



You have the power to donate life



A Donate Life organization

For Immediate Release

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Grueling Cycling Event Pairs Athletes with Patients Waiting for a Miracle

OAKLAND, CA - All kinds of unusual situations can bring strangers together. For Dante Ravetti of **San Mateo**, California, who continues to endure a life-threatening illness that has placed him on the national waiting list for an organ transplant, it was beyond his imagination that somewhere in the United States, a strong, committed athlete preparing for one of the most grueling cycling events in the world, would come to race across the United States in his honor. Greg Chapla of Davis, California, is doing just that.

Team Donate Life (TDL), the national non-profit organization, is once again going to participate in Race Across America (RAAM)* for 2007 leaving Oceanside, CA on June 12, 2007. Created in 1982 and currently the longest running ultra-distance bicycle endurance competition in the world, RAAM will take the TDL (www.teamdonatelife.com) participants approximately 6-8 days to complete.

Founded by health care providers, organ donors and organ recipients who are committed to sharing the miracle of life that is offered by organ donation, TDL prides itself on its outreach and public awareness programs. "There seems to be a new kind of athlete around these days," says Kent Mulkey, Executive Director for Team Donate Life. "People are hungering for something 'more,' something that they can't possibly create or imagine, bargain for or buy on their own. Team Donate Life provides just such an opportunity by helping save lives by promoting organ and tissue donation. One person can save up to eight lives through organ donation and up to 50 lives through tissue donation.

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Cyclist Chapla shares that "riding in honor of Dante Ravetti has really brought home for me the real purpose of our team, Team Donate Life, which is to encourage as many Americans as we can to sign up on the state organ and tissue registry. No one should have to suffer as Dante is doing today. The hours each of us cyclists have endured over the past six months to prepare for this event, the training, overwhelming exhaustion, ongoing fundraising and personal financial commitment and planning, is nothing compared to the heroics that we are learning about the waitlist candidates we are so touched to get to know. His picture will be on my bike throughout my ride."

Fast Facts

- Nearly 29,000 people received organ transplants last year - 3308 in California.
- Over 96,000 people in the United States are waiting for organ transplants to save their lives – almost 2,000 of those waiting are children. More than 9,600 of those waiting are in the Transplant Network's Northern and Central California service area.
- Each day, 18 people – one every 90 minutes – die in the United States because of a shortage of organ donors. In 2006, more than 6,000 individuals died on the U.S. organ-transplant waiting list because the organs they needed were not donated in time.
- One person can potentially save up to eight lives as an organ donor, and improve more than 50 others through eye and tissue donation. To become a donor, go to **donateLIFEcalifornia.org**. At this website one can both officially record their wish to be a donor and notify their 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. The Transplant Network is federally designated as the region's organ recovery organization. For more information, visit **ctdn.org** or call 1-888-570-9400.

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