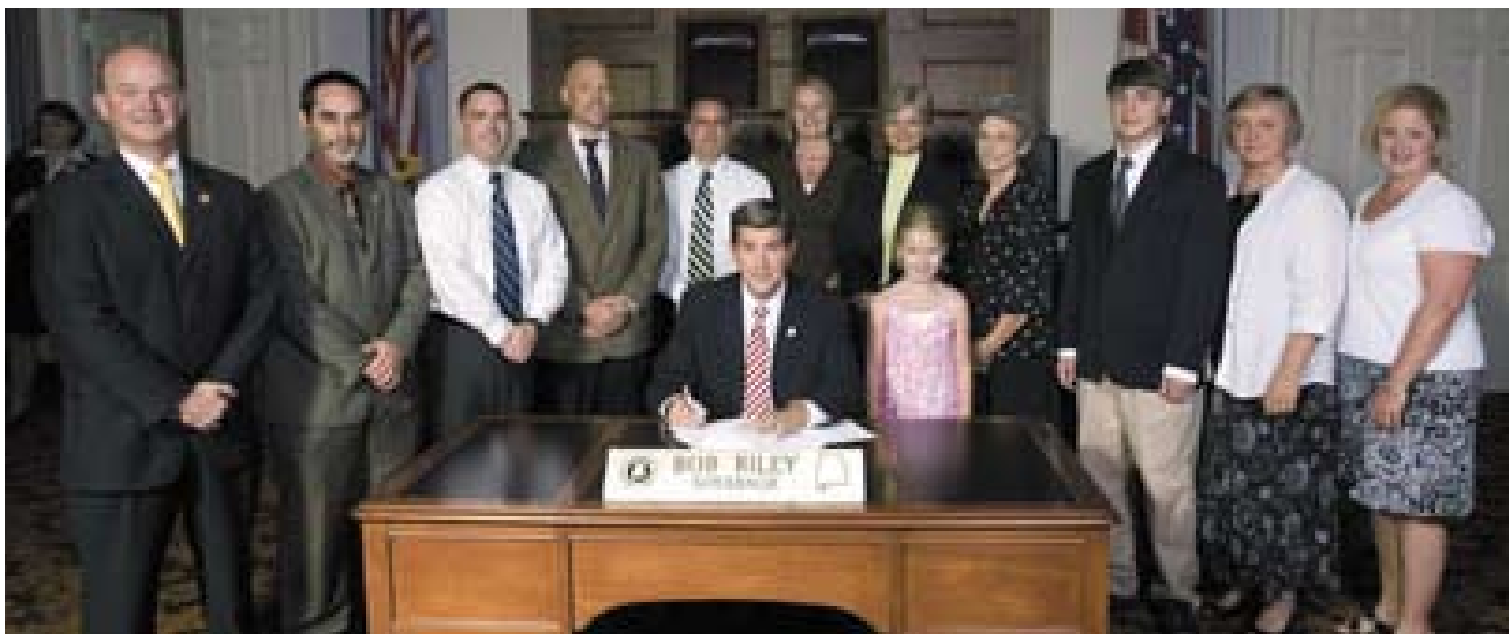


# Recovery

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
ALABAMA ORGAN CENTER

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Summer/Fall 2008



Governor Bob Riley, seated center, signs Alabama's Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA)

On June 12, 2008, Governor Bob Riley signed the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act which was passed in the 2008 Legislative Session. The House version was sponsored by The Honorable Robert Bentley and the Senate version was sponsored by The Honorable T. D. Little. The bill facilitates donations and modernizes the Act to reflect changes in federal law and regulations governing organ procurement and allocation, as well as changes in organ, tissue, and cornea donation practices. The bill's passage is a demonstration of Alabama's commitment to reducing the number of deaths on the organ waiting list, minimizing the number of delayed surgeries due to the lack of available tissue, and honoring a citizen's right to donate. A committee was formed to review the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) version to establish cooperation and protocols between the Medical Examiners and Coroners. The committee included representatives from the Attorney General's Office, the State of Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, Jefferson County Medical Examiner, Alabama Coroner's Association, Alabama Law Institute, Alabama Hospital Association, Alabama Organ Center, and the Alabama Eye Bank. The overwhelming commitment and unparalleled level of cooperation between the representatives resulted in the presentation to the Alabama Law Institute a bill with universal support.

