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Monthly news and information about organ and tissue donation from LifeCenter Northwest. To subscribe to the Gift, [click here](#).

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

May 2020

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## **A Message From Our CEO, Kevin O'Connor**

Recently, LifeCenter Northwest coordinated the first-ever successful heart donation after circulatory death (DCD) in the Pacific Northwest.

To date, almost all transplanted hearts in the U.S. have come from brain-dead organ donors, but advances in heart preservation technology—coupled with increased acceptance of donation after circulatory death—provide a valuable new donation source, which [experts say](#) will ultimately expand the pool of donor hearts by 30 percent.

DCD heart transplantation has already become commonplace in countries like the United



Kingdom and Australia, where DCD heart transplant outcomes are equivalent to outcomes using hearts from brain-dead donors. While we have some catching up to do in America, it's encouraging to know that—while the first adult DCD heart transplant in U.S. history [took place](#) in December of 2019— just under 40 DCD heart transplants have already have been performed across the U.S. in 2020.

This recent groundbreaking DCD heart transplant in our region is a shining example of the power of effective collaboration between LifeCenter staff, donor hospital staff and transplant program staff. We are truly stronger together, and I'm inspired by the immense potential of innovations like DCD heart donation to better honor donation decisions and champion the gift of life.

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

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

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# In The News

*Notable news stories about LifeCenter Northwest and donation in our region.*

- Q13 FOX Seattle: ['He gave the ultimate gift': How the tragic death of a young man gave other a second chance at life](#)
  - SCL Health Blog: [Governor Steve Bullock honors Billings philanthropist posthumously with Gift of Life award](#)
  - Powell (Wyo.) Tribune: [After waiting for kidney for years, Beaudry marks one year since successful transplant](#)
  - University of Washington Daily: ['We were well ahead of the curve': How UW Medicine has been continuing transplant surgeries in the face of COVID-19](#)
  - NBC Montana: [Whitefish couple aims to raise organ donor awareness](#)
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**2019 Hospital Award Highlight: Danielle O'Toole, RN, Tacoma General Hospital**



Our annual Donation Champion Award is presented to one individual, selected from a pool of the year's 12 LifeSaver Award winners. This person demonstrates a exemplary commitment to improving donation outcomes and culture in their hospital through their actions, time and energy.

Our 2019 Donation Champion Award winner is Danielle O'Toole, an ICU charge nurse at MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital in Tacoma, Wash.

Danielle truly embodies the positive donation culture LifeCenter strives for in each of our hospitals. You can check out her full award write-up in our [2019 Annual Report](#).

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

### **LifeSaver Series: Charelle Woods, CNA, Trios Southridge Hospital**

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 Charelle Woods, CNA, from Trios Southridge Hospital in Kennewick, Wash. is our latest LifeSaver Award winner!

Charelle was nominated by LifeCenter's clinical staff for her amazing service during a recent successful organ donation at Trios. Thanks in large part to the Trios team's collaboration and



compassionate care, we were able to honor the donation decision of a generous registered individual (and their family), thus saving the lives of four people.

The Trios team graciously held an honor walk and it was at that time that Charelle truly went above and beyond for the patient and family. Throughout the honor walk, and while assisting in pushing the bed from the ICU to the OR, Charelle began to beautifully sing "Amazing Grace" and never stopped, not even while in the elevator. Charelle's singing was to the great comfort of both family and staff; the donor's family was deeply touched and moved to tears, as were many hospital and LifeCenter staff members.

Charelle said she is proud to have been part of that experience and humbled to receive the LifeSaver Award.

"I am very honored. I don't do anything for someone to give me praise," she said. "For me, singing is part of my patient care, but to know something as little as me singing...that they thought it was so big, that means a lot."

Through her actions, Charelle helped create an even more moving honor walk experience for the donor's family while expressing support and love for the family on behalf of the healthcare team. For these reasons, LifeCenter Northwest is proud to honor Charelle with our LifeSaver Award!



On Memorial Day, we all honor and mourn the men and women who've died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

At LifeCenter Northwest, we honor the donation wishes of veterans on a regular basis. In addition, through the **Les Olson Veteran Flag Program**, we pledge to ensure all veterans in our region who give the gift of life are honored—acknowledging their service for this country and continued service through organ donation.

This program was established to honor Les Olson, a LifeCenter Surgical Organ Recovery Specialist. After serving in the U.S. Army, Les [started this honorary tribute early in his career](#), draping an American flag over veterans once they had given the gift of life.

