



Department of Health
Agency of Human Services



Vermont Celebrates April as Donate Life Month at South Burlington DMV

Vermont Department of Health Commends Work of DMV To Save Lives

*Individuals personally touched by donation to share their stories
More than 640 lives saved in 2012 thanks to organ donation*

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South Burlington, VT – On, Tuesday April 23 at 1:30 p.m., Vermont Department of Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD, will join Department of Motor Vehicle's Commissioner Robert Ide to thank Vermonters who have saved lives through organ and tissue donation. Individuals personally touched by donation will share their stories and members of the Vermont Advisory Council on Organ and Tissue Donation as well as representatives from the two federally designated organ procurement organizations that serve Vermont (Center for Donation and Transplant, and New England Organ Bank) will also attend.

What: April as Donate Life Month Vermont

Who: Vermont Department of Health Commissioner Harry Chen – DMV Commissioner Robert Ide - individuals personally touched by donation – members of the VT Advisory Council on Organ & Tissue Donation - Center for Donation and Transplant - New England Organ Bank

Where: South Burlington DMV office

When: Tuesday, April 23, 1:30 p.m.

New England Organ Bank celebrates this April as the 10th annual National Donate Life Month. The celebration commemorates those who have received or continue to wait for lifesaving transplants as well as the families of individuals who chose to be donors. In 2012, more than 640 lives were saved in New England because of the generosity of individuals who became organ donors. Thousands more lives were enhanced through the gift of tissue donation. With the need for life-saving transplants growing every day – more than 117,000 patients are now on the US transplant wait list – it is crucial to educate our communities about taking action to register as donors.

There are now 110 million registered donors in the United States; still, the number of people in need of transplants continues to rise. The solution to this problem is to continue educating the public about the lifesaving effects of donation and transplantation and encouraging them to sign up through their state donor registry. **The vast majority of individuals in Vermont register to be an organ and tissue donor at the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).**

National Donate Life Month is an opportunity to continue our education efforts, celebrate the lives saved and enhanced through donation and honor the donors who made the ultimate gift.

To register to be a donor or for more information visit www.DonateLifeNewEngland.org

About New England Organ Bank: New England Organ Bank is the federally-designated, non-profit procurement organization responsible for the surgical recovery of organs and tissues for transplant throughout the New England region.

About Donate Life New Vermont: Donate Life Vermont is a joint project of two federally designated organ procurement organizations that serve Vermont – Center for Donation and Transplant and New England Organ Bank.

They have come together to create a fast and easy way for citizens of New England to register as organ and tissue donors in a secure and confidential manner. For more information, visit www.DonateLifeVT.org.

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