

Recovery

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA ORGAN CENTER

www.alabamaorgancenter.org • 1-800-252-3677

July 2010

HHS RECOGNIZES HOSPITALS WITH HIGHEST ORGAN DONATION RATES



Photo courtesy of: victor bruce photography, video and design

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) presented awards to 428 of the nation's hospitals for their success in increasing the number of organs available for transplantation. Each of the 428 winning hospitals had eight or more eligible organ donors during the 22-month award period ending in April 2009 and had a donation rate of at least 75%.

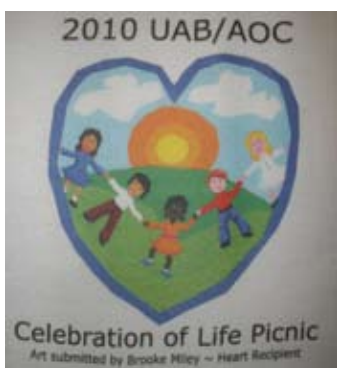
Eight hospitals from Alabama received the Department's Medal of Honor: Children's Hospital of Alabama, Huntsville Hospital/Huntsville Hospital East, University of Alabama Hospital, Providence Hospital, Jackson Hospital, Baptist Medical Center South, Trinity Medical Center and University of South Alabama Medical Center. University of Alabama Hospital, Baptist Medical Center South and Trinity Medical Center received their 2nd honor. Huntsville Hospital/Huntsville Hospital East, Children's Hospital of Alabama and University of South Alabama Medical Center each received the honor for the 3rd consecutive year.

"The Alabama Organ Center is proud of our hospitals' commitment to organ donation," states Dem Lalisian, Director, Alabama Organ Center. "We are celebrating eight Alabama hospitals who significantly contributed to our state's 75% conversion rate of potential donations into actual transplants. These numbers represent more lives saved by organ transplantation because donors and their families generously gave the gift of life."

2010 CELEBRATION OF LIFE PICNIC



What an absolutely amazing day we had for the 2010 UAB/AOC Celebration of Life Picnic. Held on UAB's campus at the Mini-Park on April 17th, over 1,500 donor family members, recipients, professional staff and friends celebrated the gift of life. We were blessed as we ate, played and visited with friends and family.



During the program, lead by the Organ Center's Ann Rayburn (Senior Manager of Professional Education) and Carrie Peter (Donor Family Liaison), there were tears and cheers as donor families presented quilt squares in memory of their loved ones for the Alabama Donor Family Quilts. Each year the entire transplant community is invited to submit designs for the Picnic t-shirt. Holli Dill, donor wife, submitted the design chosen for the back of the shirt; Brooke Miley, heart recipient, designed the artwork for the front. Truly celebrating the Gift of Life were Sherri Selph (2nd from left), heart recipient, and her donor family including Victoria Benson (far left), donor mother.



This event would not be possible without the support

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



On February 21, 2010, the Alabama Organ Center hosted its annual "Service of Remembrance" at the Norton Theater on the campus of Birmingham-Southern College. Approximately 22 families, whose loved ones were donors in 2009, participated in this year's Service.

The Service is a time to honor and remember the donors who make transplantation and research possible. Families are encouraged to bring photos and memorabilia that are displayed during the Service. Tributes written by the donor families are read while the family stands in honor of their loved one. After the reading of the tribute each family was presented with a donor medallion and a set of wind chimes commemorating their donation. Linda Plowman Fikes, whose daughter Barbara was a donor, shares her personal journey through words and songs. Linda provides each family with a CD she has produced. The final tribute is the pinning of the quilt squares. Families who have created a quilt square come forward and pin the square onto a blank piece of fabric. These squares will be incorporated into a quilt panel which will be displayed in the AOC office.

of our generous sponsors: Alabama Eye Bank; Alabama Kidney Foundation; Alabama Organ Center; Alamo Tissue Service; Astellas; CSL Behring, LLC; Cytonet, LLC; Shelby Medical Associates; Transcript Pharmacy, Inc.; University Hospital and Waters Medical Systems. We had a tremendously successful Picnic. We would also like to thank our volunteers: Shepherd's Supply Mission, Inc.; Junior League of Birmingham; UAB's Panhellenic Council; UAB professional and support staff; employees and friends of the Alabama Organ Center, as well as countless others who gave their time and energy. Thanks again to everyone!



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PAGE 3 AOC Personalized Car Tag Decal Support Form

PAGE 4 Donor Patella Tendon Used in ACL Reconstruction

Get To Know the AOC...

