

**For Immediate Release**

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Charles Hiawatha Butler Jr.

**Even in death, young man gives hope to others**  
*His loved ones talk Saturday about the decision to donate organs*

RICHMOND, CA. – His older sister says throughout his life, she told Charles Butler he needed to give back.

On Saturday, **Valerie Butler** talks about how Charles kept his word. A victim of violence just days before Christmas last year, Charles became a five-organ donor.

**KDYA (1190 AM)** broadcasts “**Gospel Spotlight: From Hurt to Hope, the Charles Butler Jr. Story**” at **9 a.m. Saturday** (Feb. 11).

At the time of his death, Charles was on a course to complete his dream of becoming a merchant marine. His family is carrying his memory forward in an effort along with his church to register more people as organ and tissue donors.

The national waiting list for organs tops 112,000. Within the African American community, the number of people registered as donors is less than other groups, even though the African Americans suffer in larger number from diseases, like diabetes or kidney failure, which can require transplants.

Charles registered as an organ donor when he was 18. As Valerie Butler tells listeners, the family was unaware of that decision until he was shot just before Christmas.

“I told him you have to do something back. You can’t just take things for granted. Little did I know he already had plans on giving back. Now look what he has given back, the most precious gift of life. I know wherever he is now, he’s looking down and laughing and saying, ‘Big Sis, I gave something back.’”

The program also features **Bishop David Hartfield** of the Praise Bible Fellowship Church in Richmond and Praise Bible **Pastor William Coleman**, both of whom have pledged to begin a year-long effort to increase the number of people registered to become potential donors.

“Many of us know friends and family who are in need of organs,” Coleman said. “That’s how close it hits home.”

The program airs at 9 a.m. on Saturday and, starting next week, will be available on [ctdn.org](http://ctdn.org).



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](http://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.