

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?

March is National Kidney Month which is dedicated to the awareness of preventing and treating kidney disease.

Kidney disease is the 9th leading cause of death in the United States. Give your kidneys the attention they deserve by checking out the [National Kidney Foundation](#) website and:

- Read the "Six-Step Guide to Protecting your Kidney Health" for prevention of kidney disease



Every year, LifeCenter honors the top hospitals in our service area who improved processes and dedicated themselves to increasing donation outcomes with our donation excellence discretionary awards. Below are the winners of this year's awards:

Donation Excellence Award

Providence St. Patrick Hospital

Missoula, Montana

The Donation Excellence Award is presented to one hospital in our service area that has demonstrated impressive outcomes, strong and effective processes, and unwavering dedication to improving the lives of both donor families and transplant recipients.

Donation Champion Award

Scott Branch, DO, Confluence Health Central Washington Hospital

Wenatchee, Washington

The Donation Champion Award is chosen from a pool of 2018 LifeSaver Award winners and is presented to one individual who demonstrates a commitment to improving donation outcomes and culture in their hospital through their actions, time, and energy.

Excellence in Community Partnership Award

Kendra Cristelli, Support Officer Community Care

Bellingham, Washington

The Excellence in Community Partnership Award is presented to one organization or individual in our service area who has demonstrated unwavering dedication to collaborating with LifeCenter Northwest to improve the lives of those in our community.

- Schedule a free screening through the National Kidney Foundation
 - Take the "Are You at Risk" kidney quiz
 - Take measures to improve your health; quit smoking, reduce alcohol intake, reduce sodium intake, lose weight, exercise and stay hydrated
- To learn more, 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

[Organ Recovery Coordinator](#)

Bellevue, WA

[Desktop Support Specialist](#)

[Dev Ops Engineer](#)

[Director, Organ Donation Services](#)



Hospital Development
Coordinator

Human Resources Director

Organ Recovery Coordinator

Tissue Recovery Coordinator

Missoula, MT

Organ Recovery Coordinator

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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Donation Innovation Award

Skagit Valley Hospital

Mount Vernon, Washington

The Donation Innovation Award is presented to one hospital that has demonstrated a commitment to careful evaluation of their organ donation processes and has taken specific steps to improve outcomes.

Excellence in Improvement Award

Valley Medical Center

Renton, Washington

Organ donation is a complex and heavily regulated process, and it's difficult to excel in every area. We are continually humbled by our hospital partners continuous effort towards process improvement. This award honors the hospitals that made the largest gains in compliance metrics in the last year.

Gift of Life Award

Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital

Bozeman, Montana

There are many aspects of a patient's clinical progression that impact the number of organs recovered for transplant. We know the heroic efforts made to save a patient's life will also be beneficial to a donation outcome. This award honors both the life-saving work that occurs before donation and the collaborative care during the donation process.

Click [here](#) to see all our hospital award winners.

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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

Franciscan

collaboration and serve our stakeholders as best we can.

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

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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 Tony McLean, Market President - South King Region, **CHI Franciscan** as this month's "Leader in Donation."

What does organ and tissue donation mean to you?

We make a promise to every patient that we will do everything we can to get them the best outcome. Sometimes that means having a treatment and that treatment can be a critically needed tissue or scarcely needed organ. For the recipient of these donations in our network of care, it means a lot because they are hard to come by, and they are life-changing. For the donors who meet a tragic outcome, we try to honor the transition that the family is making. When we talk with our families about organ donation they recognize that it would honor the person they love. It's bittersweet. A tragic circumstance makes a miraculous circumstance possible. Usually, the family feels a sense of grace by it. And we, as caregivers, feel it too.



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

I think part of our success is from LifeCenter's rapid and ready service to educate our teams and demystify donation. LifeCenter offers whatever resources we need to take it to the next level. Every year we get feedback on where we are, what we can be doing better, where we are shining. We can then focus on how to improve. I think it also helps that we are a health system. We don't compete, but we are always learning from each other. That's been really helpful.

Key point: Having one donation agency for organ and tissue recovery helps provide many benefits including creating continuity, consistent education, communication, and streamlined policies and procedures for each hospital in the system.

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

I am inspired by people who are passionate about putting others first. We are all connected and if we can be there for someone, why not? I get a lot of energy from the people at St. Francis and Highline and all the people at CHI Franciscan. On our worst days, I see the most courageous, passionate, dedicated acts. I get a lot of energy out of people who care about other people. I am honored to care for our staff so that they can care for our patients, which goes along with our mission at CHI Franciscan.

What's unique about healthcare in your region?

