

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Anthony Borders, Communications Specialist
510 301-8247**



Two people committed to organ cause are honored
California Transplant Donor Network award given for commitment to excellence

OAKLAND, CA. Two employees of the nation's largest non-profits devoted to helping to save lives through organ and tissue donation have received its award of excellence.

Sandy Olson and **Allen Ward** received the Phyllis Weber award. Its namesake is the organization's first chief executive who retired in 2007. Weber established the non-profit organ and tissue donation organization and the annual honor, first given out in 2010, recognizes CTDN team members who provide exceptional leadership.

“Both candidates exhibited exceptional dedication to the mission and core values of CTDN,” said current Chief Executive Officer Cindy Siljstrom. Last year, CTDN facilitated the donation of 1,075 lifesaving organs plus worked with 1,214 tissue donors, helping to enhance more than 46,200 lives.

Olson brings a personal experience with the cause of helping to save the lives of more than 112,000 people on the national waiting list for organs.

In 1996, her 11-year-old daughter, Jacqueline, died suddenly after a congenital malformation of blood vessels in her brain caused a vessel to rupture. When approached by CTDN about whether to donate her daughter’s organ and tissues, Sandy agreed. Jacqueline donated her heart, both kidneys and her liver to save lives.

“I was so impressed by the way CTDN handled my situation that I decided I wanted to be a part of the organization,” she said.

Olson became accounting manager for CTDN about two years ago, but before then was a volunteer, serving on its medical advisory board.

Ward joined CTDN in 2010, after working at the Northern California Transplant Bank. In his current position as Hospital Services Manager, Ward and his team work to improve the process of donation in the hospitals in Northern California and Northern Nevada which refer potential donation cases to CTDN.

“Allen, I have heard wonderful things about our willingness to jump in the fray with sleeves rolled up and ready to work hard to improve hospital relations,” Weber wrote in a congratulatory statement.

Registering as a donor saves lives. Go to ctdn.org or Check Yes when renewing your driver’s license.



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.