Sponsors and supporters pictured (L-R) above are: Michael Sparks, Director Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences; Dr. Kenneth Snell, Interim Chief Medical Examiner State of Alabama; Alan Hicks, Associate Director AOC; Dr. Devin Eckhoff, Medical Director AOC; Scott Hicks, Senior Procurement Transplant Coordinator AOC; Karen Hutto, Procurement Transplant Coordinator AOC; Angela Haffarnan, Procurement Transplant Coordinator AOC; Gracie Pendley, Donor Family Member; Carol Cochran, Donor Mother; Carter Lloyd, Liver Recipient; Vicki Lloyd, Mother of Liver Recipient; Kasey Pendley, Donor Family Member.

Highlights from the bill include:

- Rescinds the requirement for hospitals to ask each patient, upon admission, whether they are an organ or tissue donor.
- Organ donation is a purely voluntary decision.
- Limited to donations from deceased donors as a result of gifts made before or after their deaths.
- Simplifies the documents and accommodates the forms commonly found on the back of driver's licenses in the United States.
- Permits the individual to sign a refusal that bars others from making a gift of the individual's organs after the individual's death.
- Strengthens prior language barring others from attempting to override an individual's decision to make or refuse to make an anatomical gift.
- The spouse, children or parents are among the class of persons who may make an anatomical gift for another individual after that individual's death.
- Emancipated minors, or minors at least 16 years old, if eligible under other law to apply for a driver's license, may be a donor.
- Establishes donor registries with the Department of Public Safety.
- Provides default rules for interpreting a document of gift if it lacks specificity.
- Assures validity if document is valid where executed or where the person making the gift is domiciled.
- Clarification and expansion of rules relating to coordination between procurement organizations and coroners and medical examiners.
- A person who falsifies a document of gift for financial gain is guilty of a felony.
- In the absence of wantonness or willful misconduct, a person acting in accordance with the Act, or who attempts to do so in good faith, has immunity.

## UAHuntsville College of Nursing honored for organ donation education



The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAHuntsville) College of Nursing was honored by the Alabama Organ Center for having 200 nursing students complete the course, "Issues in Transplantation." UAHuntsville College of Nursing is the only college, or school of nursing, in the state to reach this milestone for educating nursing students about the issues of transplantation. Ann Rayburn, Senior Manager of Professional Education for the AOC (pic-

tured center), made the presentation to Dean Fay Raines (pictured left) and Associate Professor Linda Riley, (pictured right).

"This is a significant achievement and the Alabama Organ Center wishes to thank the College of Nursing for its efforts. These nursing students now have a greater appreciation and understanding of the importance of organ and tissue donation. The students are

better equipped to work with grieving families and to serve as advocates for donation and transplantation," Rayburn said.

UAHuntsville College's Dr. Linda Riley, the course instructor, is a former organ procurement coordinator for the AOC. In this role, she was responsible for facilitating the donation process from hospitals in north Alabama. Dean Fay Raines also expressed appreciation to the AOC for its continued support of hospital staff and for public education efforts on the importance of giving the gift of life.

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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.



# Celebration of Life Picnic 2008



←  
1,500 attended the 2008 UAB/AOC Celebration of Life Picnic at UAB's Mini-Park.



→  
Recipients gathered, by organ received, for a group "CHEER FOR LIFE;" then all voices rose in a "CHEER FOR LIFE" in tribute to donor families and living donors.

→  
Donor families gave moving testimonials and made quilt squares for the Alabama and National Kidney Foundation Donor Quilts.



←  
Butterflies, a universal symbol of recovery, were released to honor donor families and those who received their gift of life.



Donor family quilts were on display.

This is a note Holli Dill sent with her t-shirt artwork



My name is Holli Dill, I am submitting this to you. I am a donor wife, my husband passed on Easter 2007. Hope you like my design it truly inspired me due to the fact my daughter has a star picked out in the sky and says that is my daddy's star.

Sincerely,  
Holli Dill

Each year the Picnic committee requests artwork from donor families and recipients to create the t-shirt design. This year's winning artwork was submitted by two different donor family members. Holli Dill, donor wife, designed the graphic for the back of the shirts (pictured center) and Barbara Smith, donor mom, designed the graphic that was on the front (pictured left). This was the first year in the history of the Picnic that both shirt designs were from donor family members.

