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

the GIFT



LifeCenter
Northwest

Monthly Newsletter

June 2020

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A Message From Our CEO, Kevin O'Connor



Recent national events have brought to the forefront the longstanding issue of systemic racism. The disparities that exist for people of color are a reality that we must actively work to change. Such inequities are contrary to LifeCenter Northwest's mission and values, so it's vital to clearly articulate our organizational stance on racism, as well as encourage each of you to address your own internal biases to better serve and nurture our diverse community.

- As an organization that **works to save lives**, we cannot in any regard diminish another human being. We bring life; we don't take it away.

- In **service**, we treat others with dignity and respect. We use our skills and abilities to help others, particularly when their voices are not heard. We help others to reach their fullest potential; we do not create barriers.
- With **courage**, we persevere in the face of adversity, speaking out against what is wrong and facing things that may be hard to reconcile.
- Through **collaboration**, we seek to understand others and find common ground to build upon. We are open to thoughts other than our own. We work with all of our colleagues to actively pursue equity, diversity and inclusion.
- We are people of **integrity**. We demonstrate respect toward others and we are accountable for our own actions. We admit when we have harmed others and actively work to address our own behavior. Acting with integrity means we listen to others who have experienced injustice, and that we proactively seek ways to ensure inappropriate behavior has no place at LifeCenter.

We acknowledge there is work to be done. We must do more and we will do more.

With deep appreciation for your continued support of our life-saving work,

- Kevin O'Connor, President and CEO of LifeCenter Northwest

In The News

Notable news stories about LifeCenter Northwest and donation.

- Spokane Spokesman-Review: [A half-century after father donated his kidney to daughter, Spokane family is still celebrating](#)
- The Washington Post: [Surgeons perform first known U.S. lung transplant for COVID-19 patient](#)
- WORLD Magazine: [Waiting out a pandemic](#)
- Kalispell Regional Healthcare (Mont.): [KRH facilities recognized for roles in organ and tissue donation](#)
- Cabinet Peaks Medical Center (Mont.): [Cabinet Peaks Medical Center receives two awards](#)

2019 Hospital Award Highlight: St. Vincent Healthcare (Billings, Mont.)



Our annual 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. St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Mont. has made great strides to improve its donation culture and has found innovative ways to honor and support donor families.

Some examples include the creation of a butterfly art project to honor pediatric donors, offering donor families a recording of their loved one's heartbeat set to music and implementing a process for acknowledging when life support is being withdrawn—so passersby respect the magnitude of what's taking place. The hospital also developed a wall of heroes in the main lobby that features portraits and stories of past donors. Over the past year, St. Vincent's has also seen improvement in both their conversion and collaborative request rate, as well as a continued increase in their timely referral rate.

You can check out St. Vincent's full award write-up in our [2019 Annual Report](#).

[Click here to find your hospital representative and CEU opportunities](#)

LifeSaver Award: Dr. Adam VanRegenmorter, Providence St. Patrick Hospital (Missoula, Mont.)



Each month, LifeCenter Northwest selects a LifeSaver Award winner. This award honors and recognizes those who demonstrate a commitment to improving donation outcomes and culture through their actions, time and energy.

We are proud to announce that Dr. Adam VanRegenmorter from Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, Mont. is our latest LifeSaver Award winner!

Adam is a pathologist in Missoula, but he was a vital part of a successful organ donation at a small Critical Access Hospital about an hour outside of Missoula.

This hospital was recently presented with their first-ever organ donation case. The donor family had deep roots in the local community, so it was important to them that their loved one could be the first organ donor in the hospital's history. While it was a priority for the hospital to support this family, they needed additional support and tools to facilitate organ donation as a result of never having had an organ donation case before.

Thankfully, Adam generously offered up his expertise throughout the donation process. Adam made himself available for multiple phone consultations to determine medical suitability and stayed in constant contact with LifeCenter Northwest's medical director and organ recovery staff. Towards the end of the case, Adam analyzed liver, kidney and thyroid biopsies to ensure the safety of organs for transplant.

Without Adam's help, organ donation wouldn't have happened at this small community hospital. Because of Adam, three lives were saved. As such, LifeCenter Northwest is proud to honor Adam with our LifeSaver Award!