For each honoree whose family is interested in participating, our staff will present a regulation folded flag to their family member. When appropriate, the flag will be placed on the donor with their hand over it for the honor walk/transport to recovery. There is also a special veteran moment of honor read for the donor in the operating room.

“To have a veteran pass away and be an organ donor is particularly special. To a veteran, the flag is very important,” Les says. “It also affects the operating room staff and has a positive impact on the surgery staff. I think it shows that we are caring and thankful for everything they have given. We are not just organ recovery people, we are fellow human beings.”

Curious about how the pandemic has been affecting organ donation at LifeCenter Northwest? Check out [this informational flyer](#) we designed for our hospital partners:

## COVID-19 + Donation



**1.) Transplant surgeries should be considered high priority.**

Surgeries should not be postponed, per guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

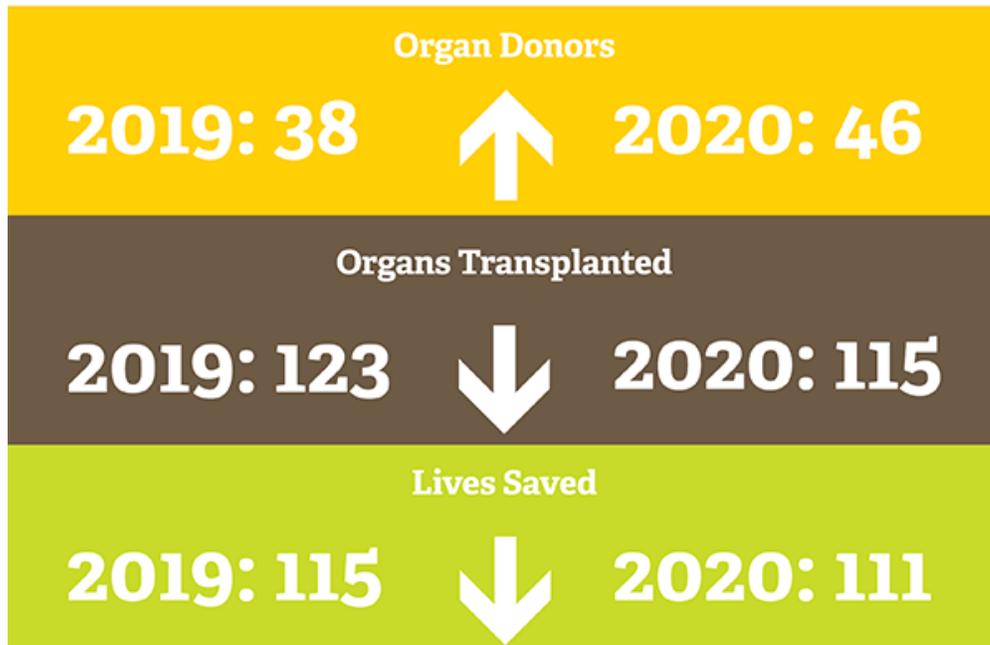
**2.) Recipients are in greater need.**

Despite the extreme generosity of donor families during this pandemic, we've seen a decrease in organs available for transplant.

**3.) We appreciate you!**

We commend hospital staff for bravely caring for organ donor patients—and all patients—during this pandemic.

### LifeCenter Northwest Data | March & April



Regional Donation Celebrations: Bringing The Donation Community Together

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

While we recognize that Montana 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 late May. It's important that we follow government recommendations and requirements to protect the residents of Montana. We look forward to these events each year, and we know that these cancellations are impactful.

We're also continuing to monitor stay-at-home orders in Washington that may impact our Donation Celebrations planned for July. We will be in touch if any of these events are postponed, modified, or cancelled. These events are open to donor families, recipients and all our medical partners.

Please RSVP by [clicking here](#), and check out details for the Washington events below:

#### Spokane

July 11, 2020 | 11:30 a.m. doors open / 12 p.m. event begins  
CenterPlace, 2426 N Discovery Pl, Spokane Valley, WA 99216

#### Bellevue

July 26, 2020 | 10:30 a.m. doors open / 11 a.m. event begins  
Hyatt Regency Bellevue, 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

## Story of Hope

### The simple choice that saves a life



Manuel Salazar

Manuel Salazar's life was changed forever when a downed power line struck him. He lost both his arms and legs. For his recovery, his doctors used donated bone to build Manuel new shoulders that could be fitted for prosthetics. Today, because of his donated tissue and prosthetics, Manuel is able to drive, ski and waterski. He also owns his own body shop!

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

1-888-543-3287

"Now I am just thankful  
to be alive. I want to try  
new things. I see life in a  
whole new way."

- Manuel Salazar, tissue recipient

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