AADE Supports Organ and Tissue Donation

AOC Tissue Recovery Facility

The Alabama Organ Center dedicates itself to providing a better quality of life for those people who require organ and tissue transplantation, while respecting those families who share the gift.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



Pictured L-R: Beverly Berry, AOC Multicultural Educator; SpongeBob and Becky Davis, AOC Hospital/Community Liaison.

The Alabama Organ Center (AOC) partnered with Charter Cable at their annual "Kid Zone" event on August 15th, 2009. Nearly 4,000 people attended. The AOC had the pleasure of hosting SpongeBob. Kids were welcome to get their picture taken with SpongeBob and go the AOC website to download their free photos.



Ladies and Gentlemen, START YOUR ENGINES! On July 18th, 2009 the racing community celebrated Dauton Moore's 10 years as a heart transplant recipient and 11th birthday. The event was held at the Montgomery Motor Speedway where Justin Bonnett (grandson of NASCAR great Neil Bonnett) emblazoned the hood of his Mini-Mod car #12 with a tribute to organ donation. Chase Spradlin, the day's top trophy-winner, celebrated in Victory Lane with Dauton and Justin.



Harvel Douglas, heart recipient, sings the National Anthem at the Huntsville Havoc hockey game. The Alabama Organ Center sponsors an annual "Donate Life Night" with the Havoc to promote organ and tissue donor awareness.



The Alabama Organ Center celebrated National Minority Donor Awareness Day with "Gospel Fest 2009: Celebrating the Gift of Life." We invited area-wide church choirs and praise teams to come "make a joyful noise." Pictured is the step team from Birmingham's South Park Baptist Church. Sharon Johnson-Woods (donor wife and kidney/liver recipient), Gregory Bend (heart recipient), Victoria Benson (donor mom) and William Escott (kidney recipient) shared their stories of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Rod Carter, former NBC13 News Anchor, served as Master of Ceremonies and spokesperson for our cause.

The Capital City Christmas Parade 2009 was held December 4th on historic Dexter Avenue in Montgomery, AL. More than 100 entries braved the cold to welcome the season and to celebrate the 190th birthday celebration for the Capital City. Among the participants was the team supporting organ, eye and tissue donation with the "Gift of Life" float. Flanked by 25 donor family members, recipients and family, and staff of the Alabama Organ Center and Alabama Eye Bank, the float made an impression on the crowd. Noteworthy in the crowd was the Donate Life flag being carried by a donor's wife and brother. The flag had flown at the hospital during the organ recovery process and continues to fly at the home he shared with his family. One observer even joined the group to share the story of her husband and his Gift of Life. What a night!!



The Alabama Organ Center (AOC) partners with the Birmingham Barons baseball team by sponsoring a "Lifesaver Toss" during home games. The Lifesaver Toss consists of two teams of two, competing to see which team can toss the most inflatable rings on the head of their partner. It is a fun, somewhat embarrassing, game! Each team receives a prize sponsored by the AOC.



Alabama celebrated National Donate Life Month with proclamations from: Governor Bob Riley, the State Legislature and the cities of: Alabaster, Bessemer, Calera, Center Point, Florence, Gadsden, Greenville, Hoover, Huntsville, Irondale, Madison, Millbrook, Mobile, Montevallo, Montgomery, Mountain Brook, Opelika, Oxford, Prattville, Tuscaloosa and Vestavia Hills.

Jackson Hospital (Montgomery, AL) celebrated National Donate Life Month by hosting a poster board contest which depicted elements of organ & tissue donation.

The Alabama Organ Center has contacted the Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division regarding a personalized decal for car tags. The decal submitted is similar to the one pictured below. If you think you might be interested in purchasing (minimum cost is \$23.00) this through the Department of Motor Vehicles, please e-mail Becky Davis at rebecca.davis@ccc.uab.edu or complete and mail the form below to the AOC, attention Becky Davis, in the enclosed envelope. When our decal artwork has been approved and we have the minimum number of supporters, we will contact you and let you know how to get your Donate Life decal.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