Dominic Adorno Presents Research to American Transplant Congress



In early June, LifeCenter Northwest's Vice President of Clinical Operations, Dominic Adorno, presented at the American Transplant Congress (ATC). The ATC is the preeminent international meeting of donation and transplantation professionals, with more than 4,500 virtual attendees this year over a three-day period.

The title of his presentation and their research was "Successful Heart Utilization and Outcomes with Long-Distance Transport of Deceased Donor Hearts: One Large Organ Procurement Organization's Five-Year Experience."

The shortest distance between any of our Alaska donor hospitals and the nearest transplant center in Seattle is 775 nautical miles, and the vast majority of organ transplants from Alaska come from Anchorage, which is 1,250 nautical miles from Seattle. Accordingly, LifeCenter had a unique opportunity to study the impact of long-distance transport on heart utilization rates and transplant outcomes.

Our team's research revealed that remote donor location and associated long-distance transport of deceased donor hearts were *not* associated with decreased utilization nor inferior one-year patient outcomes over the five-year study period. These findings suggest high donor heart utilization rates and acceptable heart transplant outcomes are possible with routine long-distance transport of deceased donor hearts—an encouraging development that could enable broader organ sharing across longer distances.

[Click here to watch the full video recording of Dominic's presentation on YouTube.](#)

Candy Wells, Kevin O'Connor Published In American Journal of Transplantation

The June edition of the *American Journal of Transplantation* features two articles co-authored by members of LifeCenter Northwest's leadership team.

Candy Wells, our director of organ utilization, explores how a winning combination of science and collaboration is helping us honor donors' wishes and save more lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. The article she co-authored—"Expedited SARS-CoV-2 Screening of Donors And Recipients Supports Continued Solid Organ Transplant"—is [available to read here](#).

Kevin O'Connor, our president and CEO, highlights the benefits of a data-driven approach to organ donation/donor registration messaging that focuses on an individual's potential future need for an organ. The article he co-authored—"Solid Organ Donation After Death In The United States: Data-Driven Messaging To Encourage Potential Donors"—is [available to read here](#).



Pride at LifeCenter Northwest



June is Pride Month, and it's an excellent opportunity to celebrate diversity, acceptance and equality while promoting positive social changes in your community.

During Pride Month (and year-round), LifeCenter Northwest cherishes the LGBTQ members of our team. This year, we invited them to share their thoughts on Pride, organ donation and the LGBTQ community in their own words. Check out the links below to see what they had to say:

- [Nika Short, Family Support Manager](#)
- [Tyler Russell, Senior Hospital Development Program Manager](#)
- [Marnie Searing, Senior Accountant](#)

Pride + Organ Donation

When it comes to organ donation, we've found that there's a persistent myth concerning the LGBTQ community and organ donation.

Myth: LGBTQ community members can't be donors because of their sexual orientation.

Fact: People are never excluded from organ donation because of their sexual orientation.

In addition, the [HIV Organ Policy Equity \(HOPE\) Act](#) now allows people living with HIV to become donors and help people waiting on the transplant list who also live with HIV. The HOPE Act (which went into effect in 2015) expands the donor pool, allows more people to receive a transplant and helps people move up on the waitlist faster.

Slightly less than three years after the HOPE Act went into effect, a [remarkable 100 organ transplants](#) had already been performed for HIV-positive candidates willing to accept

organ offers from HIV-positive donors—and one of these transplants was performed by LifeCenter Northwest.

Cancellation Of Regional Donation Celebrations

We care deeply about our donation community and it is with sincere regret that we have cancelled the planned Washington Donation Celebrations in Bellevue and Spokane due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we recognize that Washington is slowly starting to phase into reopening activities and events across the state, we still don't feel it's safe to hold these events in July. It's important that we follow government recommendations and requirements to protect the residents of Washington. We look forward to these events each year, and we know that these cancellations are impactful.

Please know that we continue to think of you and your loved ones and we look forward to seeing you in-person in 2021!

For more information, visit www.lcnw.org/celebration

Story of Hope

The simple choice that saves a life



Landon Haight, organ donor

Landon was a bright and spirited little boy who loved to be outside. Sadly, Landon was critically injured near his home in Montana. Upon learning that Landon was brain-dead, his parents were presented with the opportunity to donate his organs to save lives. They didn't hesitate, and they said yes. Landon went on to save six lives.

"Landon was able to donate every single organ to save a life, except his lungs, which were donated to science. He is a true hero."

- Christian Foley,
Landon's mother

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

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