*Mark your calendars for next year's UAB/AOC Celebration of Life Picnic, April 18, 2009, UAB Mini-Park.*

**Be an organ, eye and tissue donor, for more information visit [www.alabamaorgancenter.org](http://www.alabamaorgancenter.org)**



# 2008 TRANSPLANT GAMES

DATELINE: Pittsburgh

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) 2008 U.S. Transplant Games were a celebration of life that included transplant recipients, their friends and families, living donors, donor families and transplant professionals. The Games is the only national athletic competition for recipients of all life-saving organ transplants, as well as the largest gathering of transplant recipients and donor families in the world. The Games serve to promote the health and fitness of its participants while showcasing the success of transplantation, highlighting the tremendous need for more organ and tissue donors, and honoring the thousands of selfless acts of love from donors and their families all over the world.

The Games occur every-other year and this year the Games convened in Pittsburgh, PA. Alabama had 181 attendees at the 2008 Games. There were 50 athletes, 32 donor family members, nine living donors and 90 team supporters.

One of those athletes was Vivian Herron, kidney recipient. They say everyone has a story. Well, our Ms. Vivian has a whopper! She was the first amputee to ever swim at the Games (one of only seven amputees at the Games this year). However, she tried to swallow the pool during one competition and was taken to the Emergency Room. Evidently, her ER doctor fell head-over-heels because he came to watch her during other competitions. CONGRATULATIONS VIVIAN, she won the Silver in shot-put and the Gold in discus throw.



Another athlete with a story to share is Anna Trotman (pediatric kidney recipient and visually impaired). Anna is pictured with Dr. Starzl, a pioneer in liver transplantation, who presented her with a Silver medal for the discus throw. This year was Anna's 5<sup>th</sup> trip to the Games (her first trip was as a member of Team Georgia).

37 Total Medals—Best Ever for Team Alabama!

- Interesting Facts:
1. Our under 17 crew won 27 of our 37 medals!!
  2. Our medal count is our most diversified ever with medals in Basketball, Shot-put, Discus, Long Jump, Track & Field Races, Bowling, Cycling, Swimming and Badminton
  3. Team Alabama Athletes finished 4<sup>th</sup> an unbelievable number of times which bodes well for the 2010 Games in Madison, Wisconsin!

What a success in celebration, camaraderie and competition for Alabama's TEAM!!  
For more information, please visit [www.teamalabama.org](http://www.teamalabama.org).



## AOC hosts Annual Update on Organ Donation

It is a tradition...head to the beach every spring to learn about what is new in organ and tissue donation and transplantation. This year was no exception. The AOC's annual conference was held May 12 – 13<sup>th</sup> at the Perdido Beach Resort.

The conference kick-off was a reception held Monday evening on the beautiful, but very windy, outside patio. The learning started Tuesday morning with a brief "Framing the Day" presentation given by Ann Rayburn, Senior Manager of Professional Education for the AOC. Ms. Rayburn outlined the conference objectives and the High Leverage Changes that have proven successful in improving hospital donation systems.

### HIGH LEVERAGE CHANGES FOR HOSPITALS

Source: *Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative*

- ♥ Advocate organ donation as the mission
- ♥ Involve senior leaders to get results
- ♥ Deploy self-organizing organ procurement organization (OPO) / hospital teams
- ♥ Practice early referral, rapid response
- ♥ Master effective requesting
  - Huddles – Healthcare team members meet to discuss the needs of the family
  - After Action Reviews – The OPO follows-up with the hospital after a donation to evaluate how things went
- ♥ Implement Organ Donation after Cardiac Death

We had a wonderful diverse group of speakers for this year's conference.

Jonathan C. Hundley, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 Stephen H. Hunt, RN, MSN, CNS-BC, UAB University Hospital  
 Kim Parker, RN, DCH Regional Medical Center  
 Jane Geloneck, BA, Alabama Organ Center  
 Kenneth S. Snell, M.D., Interim Chief Medical Examiner State of Alabama  
 Becky Moerbe, LGSW, Alabama Organ Center



A special thanks to our wonderful donor family panel participants Kay Christian, donor wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren, donor parents.

Please join us for next year's conference, April 27 – 28, 2009, at the Perdido Beach Resort.

## Christina Pippin becomes a nontraditional organ donor

For those of us who know Christina Pippin, we know that she is nontraditional...we just didn't know how nontraditional she is. In January of 2007 she became a nontraditional living kidney donor. Christina altruistically donated her kidney to a man she barely knew.

Christina's drive to donate came from her personal experience of losing her beloved aunt to chronic kidney disease at the age of 31. Christina was just 14-years-old when her aunt died and she vowed to do something that would help someone else. When Christina approached the age of 31, the age her aunt was when she died, she decided to make her vow a reality.