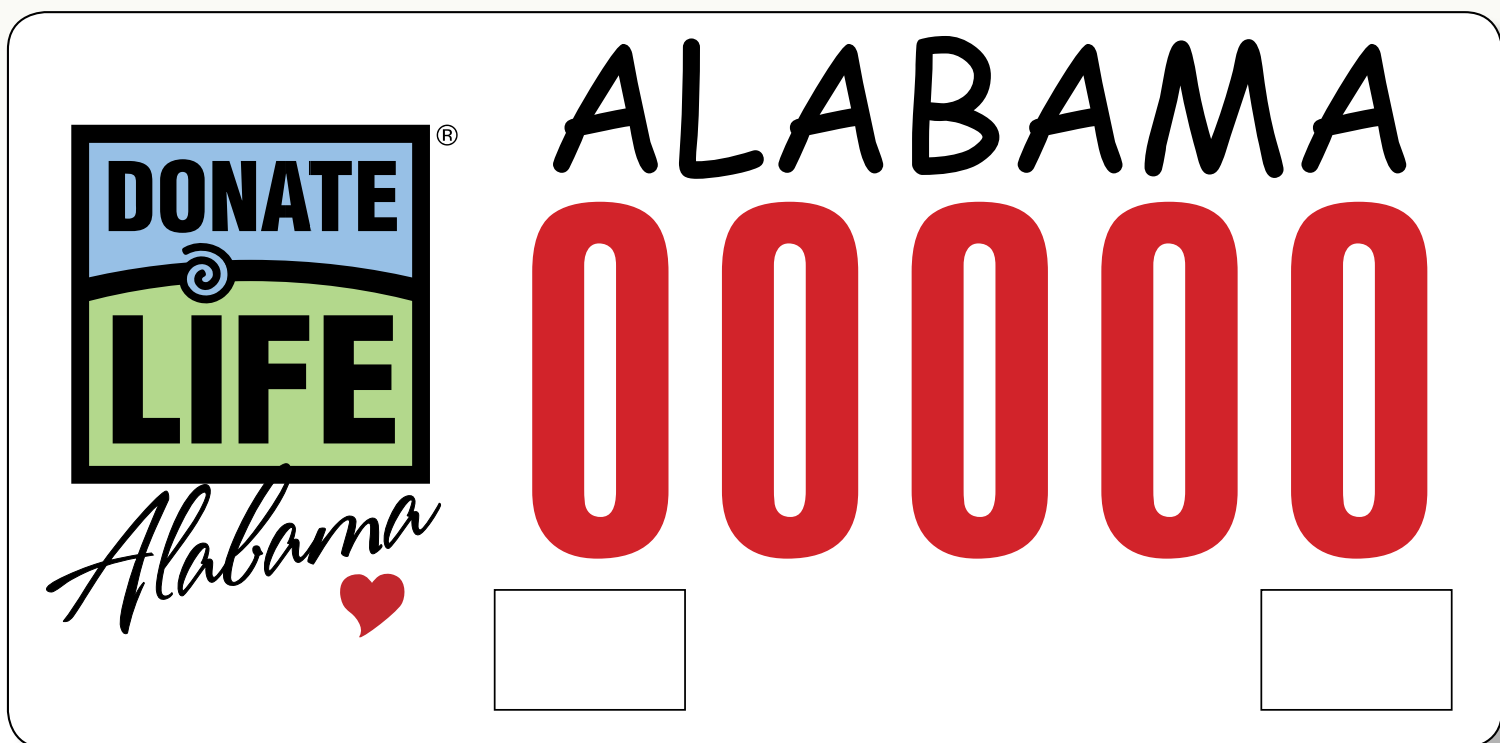
NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
 Street / P. O. Box City: State: Zip

PHONE: Day: _____ Evening: _____ Cell: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Becky Davis • Alabama Organ Center
 500 22nd Street South, Suite 102
 Birmingham, AL 35233



The 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade featured a float sponsored by Donate Life America. Donate Life America was founded by the transplant community in 1992 to educate the public about organ, eye and tissue donation and avoid duplication of effort. The Alabama Organ Center is a member. The Donate Life float depicted a soaring phoenix and won the trophy for best Theme. An amazing opportunity was made available to hospitals and individuals to sponsor a rose for the float. Baptist Medical Center South, in Montgomery, sponsored roses for families who lost loved ones in 2009 plus one rose in honor of all organ, eye and tissue donors. Please visit <http://www.donatelifefloat.org/prod/components/> for more information.

GET TO KNOW THE AOC IN 25 WORDS OR LESS



Crystal Graham
 Financial Assistant

"I've worked at the AOC four years this past May. I enjoy working around the AOC family because of the perspective that each employee gives daily. I realize how each day holds many blessings, which in return, help me see the positive effect of organ donation."



