



of Louisiana



Louisiana

Saving lives one "yes!" at a time.

Alexis' Gift

From the time she was a small child, Alexis Cole Porta enjoyed living her life to the fullest. She played the piano, took dancing lessons, danced on her school's dance team, participated in softball, basketball, and track. She belonged to various school clubs, and was an honor student. She especially loved hanging out with her friends, cousins, and three older brothers. She was very outgoing, upbeat, and could be quite comical. One of Alexis' most admirable traits was her positive attitude. She always looked for the best in everyone and every situation.

On June 18, 2001 after spending the day working at her aunt's dentist office, attending play practice at the community theater, and spending the evening with friends, Alexis suffered a massive rupture of a cerebral aneurysm. After being told by doctors that Alexis had only hours to live, her mom and dad asked if they could donate her organs. They had never discussed organ donation with Alexis, but they knew that as

much as she loved life and loved people she would have wanted to give the gift of life to others. On June 19, 2001, at the age of 16, Alexis was pronounced brain dead. On that day her family heard of LOPA (Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency) for the very first time. The hospital staff and the LOPA team were remarkable. Their care, compassion, and support, helped Alexis' family through their worst nightmare. The donation of Alexis' heart, two kidneys, pancreas, liver, corneas, and large bones has given a new life to over 7 people. Since that time the family has had contact with three of Alexis' recipients. What a blessing!

Since Alexis' death, her mom has found comfort and healing by doing volunteer work for Aneurysm Outreach, The Compassionate Friends, and her church's grief support group. However, organ donation has been the cause dearest to Alexis' family. They decided that the best way to celebrate Alexis' life was to promote the gift of life. This is done

each year through Alexis' Angel Sale. Alexis' family and friends work during the year making crafts, collecting garage sale items, and growing plants, which are sold, along with jambalaya dinners, on the Saturday after Easter. The proceeds go to LOPA, to help promote organ donor awareness. A blood drive is also held on that day to allow everyone the opportunity to become a blood donor. The most rewarding outcome of Alexis' Angel Sale is connecting with recipients, their families, and donor families and learning that some of these donations were inspired by Alexis' story. What a wonderful way to keep Alexis' spirit and memory alive!



Alexis Porta, organ donor



Show your support for organ and tissue donation.

Help support Donate Life Louisiana's education programs!

Visit expresslane.org to get your Donate Life license plate today.



Louisiana

is a partnership between



Donate Life Louisiana aims to educate the citizens of Louisiana about organ and tissue donation, encourage them to register as organ and tissue donors, and foster family acceptance of the process. We envision a world with no loss of human life or function due to the lack of donor organs or tissues and a society that accepts and supports donation as natural and beneficial.

Transplant Speakers Training

Transplant Speakers International, Inc. (TSI) was created by a group of donor families and transplant recipients. Its sole mission was to create an organization that raised public awareness of organ donors and transplants so well that in time, the need for the group would become obsolete.

Their personal stories, along with the experiences of their board members, led to the formation of TSI. TSI works hand-in-hand with organ procurement organizations, private organizations and anyone whose mission includes public education on organ & tissue donation.

In February, TSI visited Louisiana to help donor family members and recipients how to best tell their stories while educating the public about donation. Trainings were held in Shreveport, Lafayette and New Orleans. Over 50 people attended the trainings including 40 volunteers and 10 staff members.

Those who attended the trainings received guidance on how to effectively communicate how donation and transplantation have affected their lives. Through their personal testimonies, many more Louisianans will be encouraged to register as organ and tissue donors.

TSI Training in Lafayette



Transplant Speakers International, Inc.

A name, a face, a personality make organ donation more than just a statistic SM

Donate Life Night at the Hive



The New Orleans Hornets hosted **Donate Life Night at the Hive** on April 7th at the game against the Charlotte Bobcats. Donate Life Night at the Hive was a fantastic way to bring awareness about the critical need for organ and tissue donation to the Hornets fans, as well as raise funds for Donate Life Louisiana.

A portion of each ticket purchased was donated to the Legacy Donor Foundation to support education programs about donation. It was an great way to enjoy exciting basketball, and give back to a great cause all at once!

Louisiana ranks 9th in the nation in percentage of the population who have registered as organ donors.

As of March, there were over **1.8 million registered donors in Louisiana.**

Keep up the great work!



