



You have the power to donate life



A Donate Life organization

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## **ORGAN DONATION VOLUNTEERS-FOR-LIFE APPRECIATION EVENT**

### ***Send-off for Team NorCal-Neva***

PLEASANTON, CA – (Saturday, June 3, 2006) – The **California Transplant Donor Network** is holding a picnic to acknowledge more than 500 people who volunteer (+3000 hours in 2005) to raise awareness and educate the public about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Members of **Team NorCal-Neva** will also attend and receive a warm send-off. Team NorCal Neva will represent Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada in the U.S. Transplant Games in Kentucky. The team includes 30 transplant recipients who will compete to defend the highly prized “Team Cup” awarded to the team with the highest average medals per athlete.

The athletes include liver recipient of 17 years, Kelly Olmo (19) from **Pleasanton** who will compete for the first time in volleyball, basketball and tennis. Team Manager, Mark Graves from **Clovis**, a kidney & pancreas recipient, inspires the team with his warm welcome and athletic ability especially on the volleyball court. Tom Glennon of **Sunnyvale** (a kidney recipient) was “Male Athlete of the Year in 2002”—achieved by winning the most medals by a single athlete in the Games. Donor Sister, Audrey Sasso-Stout of **Novato** has attended three of the Transplant Games since the death of her sister Sharon and will mentor the other donor families who will be attending the Games in memory of their lost loved one. Reggie Wickliff from **Oakland**, a kidney recipient, will compete in track and field. Identical twins, Isa Stenzel-Byrnes and Ana Stenzel - both double lung recipients from **Redwood City** - will compete in the Games because they “can” now with their new lease on life!

**Where:** Amador Park, 4455 Black Avenue in Pleasanton

**When:** 12 noon to 4pm

“If it weren’t for our cadre of volunteers, we couldn’t accomplish all that we do,” said Cathy Olmo, Volunteer Coordinator for the Transplant Network. “They play a critical role in educating and inspiring the public to say “yes” to donation and perhaps this is one way they can give something back and say thank you.”

### **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 eight lives through organ donation, and improve more than 50 others with tissue donation. To become a donor, go to **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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