



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

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**SOUTH CAROLINA CONGREGATIONS HELP EDUCATE ABOUT
ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION**

Charleston, SC, **September 14, 2008**– Regardless of religious affiliation, many congregations and houses of worship across South Carolina will unite in honor of **National Donor Sabbath** on November 14-16, 2008. This is an interfaith celebration of life that reminds congregations of their faiths' support of the life-saving benefits of organ donation and life-improving benefits of tissue donation.

Every 11 minutes someone in the U.S. is added to this national transplant waiting list. Currently over 750 people are on the South Carolina waiting list while that number grows to nearly 100,000 throughout the U.S. The solution to this problem is simple: encourage people to commit to being an organ and tissue donor and provide them with the correct information on how to ensure their decision will be honored. This is the goal of **National Donor Sabbath**.

Most major religious denominations support organ and tissue donation. However, a Gallup poll showed that fewer than 10 percent of people in the United States know their religion has supporting doctrines regarding organ and tissue donation.

"We emphasize giving time and time again but the greatest thing we can give is life," says Pastor Arnold Hiette of Peoples Baptist Church in Greer. He received the "Gift of Life" through the miracle of a liver transplant in 2006. Hiette adds, "Now I understand how important it is...to be an organ donor."

“Celebrations such as Donor Sabbath unite us all as ‘one people’ reminding each of us what a precious gift life truly is and how we can pass it on,” said Tracy Rachele, Executive Director of Donate Life South Carolina. “This campaign is designed to encourage South Carolinians to talk to their loved ones about donation.”

In a partnership to promote organ and tissue donation, Donate Life South Carolina and LifePoint are working together to provide educational materials and speakers to religious congregations throughout South Carolina.

If you would like to find out how your church or religious organization can participate in **National Donor Sabbath**, please contact Donate Life South Carolina at **1-87-Pass-It-On (1-877-277-4866)**. You may also email your request for information to **agonick@donatelifesc.org**. Hurry, the deadline is Noon on October 7, 2008.

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About Donate Life South Carolina

Donate Life South Carolina is the organization whose mission is to promote organ and tissue donation for transplantation and provide patient assistance for South Carolina transplant recipients. Donate Life South Carolina will also develop and maintain the soon-to-be launched South Carolina Donor Registry.

About LifePoint

LifePoint works to increase awareness about the need for more organ and tissue donors in South Carolina and is the designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for organ recovery services in the state. LifePoint actively provides organ, tissue and ocular donor services to 62 hospitals throughout the state. LifePoint also helps support and educate families at an emotionally devastating time, so they can make well-informed decisions about organ and tissue donation.