



www.donateLIFecalifornia.org



www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 17, 2006

Media Advisory/Photo Opportunity

JULY 18 MEDIA EVENT in SAN FRANCISCO 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:

- **Mike Gallo** – Having received a liver transplant in 1999, Mike began communicating with the family of his donor. This led to his ultimately meeting Rafael and Marta Segura whose son Roberto was his donor. They became good friends and traveled together to Roberto's home town in Michoacan where there is a street named after him.

Mike used to be a professional boxer in his native Nicaragua and has lived in San Francisco for 52 years. Coincidentally, his daughter became an organ donor when she died in a motor vehicle accident.

- **Wanda Dare** – A living-related kidney donor, Wanda saved her daughter's life when she contracted a kidney disease at age 5 months. Jenna, the youngest of four, is now 17 years old.
- **Suzanne Rehana-Self** - received a liver in 2005. Coincidentally, Suzanne's brother, Shane Thomas Jones died in a motor vehicle accident at the age of 21 and became an organ donor just three years before Suzanne received her transplant.

Note: Spanish-speaking and Cantonese-speaking media representatives will attend.

When: Tuesday, July 18, 2006 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: DMV office at 1377 Fell Street, San Francisco

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: David Heneghan, (510) 251-7005, dheneghan@ctdn.org
Donate Life California: Tracy Bryan, president, (916) 473-0861 or cell (916) 417-1794, tbryan@dcids.org

#