Awareness helps bring awareness of prevention measures to help reduce injuries from burns. It is also a good reminder of the need for donated skin to help with burn management of patients that have suffered a devastating burn injury. Check out how donated skin helped save the life of Turia Pitt after she was caught in a wild brush fire during an ultramarathon.



Four donors from LifeCenter Northwest partner hospitals helped provide the skin that saved Turia's life!

Click [here](#) to watch her amazing story.

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## Stories of Hope

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### Mother Thanks Donor Who Saved Her Baby One Year Ago



Source: [Seattlechildrens.org](http://Seattlechildrens.org)

A year ago, baby Titus Sickles was fighting for his life. In need of a new heart, doctors didn't know if he was going to make it to transplant. Patiently and desperately, the family waited on the transplant list, watching as their newborn baby's heart failed before their eyes.

“I knew he wasn’t doing good,” said Rena Sickles, Titus’ mother. “I totally lost it emotionally and said, ‘He’s sick of fighting and I can’t make him do it anymore. So, when he’s ready to go, we’ve just got to let him.’ That’s a really hard thing to be okay with.”

Today, Sickles said you would never know by looking at Titus what he’s been through. He’s is a happy, healthy one-year-old thanks to a gift Rena says she can never repay – a new heart.

Read the full story [here](#)

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## Saranya and Harikumar: A Story of Giving Love and Life

As a newly married couple, Saranya and Harikumar couldn’t have been happier. They were young, in love, and excited to start their new life together. However, just one month into their marriage Harikumar got very sick. When his vomiting and high fever did not subside, the couple decided they had better go to the doctor. After running some tests, they were shocked to learn that Harikumar had Chronic Kidney Disease, and his kidneys were only functioning at 17 percent.

Though the news was surprising, the newlyweds tried to remain optimistic.

“We were very young and did not know what kidney failure was,” said Saranya. “We thought we can make the kidneys work again with medications. We tried various types of treatments like homeopathy, acupuncture but things got worse.”



As the disease progressed, Harikumar was placed on dialysis a few months after his diagnosis. Saranya remembers how hard it was to watch her husband go from being athletic and energetic, to frail and fatigued. Dialysis took a toll on Harikumar, and eventually he

became too sick to continue work. He endured more than 100 days on dialysis, and after watching her husband become weaker and weaker, Saranya hoped there was more she could do to help.

Read the full story [here](#)

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## The simple choice *that saves a life*



*Eddie Harper*

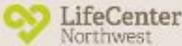
When Eddie was three years old he collapsed on the kitchen floor. He was whisked to the emergency room where he was diagnosed with restrictive cardiomyopathy and was immediately listed for a heart transplant. Eddie's health continued to decline. He suffered a stroke and endured many surgeries. Eddie lived in the hospital for four months before a gift of a new heart was given to him. Today, Eddie is healthy and active, and inspires his family every day.

*"Eddie's donor's family has written us letters. We feel completely in their debt, and that their gift is something we can never repay. Their choice to help Eddie have a chance at life when their loved one had gone, has completely changed our lives forever. We feel like they are a part of our family, and that Eddie's life has double meaning now."*

**Sarah Harper,**  
*Eddie's mom*

**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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