



You have the power to donate life



A Donate Life organization

For immediate release: Thursday, November 3rd, 2005

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National Donor Sabbath Provides Empowering Opportunity to Save Lives

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – (November 12th, 2005) – While African Americans comprise 13% of the U.S. population, they represent 27% of individuals on the national transplant waiting list and 35% of patients waiting for a kidney transplant.

Statistically, African Americans have a better chance of being matched for an organ transplant if the donor is also black. Unfortunately, the shortage of organs and lack of awareness and information about how to become a donor means people in need of organ transplants wait longer on dialysis and sometimes even die waiting for a transplant. Clearly the need for organ donation has reached significant proportions and one donor can save up to eight lives.

During this season of giving, **National Donor Sabbath** highlights the critical importance of organ and tissue donation. From November 11-13, houses of worship across all denominations will hold services and programs to educate and remind us that each one of us *has the power to DONATE LIFE*.

Locally, the National Donor Sabbath Minority Organ Donor Awareness Program will be sponsored by the San Francisco and Peninsula chapters of The Links. The event will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2005, from 3-5PM and the **Ingleside Presbyterian Church**, Rev. Roland Gordon, Pastor will host the program. The church is located at 1345 Ocean Avenue - corner of Granada - in San Francisco.

The **Kaiser Permanente African American Health Initiative** and the **California Transplant Donor Network** are co-sponsoring the event. For additional information call C.T.D.N. Community Outreach Coordinator, June Wallace at (510) 444-8500.

The event is free.

Fast Facts

- 89,000 people in the United States are waiting for organ transplants to save their lives. More than 2,300 of them are children under the age of 18. As of April 2, 2005, 8,400 of these men, women and children are in the Transplant Network's Northern and Central California service area – more than 2,000 of these are **African American**.
- Each day, 20 people – one every 90 minutes – die in the United States because of a shortage of organ donors. About 13 people are added to the national organ transplant waiting list every day.
- One person can save more than seven lives through organ donation, and touch more than 50 others with tissue donation. To become a donor, go to **donateLIFEcalifornia.org**. At this website one can both officially record their wishes 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. It is federally designated as this area's organ-procurement organization. For more information, visit **ctdn.org** or call 1-888-570-9400.

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