



For Immediate Release

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The late Paula Davis with son, Jonathan

Area teen drives toward donation goal with mom in mind

With memory of late mother, he seeks to register Donors in pursuing Eagle rank

OAKLEY, CA. -- On a recent Saturday in shopping center in Oakley, California, a young man pursued a dream – to honor his mother.

Jonathan Davis, 17, and volunteers with the California Transplant Donor Network set up a table at a shopping center in Oakley, CA. to register people who want to be organ and tissue donors. It was part of his goal to become an Eagle Scout.

But it was also to honor his mother. Paula Davis died in November, 2010, living 15 years longer thanks to a double lung and heart transplant.

“As long I as I get one person to sign up, I will be happy,” the young man said before the event. “Someone who signs up is going to help save someone’s life.”

After a full day of overseeing the effort, the 17-year-old Freedom High School student and the volunteers registered 23 people who agreed to one day donate organs and tissues to help those in need of organ and tissue transplants.

Doing community work is among the requirements to reach the highest rank in scouting. Jonathan expects to now be able to complete the process of seeking the honor in the next few weeks.

The teenager's mother, Paula Davis, found she had an enlarged heart at 17. Jonathan says doctors told her to expect to live three more. She lived 12 years without a transplant, until in 1995 she received a heart transplant, and then a year later, a double lung transplant.

Outliving that doctor's prediction meant that at some point, Paula, who eventually married Derle Davis, could adopt a baby, Jonathan, and raise him.

"She was an incredible woman," says Jonathan of his mother, who died five days before she turned 50 years old.

Davis will be graduating Freedom High School later this year, and going on to community college with dreams of becoming a firefighter and paramedic. What's attractive about those careers? Like what he did on the recent Saturday, "it saves lives."

Oakley is a community of about 35,000 people in Contra Costa County.



The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The California Transplant Donor Network helps 175 hospitals in 41 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 California Transplant Donor Network is federally designated as the region's organ recovery organization. For information, visit www.ctdn.org.



Donate Life California administers the nonprofit, state-authorized organ and tissue donor registry with the support of California's four nonprofit, federally-designated organ recovery agencies: California Transplant Donor Network, Sierra Donor Services, Lifesharing and OneLegacy.