Transplant Waiting List

	Louisiana	National
Kidney	1,869	84,062
Liver	155	15,877
Pancreas	13	1,475
Kidney/Pancreas	32	2,204
Heart	34	3,149
Lung	0	1,867
Heart/Lung	0	71
Intestine	0	238
Total	1,869	106,575

as per unos.org (03/19/10)

November is National Donor Sabbath. Donate Life Louisiana hosted statewide clergy breakfasts to provide clergy members with the tools to educate their congregations on donation.



Give thanks. Give life.

Breakfasts were held in Shreveport, Lafayette and New Orleans. Donate Life Louisiana engaged in

meaningful conversation and educated more than 100 clergy members.



Join us on Facebook!
facebook.com/donatelifela

Did you know?

There are currently over **1.8 million** registered donors in Louisiana.

Last year, **499** lives were saved in Louisiana alone through organ transplantation.

One donor can save **9 lives** through organ donation, **restore sight to 2 people** and enhance the lives of 50 more through tissue donation.

All major religions approve of organ donation, and see it as an act of charity.

It is **illegal to buy or sell organs** for transplantation in the United States.

Anyone can potentially be a donor regardless of age, race or medical history. Cancer, heart disease, diabetes, poor eye sight or cataracts will not prevent you from being a donor.

Let family members know about your decision to register as an organ, tissue and eye donor. Only then can they support your decision to give the Gift of Life.

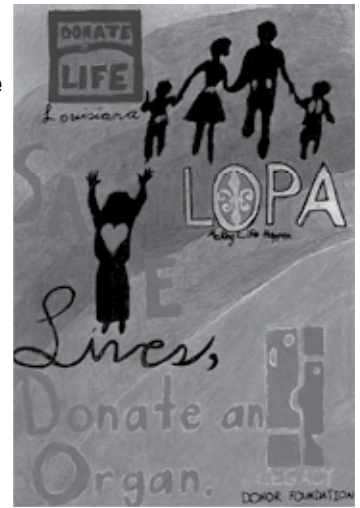
For more information, visit www.DonateLifeLA.org

Poster Contest

Donate Life Louisiana held its 2nd Poster Contest to promote the importance of organ and tissue donation and to increase donor awareness throughout Louisiana.

The contest was open to high school students and original, hand drawn entries could be submitted in a variety of media including pen and ink, crayon, paint and colored pencils. 69 entries were received from around the state.

The students' participation encourages family discussions about donation, and helps to create a culture that accepts donation as natural and beneficial.



2009's contest winner

Day at the Capitol

On April 27th, Donate Life Louisiana held a Day at the Capitol. Donate Life Louisiana staff provided legislators and the public with information on organ and tissue donation.

Governor Jindal proclaimed April to be Office of Motor Vehicles / Donate Life Month in the State of Louisiana. Both the Senate and House of Representatives passed resolutions recognizing OMV / Donate Life Month. Donate Life Louisiana and Louisiana's OMV were acknowledged for their vital roles in saving lives through organ donation. Through this proclamation and increasing elected officials' knowledge of donation and transplantation, Donate Life Louisiana hopes to increase the number of Louisianians registered as organ and tissue donors and to encourage everyone to discuss their wishes regarding donation with their families.



Sara Brooks (Ms. Louisiana USA 2010) and Jeanette Slakey (Executive Director, Legacy Donor Foundation)

Sara Brooks, Miss Louisiana USA 2010, attended the Day at the Capitol help bring this message to the community. Sara became aware of the tremendous gift that donation is when a family member received a bone marrow transplant. They are now in remission and have been for six years. She feels privileged to have the opportunity to spread the word to the many people of this great state. Sara is pleased to help increase the public's knowledge of the critical need for organ and tissue donors.

Justin Harrison Memorial GolfForeLife

In death, Justin gave new life to five individuals through organ donation and gave sight to two others. In life, Justin passionately stated, "We gotta tell people about organ donation," his youthful response after his grandfather died awaiting a heart transplant. In an effort to continue Justin's incredible mission of educating our community about donation, the 2nd Annual Justin Harrison Memorial GolfForeLife Tournament was held in October of 2009 at Oakbourne Country Club in Lafayette.

The major sponsors for the tournament were
T&L Communications, Inc.
Hampton Toyota
Libelle Salon



We would like to thank all of those who participated, and are looking forward to seeing you next year.