Britney (Brie) C. Hollander, BS
 Hospital / Community Liaison

"The most rewarding part of my job is when someone tells you they don't 'believe' in donation and minutes later they want to know where they can sign up! It is great to know you made a difference!"

Please visit our website www.alabamaorgancenter.org and register to become an organ and tissue donor.



Pictured L-R: Alan Hicks, Jed Nagel, Walt Montgomery and Dem Lalisan.

AOC TISSUE RECOVERY FACILITY

The Alabama Organ Center opened its new tissue recovery facility in July, 2009. The new facility consists of storage, prep rooms and a recovery suite dedicated to the recovery of donated tissue. The new facility meets operating room specifications.

Located in Birmingham, the recovery facility is centrally located within the state, standardizes recovery techniques and technology, and minimizes cross-contamination.

The Alabama Organ Center thanks RTI Biologics for years of wonderful partnership and support in building this facility.

DONOR PATELLA TENDON USED IN ACL RECONSTRUCTION

By Jason Zajac, formerly of RTI Biologics



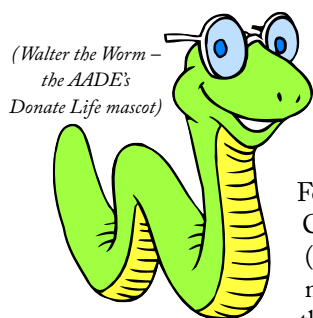
Roughly 440,500 ligament reconstruction procedures are done per year in America, with 80% being done on the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) of the knee. There are advantages of using donated tissues for ACL reconstructions such as a decrease in postoperative pain and a faster recovery time. Recently in Birmingham, AL, a donor patella tendon processed by RTI Biologics, was used by Dr. Chad Mathis to repair a torn ACL in his patient.

Dr. Mathis is pictured holding a pre-shaped patella tendon, one of many options from RTI Biologics, prior to implantation in one of his patients at the Out Patient Care Center of Birmingham. He states he chooses to obtain grafts for his patients from RTI Biologics because, "RTI completely removes the chance of donor to recipient disease transmission without compromising the integrity or biocompatibility of the graft." Dr. Mathis, with Orthopaedic Specialists of Alabama, is fellowship trained in shoulders and sports medicine. He is experienced in treating all types of orthopedic injuries. Dr. Mathis' practice in Alabaster emphasizes shoulder and knee reconstruction. He has been practicing in the region for seven years.

RTI Biologics is the primary tissue processing agency for all tissue recovered from donors in Alabama. Furthermore, they are the leading provider of sterile biological implants around the world. If you are interested in learning more about RTI Biologics and Biocleanse or their implant line for use in your facility or for your patients, please call 1-800-624-7238 or visit www.rtix.com.

AADE SUPPORTS ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

By Maya Delion, First AADE Editor & NADE Advocate SE Representative



The Alabama Association of Disability Examiners (AADE) celebrated 2010 National Donate Life Month. The AADE promoted all types of donation: blood, organ, eye and tissue. We went a step further to raise awareness of the need for organ donation with informational handouts for coworkers in both the Birmingham and Mobile locations.

For the 2nd annual Spare Your Change and Spare a Life fundraiser, the AADE's Donate Life Committee distributed cups, jugs, jars, and other containers. We placed Alabama Organ Center (AOC) labels on the containers and then placed them in each of our units and various departments for change collection. The concept was to allow everyone to contribute whatever amount they could without a monetary expectation or limitation. The beauty of this fundraiser was whether it was 34 pennies that had accumulated in a purse or desk drawer, or an anonymous donation of three dollar bills – it all added up. The Spare Change drive raised \$458.52 for the Alabama Organ Center!

Combining the Spare Your Change and Spare a Life fundraiser and additional donations of \$390.00, the chapter raised \$848.52 for the Alabama Organ Center (AOC).

Recovery is published by the Alabama Organ Center (AOC), the designated organ procurement organization for the state of Alabama. Our purpose is to provide organs and tissue to all persons who are in need of transplantation while respecting those donor families who share. In partnership with state-wide hospitals, AOC serves as the link between those who donate and patients waiting for organ and tissue transplants.

Would you like to help organ and tissue donation awareness? Make a donation to the AOC/UAB Education Fund. Mail your tax-deductible donation to the Alabama Organ Center, 500 22nd Street South, Suite 102, Birmingham, AL 35233, or use the enclosed envelope.