



CONTACT: Paula Valle
JDI Communications, Inc.
213-612-4927
888-477-4319 (Pager: 24/7)
pvalle@jdipr.com

For Immediate Release

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPLANT DONOR NETWORK ANNOUNCES
FINAL STAGE in CONSOLIDATING TISSUE RECOVERY**

Community Tissue Services Partners with CTDN

OAKLAND and FRESNO, CALIF. – May. 17, 2010 – **California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN)**, the federally-designated organ recovery agency for northern and central California, announced that as of 8:00 am this morning it has officially begun providing tissue recovery operations in the Fresno area for **Community Tissue Services (CTS)**, one of the largest U.S. tissue banks. The two organizations entered into an agreement earlier this year. Ongoing tissue processing and distribution services at CTS will not be affected by the agreement.

“As of today we have completed the final stage in our acquisition of three leading regional tissue bank recovery programs,” stated Cynthia D. Siljestrom, chief executive officer of CTDN. “Our first two additions, **Tissue Banks International (TBI)** and **Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (MTF)**, have merged successfully and we have already begun to realize the tremendous giving nature of our donor families in ways never before possible.”

Siljestrom went on to state that “having a single agency as a point of contact for both organ and tissue recovery has proven to be a successful model in many other parts of the country. By combining these services, we will be able to increase donation rates while making the process easier for hospitals and most importantly by supporting our donor families.”

David Smith, M.D. and CEO of CTS went on to note, “by partnering with CTDN we have strengthened our commitment of providing an exceptional level of service to our clients as well as the Fresno community. We look forward to continuing to provide tissue grafts for transplantation in California.”

CTDN concurrently announced the appointment of Frances Cordova as tissue recovery manager. Cordova previously served as the director of tissue services for the California Branch of CTS, where she managed day to day operations. In her new position, she will report to Matthew Crump, director of tissue recovery services for CTDN. Cordova has more than 20 years of experience in the field of tissue recovery. During Cordova's

-MORE-

CTDN and CTS PARTNER
2-2-2

tenure, CTS has been the largest provider of tissue to burn units in the United States.

“I am honored and excited to be part of such a remarkable organization,” said Cordova. “I have worked with the Fresno staff of CTDN for more than 21 years and have had the pleasure of learning so much together and from them. We have always worked for a common goal of providing the highest care possible for donor families as well as striving for the best outcome for transplant recipients.”

Cordova went on to state, “as a donor mother I can say first hand that having compassionate guidance and someone you feel you can trust is what keeps you from falling totally apart during that unexpected tragic time. In many ways I feel like I have always been part of the CTDN family. I am looking forward to seeing what this great union brings in the future.”

Tissue from a single donor can improve the lives of 50 people or more. Tissue recovery is possible without the operational hearts and lungs that are required for organ recovery. Corneas and sclera can restore sight to the blind, while skin can be used for temporary dressings for burns, serious abrasions, and advanced surgical reconstruction. Bone is used to facilitate healing of fractures or provide additional spinal support. Veins play a vital role for patients requiring safe and effective treatment options for vascular reconstructions and infection management. Valves are used to replace defective ones in the heart. Tendons are used to repair ligaments on knees or other joints. Tissue that is not acceptable for transplant may be used for research.

Both organizations have assured area hospitals that tissues recovered will be returned for priority use to local communities to ensure the “full circle” of the donated gift. Like organ recovery, tissue recovery is only accomplished with the authorization of the donor via sign-up on the Donate Life California Organ & Tissue Donor Registry, or by authorization of family members.

About the 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 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 Transplant Network is federally designated as the region’s organ recovery organization. For more information, visit www.ctdn.org or call (888) 570-9400. Those in California who wish to sign up on the registry may do so at www.donatelifecalifornia.org or www.donevidacalifornia.org.

-MORE-

CTDN and CTS PARTNER
3-3-3

About CTS:

Headquartered in Dayton, Ohio, Community Tissue Services (CTS) is a nonprofit quality, ethical provider of services to recipients, donor families, medical communities, and community partners through the respectful recovery, processing and distribution of tissue grafts. CTS, an accredited member of the AATB, is one of the largest tissue banks in the United States and operates regional offices in California, Texas, Indiana, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Ohio, and two satellite offices in Idaho and Oregon. In 2009 CTS distributed more than 133,000 tissue grafts to 2,000 hospitals, physicians and surgeons. For more information on CTS, visit www.communitytissue.org.

###