The big, obvious distinction is that we are in a large metropolitan area. We are dealing with some challenges that exist everywhere but are more acute in our hospitals. We are dealing with the homeless or unstably housed. You see that across the country, but hospitals, particularly in cities, are becoming a refuge, the one place you can still go for help. We are trying to figure out what do we do besides medical care to help them get their lives back. I don't know that it is unique, but it's a big need in our hospitals. We also deal with a level of trauma care where you are the big hospital like St. Joseph's dealing with fragile, life-critical patient care or first responding hospital like St. Francis, where we deal with a range from perfectly normal newborns to major tragic accidents where it's literally anyone's guess on whether the patient will live. It's a lot of diversity to juggle, but it's awesome to have the opportunity to serve all those different types of people.

What do you love about living in your city/region?

I was fascinated by the west coast from a young age. What I loved about it was that a lot of people come from somewhere else or they are just recently from there, so they have this frontier mindset, this sense of pioneering and possibility which crafted a sense of openness. It's no accident that some of the most pioneering, multinational companies in the world like Amazon and Microsoft are here.

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LifeSaver Series: Wade Wagoner, Critical Care RN, Mercy Flight, Benefis Healthcare

With over 114,000 people on the transplant waiting list, it is important that hospitals and donation agencies collaborate to ensure

that no opportunity is missed for those awaiting the gift of life. The referral call to the donation agency is where the life-saving process starts. Oftentimes, hospital nursing staff are tasked with making the referral call on patients who meet certain criteria.



At **Benefis Health System**, in Great

Falls, Montana, one nurse finds a way to make these calls and provide every opportunity for donation possible. Wade

Wagoner, Critical Care RN who flies with Benefis Mercy Flight, dedicates his time to patients both in the air and on the ground.

LifeCenter recognizes Wade this month for his diligence and dedication to Benefis' donation program

Wade Wagoner called in more timely organ referrals than any other staff member at Benefis Health in 2018. As a flight nurse, Wade's duties are to care for critical patients while in flight. However, based on the number of referrals made by Wade, it is clear that he also takes every opportunity to refer potential donor patients from the ER.

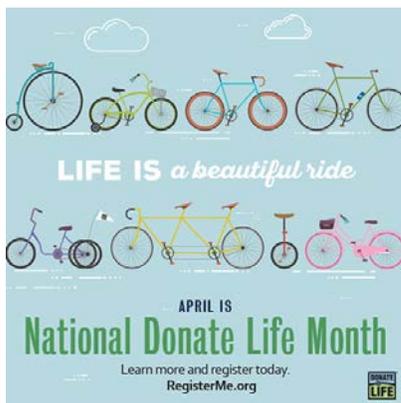
In addition to referring patients, Wade is also an active member of Benefis' Donor Council team. Through his collaboration on the council, we have been able to identify areas of strength and opportunities, create better processes, and increase collaboration. We are grateful to hospital staff, like Wade, who are willing to go above and beyond to ensure donation opportunities are never missed.

It is our honor to present Wade Wagoner with this month's LifeSaver Award.

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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 many

other resources that are readily available to you.

Click [here](#) to download the materials and get started on a campaign in your hospital.

National Blue and Green Day is Friday, April 12, 2019. Share your passion for donation by wearing festive blue and green in support of organ, eye and tissue donation. Don't forget to post on social media with the hashtag #bluegreenday.

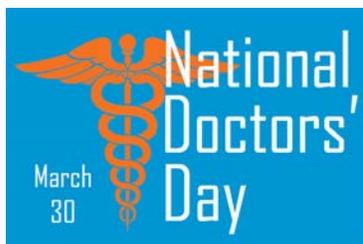


Or, send your photos to the Donate Life Facebook page www.facebook.com/donatelife between April 12-16 and you could be voted as a Community Choice Award winner from six different categories. Click [here](#) for contest details.

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Awareness Campaign

National Doctors Day – March 30



We want to share our appreciation of all the physicians who dedicate every single day to treat and save the lives of their patients and the communities they serve. Thank you for all that you do.

Transplant Nurses Day – April 17

We salute all the transplant nurses for the unique work they do to help save the lives of patients around the world through organ

transplantation. Happy
Transplant Nurses Day to
you all!

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Stories of Hope

A Grandfather's Plea to Others to Save Lives Through Organ Donation After Grandson's Heart Transplant

A grandfather shares his experience after his young grandson needed a heart transplant. A heartwarming realization of what it often takes for those on the organ transplant wait list - patience and hope. Click [here](#) to read the article.





Carrie Dailey

Tissue recipient

Carrie suffers from Ehlers Danlos Syndrome (EDS), a rare genetic disorder that causes severe discomfort that affects her ligaments and tendons. EDS forced Carrie to forfeit her dreams of becoming a nurse and was unable to play her beloved guitar. She couldn't even give someone a simple hug. After three failed surgeries using her own tissue, Carrie's surgeon used donated tissue to help repair both of her injured shoulders. As a result, Carrie now has full use of both arms, has regained her independence, and no longer feels defeated by her disorder.



Carrie is now able to play her guitar again because of the generosity of her tissue donors.



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