Health Commissioner to Run With Organ Donation Team at Vermont City Marathon

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BURLINGTON - Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD, will be anchoring a five-person relay team of organ donors and recipients at the Vermont City Marathon on May 24.

“Organ donation is one of the most selfless and meaningful acts a person can make,” Dr. Chen said, “and as an emergency room physician, I saw firsthand how an organ donation can save someone’s life.”

The team SPAREPARTS 4 includes Jenn DeMaroney, (double corneal recipient and organ procurement coordinator at the University of Vermont Medical Center), Courtney Boutin (mother of Isabella Boutin, liver recipient), Stan Morse (prospective live liver donor for his fiancé), and Bob Opel (the organ procurement coordinator at the University of Vermont Medical Center).

Three of the five team members have run the event together for the past four years.

“You can indicate your choice to become an organ and tissue donor by designating it on your driver’s license or state identification card (at your nearest driver’s license office) or with your Advance Directive,” Dr. Chen said. The vast majority of people (84%) in Vermont register to be an organ and tissue donor at the Department of Motor Vehicles when they renew or get a new license.

For more information about organ and tissue donation visit: http://www.dmv.org/vt-vermont/organ-donor.php

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