Justin's nephew Ethan and Justin's heart recipient Marilyn Thorn

Donor Memorial Picnic

It's that time of the year again when we begin to plan for our Donor Memorial Picnics. Every year we look forward to spending time with you and having the opportunity to honor your loved ones. The Picnic was held at Alligator Bayou on March 20, 2010.

There were many activities available including a wildlife exhibitor, face painting, crafts, gator feedings, story telling and much more.



LOPA staff members at Alligator Bayou

LOPA will host another Donor Memorial Picnic at the State Fair of Louisiana in Shreveport on November 6th.

Casa Ole 5k

The 9th annual Casa Ole Caliente 5k run/walk and 1 mile Fun Run was held April 10, 2010 in Lafayette.

Awards were given for best team costume/uniform and largest number of team members.

This annual event has become a day of fun for the whole family to celebrate the Gift of Life.

New Life Rises

2010 Rose Parade



Rose Dedication ceremony at Lafayette's OMV

Louisiana is the only state in the nation whose OMV employees play such an active role in dedicating funds to help support the Donate Life Rose Parade Float that brings national attention to the importance of organ donation. This year, Louisiana's Office of Motor Vehicles dedicated 36 roses from 55 offices around the state. Both Heart Hospital of Lafayette and Opelousas General Health System participated by holding Rose Dedication Ceremonies. The Rose Parade is an excellent opportunity to connect local efforts to a nationwide initiative.

The Donate Life Rose Parade Float is the largest public celebration of organ and tissue donation in the country, and pays tribute to heroes like last year's float honoree Alexis Porta of Baton Rouge. Since her death, new life has risen in seven people.

This year, two floragraphs honored donors from Louisiana. Michael E. Creighton, of Arnaudville, was a generous and caring son, brother and father. He warmed your heart with his smile and with the twinkle in his eyes when he was teasing you, remembered his sister Mary Langlinois. Mike loved to laugh and to make others laugh, as well. The Donate Life Float Committee sponsored a floragraph memorializing Mike, that was placed on the float. Candace Smith, Mike's liver recipient, attended the Parade and helped decorate his floragraph with his family.



Floragraph honoring Michael Creighton

Louisiana's second floragraph honoree was Lee John Davis. At age 16, Lee John placed a red "Donor" heart on his driver's license. He referred to organ donation as "going green" and considered donation another way to recycle. Lee John's decision to be an organ donor was his own and he often encouraged others to consider doing the same. Sadly, at the age of 22, Lee John's "Donor" pledge became a reality with the donation of his liver and his beautiful green eyes. This life giving extension reflected Lee John's love and respect for humanity. Lee John's floragraph was sponsored by LOPA.



Roses dedicated by OMVs placed in the Family Circle Garden



Artist's rendering of 2010 Rose Parade Float

Donate Life Month

National Donate Life Month was established in 2003. Every day in April, people across the nation make a special effort to celebrate the tremendous generosity of those who have saved lives by becoming organ, tissue, marrow, and blood donors and to encourage more Americans to follow their example.

Donate Life Louisiana participated in events across the state including:

Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Donor Day
Donate Life Night at the Hive
Run for Their Lives
Day at the Capitol
Running the Roads for Life
Health Fairs
OMV events
School presentations
Flag Raising Ceremonies

For more information on activities, visit
www.DonateLifeLA.org or call 800.521.4483



2010 SOUL REVIVAL'S Tropicana Glam

Legacy Donor Foundation's annual fundraiser Soul Revival was held March 27th at the beautiful Old Metairie home of Danielle Kavanagh. Over 600 people gathered together to celebrate the Gift of Life! Performing was gospel choir Shades of Praise, and headliner Atlanta Sound.

The evening was unforgettable with tropical food provided by Hilton New Orleans Riverside and sumptuous desserts by Sucre. Raffle items included jewelry from Adler's and Friend & Co. as well as signed Saints memorabilia. A celebrity bar added to the festive atmosphere. Funds raised at Soul Revival support the Foundation's educational and awareness programs about donation.

Major sponsors of Soul Revival included:

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of Medicine

Bollinger Shipyards

Joey & Buzzy Brown

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Celebrity Bartender, Zach Strief (Saints Offensive Tackle)



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