The lucky recipient of Christina's generosity celebrated his one-year kidney birthday on January 15, 2008. Christina's goal was to give someone the opportunity to live and she has been successful in achieving that goal.

In addition to donating her kidney, Christina has dedicated her professional life to donation and transplantation as well. Christina is a nurse who works as a Procurement Transplant Coordinator for the Alabama Organ Center. In this role she has an opportunity to work with potential donor families, hospitals and transplant recipients. "I have been blessed to witness the best that humanity has to offer. We hear a lot about the fall of society, but in my job I see people every day who have tragically lost a loved one, but choose to save the life of a stranger by donating," states Christina Pippin. "It is a humbling place to work!"

Christina's transplant journey is published in the June 2008 edition of *Progress in Transplantation*. She was also an invited speaker for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the North American Transplant Coordinators Organization in Boston.



Jody Blackburn (left) and Christina Pippin



Dr. Vineeta Kumar, UAB Nephrologist (center) visits with Christina and Jody

**Six Alabama hospitals will receive the Organ Donation Medal of Honor, issued by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, in recognition of outstanding organ donation rates. Baptist Medical Center South, University of Alabama Hospital, Huntsville Hospital, Flowers Hospital, University of South Alabama Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Alabama. Congratulations!**



*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.*

## ATV Riders Rev Through Mobile In Support of Organ Donation



Founded in 2003 with a mission of generating awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation, Donate Life ATVs Across America is part of the non-profit organization, A Ride Across America. The team rides ATVs across the United States, and this year's route was Interstate 10, passing through Mobile. Team members included transplant recipients, living donors, and donor and recipient family members.

The ATVs and riders were at Infirmiry West Hospital and the University of South Alabama Student Activities Center April 22 & 23. The public attended both events.

Currently nearly 100,000 people await organ transplants in the United States, with close to 3,200 of them in Alabama.

More information is available at [www.arideacrossamerica.org](http://www.arideacrossamerica.org) and [www.chrisklugfoundation.org](http://www.chrisklugfoundation.org). More information about organ donation is available at [www.alabamaorgancenter.org](http://www.alabamaorgancenter.org), [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org), and [www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net). Public inquiries may be directed to the Alabama Organ Center at (205) 731-9200 or (800) 252-3677.

## AOC sponsors a night at the Birmingham Barons

It was June 19<sup>th</sup>, a typical summer night in the South. Once in a while we'd catch a small breeze over the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline...the mild aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers filling the air. Yep, it was AOC family night at the Baron's. The staff enjoyed sitting around and visiting with each other. Some hopped from table to table. The kids, oh the kids had a wonderful time climbing all over the inflatables. Nic Powell, kidney recipient, threw out the first ball. Nic was there with his Mom, Valerie (his living kidney donor) and Dad, Craig. Nic was very excited as he was soon to be off to Philadelphia for the 2008 Transplant Games where he had qualified for just about every game to be played.



## 25 words or less...Get to Know the Alabama Organ Center

Each issue of *Recovery* will feature two members of the Alabama Organ Center staff. In this issue, we'd like to introduce Becky and Ginny in 25 words or less.



**Becky Smith, BS, CPTC,  
 Procurement Coordinator**

Procurement Coordinators oversee the donation process from hospital referral to organ recovery.

"It's an unbelievable experience to be an integral part of the 'rebirth' of an individual's life through transplant, yet be completely behind the scenes."



**Ginny Guindon, BS, PA-C,  
 Quality Assurance Coordinator**

Quality Assurance Coordinators insure the integrity of donor charts.

"I am proud to be part of the wonderful process of organ donation/transplantation and continue to insure the accuracy of donor and recipient information."

## Website Update

It's official. The Alabama Organ Center has a newly re-constructed web site that officially went live on August 28. Please continue to visit us at

[www.alabamaorgancenter.org](http://www.alabamaorgancenter.org)

## ABOUT US

The Alabama Organ Center (AOC) is the federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for the state of Alabama. We work with all of the hospitals in the state to coordinate their donation services. Like all OPOs, we are non-profit.

We provide a variety of services:

- Hospital education
- Public education
- Screening of potential donors
- Coordination of the donation process
- Family support

The AOC is committed to providing a better quality of life for those who require an organ or tissue transplant, while respecting the families who share the gift of life.