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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 18, 2006

## Media Advisory/Photo Opportunity

### JULY 20 MEDIA EVENT in PLEASANTON LAUNCHES MAJOR CHANGE to SIGN UP for ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION

**What:** The California Department of Motor Vehicles teams up with the Donate Life California Registry to bring Californians a new way to become organ and tissue donors. Beginning July 1, anyone who checks "Yes!" when applying for or renewing a driver license or I.D. card will be registered as an organ and tissue donor, with the potential to save eight lives and improve the lives of up to 50 others. For the first time, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Donate Life California Organ & Tissue Donor Registry are teaming up, urging drivers and residents to add their names quickly and easily to the state's online donation database. **And for the first time since its introduction 30 years ago, the pink "donor" dot will be incorporated into each donor's license, rather than being a sticker on the outside.**

**Who:**

- **Terri Garner** – A kidney/pancreas recipient of eight years, Terri was diabetic since age 11. Terri grew up in the TriValley area and the mother of her donor lives in Pleasanton. Terri works full-time and volunteers many hours every year to promote the cause of donation.
- **Del Lavezzo** - A donor mom whose son, Rich, died in a motorcycle accident. Del is a registered nurse with many years experience working in hospice care. Del Lavezzo wholeheartedly supports donation.
- **Judy Heckman** – A liver recipient of 17 months, Judy lives in Walnut Creek. Judy's background is in the field of nutrition and she has a positive energy and willingness to share her good life post transplant.
- **Kelly Olmo** – A liver transplant recipient since she was a young child, Kelly grew up in Pleasanton. She now attends Las Positas Community College and just won a silver medal in the US transplant games in Kentucky.
- **Cathy Olmo** - A resident of Pleasanton, Cathy is on staff at the Transplant Network where she coordinates all of the volunteers and their activities.

**When:** Thursday, July 20, 2006 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Where:** DMV office at 6300 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton

**Background:** Donate Life California, which is responsible for the registry, is made up of the state's four federally-designated organ recovery agencies: California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN), serving Northern and Central California; Golden State Donor Services, serving the Sacramento metro area; Lifesharing, serving San Diego and Imperial counties; and OneLegacy, serving the seven counties around Los Angeles.

**Contacts:** California Transplant Donor Network: Cathy Olmo, (925) 324-7043, colmo@ctdn.org  
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