



You have the power to donate life



A Donate Life organization

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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CALIFORNIA TRANSPLANT DONOR NETWORK

Partners in Pioneer Program to Bring Internet Access To Underserved Populations

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – (Thursday, July 27, 2006) - The California Transplant Donor Network, in association with the San Francisco Public Library, has launched a unique program to bring Internet access to underserved San Franciscans and enable them to sign-up on the Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. The project is being piloted in the Mission branch of the library prior to expanding to other branches.

This program will provide great public benefit, as it will give people access to computers people who normally don't have such plus enable people to record their wishes to save lives through organ and tissue donation for transplantation.

"We are very happy to help people with their computer and information needs," said Martha Arroyo Neves, a librarian at the Mission Branch Library. The Mission Branch Library is located at 300 Bartlett Street at 24th.

The goals of the partnership are to expand public access to computers and enable people to record their wishes to save lives. Californians can sign-up to be organ and tissue donors at any computer with Internet capability. Each registrant's personal donation decision is stored in a secure database free of charge, and the information is accessible as "read-only" to authorized, non-hospital organ and tissue recovery personnel. At the time they sign-up, registrants will have the option of sending an email notification to friends and family as well.

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“Signing-up on the registry only takes minutes – minutes that can mean years of life to patients waiting for a transplant,” according to Andres Lozano, Community Affairs Coordinator for the Transplant Network. “Both of our organizations are committed to reaching-out to the community and enabling them to give the gift of life,” Lozano says.

Where: Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St. (at 24th St.) 415-355-2800

When: Mon, 1-9; Tue/Wed, 10-9; Thur/Sat, 10-6; Fri, 1-6; Sun, 1-5.

Fast Facts

- More than 28,000 people received organ transplants last year; 3244 in California.
- More than 92,000 people in the United States are waiting for organ transplants to save their lives; 21% reside in California. More than 2,100 of those waiting are children under the age of 18.
- Each day, more than 18 people – one every 90 minutes – die in the United States because of a shortage of organ donors. In 2005, more than 6,000 individuals died on the U.S. organ-transplant waiting list because the organs they needed were not donated in time. About 13 people are added to the national organ transplant waiting list every day.
- One person can potentially save more than seven lives through organ donation, and touch more than 50 others with tissue donation. To become a donor, go to **www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org**. At this website you can both officially record your wishes to be a donor and notify your family.

California Transplant Donor Network

The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The Transplant Network helps 160 hospitals in 40 Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada counties offer the option of organ and tissue donation to families whose loved ones have died, coordinates deceased organ recovery and placement, and provides public education with the hope that every resident will become a donor. It is federally designated as this region’s organ recovery organization. For more information, visit **www.ctdn.org** or call 1-888-570-9400.

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