

## Gift of Life 5K Run/Walk

More than 250 contestants ranging in age from 7 to 70 participated in LifePoint's second annual Gift of Life 5K Run/Walk on April 14, 2007 at Wannamaker Park in North Charleston. Nearly \$9,000 was raised from the 5K race and those proceeds will benefit Team South Carolina at the 2008 National Kidney Foundation's Transplant Games.

The third annual Gift of Life 5K will be held on April 12, 2008, again at Wannamaker Park, with a scheduled 8 a.m. start. The entry fee is \$20. For more information, contact Shirley McAdams at LifePoint or watch our Web site at [www.lifepoint-sc.org](http://www.lifepoint-sc.org) for upcoming postings.

*Irv Batten won first place overall in the 2007 LifePoint 5K Run/Walk with a finish time of 16:22.*



## Team S.C. Prepares for Transplant Games



**Pittsburgh, Here We Come!**  
Donor parents Jerry and Jan Worley show off the Steelers shirt they won at the Team S.C. planning meeting in Greenville.

*They will honor their son Jonathan, who was an organ donor, as they attend the national Games in Pittsburgh.*

events and attend seminars about grief, sorrow, and sharing.

Peggy Strawhorn, from NKF-South Carolina, serves as Team Manager and Shirley McAdams, from LifePoint, is Assistant Team Manager. These two ladies and other employees from LifePoint and MUSC form a committee that has been exploring options to help fund the Pittsburgh trip expenses (including travel, food, lodging and uniforms) for team members.

For more information, visit the NKF Web site at: [www.kidney.org/transplantation/athletics/index.cfm](http://www.kidney.org/transplantation/athletics/index.cfm).

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Jerry Griffin rehearses sharing the story of her daughter Laura Griffin during a speech training session conducted by Transplant Speakers International (TSI) in Greenville.*

*Laura was an organ donor following her death; and her mother is a very active volunteer in promoting donation.*

### SEE YOU AT THE LIONS STATE CONVENTION

Representatives from LifePoint will be present April 18-20, 2008 at the South Carolina Lions State Convention in Myrtle Beach. Stop by our booth and learn the latest events and plans for donor awareness in the state.

## South Carolina Donor Honored on Rose Bowl Parade Float

The face of Tanya Austin, an organ donor from Easley, S.C., was among 40 donors whose faces graced the national "Donate Life" float in the Rose Bowl Parade on New Year's Day.

Tanya's sister Bridget Calhoun traveled with their mother, Evonne Austin, to Pasadena, Calif., at the end of December, to help put the finishing touches on a "floragraph" of Tanya for the float. (Floragraphs are artistic portraits created by using spices, seeds, and other organic materials to cover a digitized photograph.)

Read more about Tanya online at: [www.donatelifefloat.org/prod/components/media\\_center/floragraphs/austin.html](http://www.donatelifefloat.org/prod/components/media_center/floragraphs/austin.html)



*Volunteers created Tanya's image. Photo by Luis Ramirez.*

WINTER 2007

# LifePoint NEWS UPDATE



### MISSION STATEMENT

*LifePoint, Inc. is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to advancing organ, eye and tissue donation in South Carolina for transplantation and research. It provides professional and public education regarding such donations, provides educational and emotional support to families of potential donors, and is the organ, eye, and tissue recovery organization. LifePoint is committed to serving our state effectively, efficiently and ethically at every level, and through alliances with interested individuals and organizations.*



### CONTACT LIFEPOINT

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## President's Message...

Thank you to all of the Lions Club members throughout South Carolina for your ongoing dedication to increasing donation awareness. The impact you make on people's decisions to become donors is greatly appreciated.

2007 has been another successful year for LifePoint as we helped save more lives through the recovery and placement of donated organs, and enhanced the lives of so many others thanks to hundreds of tissue and ocular donations. Saving and enhancing the lives of others could not occur without the assistance and dedication of our Lions volunteers.

And there is more good news. Shirley McAdams, who has joined our LifePoint staff as the Professional Development Liaison and Special Events Manager, will serve as LifePoint's liaison for the S.C. Lions for Life program. One of Shirley's top priorities is to develop a "train the trainer" program for our Lions volunteers. Through this program and others, we anticipate new and exciting opportunities to work with your Lions Clubs during 2008.

Since personally becoming a Lion, I have participated in the humbling but rewarding service that Lions offer to so many people. Together, I believe we can continue to increase the number of donors in our state so that no South Carolinian in need will go without an organ, tissue or eye transplant.

We wish all of you a very Happy New Year.

Yours in Lionism,

Nancy A. Kay  
President & CEO, LifePoint, Inc.



### HOW YOU CAN HELP

*Help save more lives by spreading the word! By letting your family know your wishes, carrying a donor card, and having the donor indication on your driver's license, you can help ensure that your wish to donate will be carried out.*

## Lions Assist LifePoint

Lions from throughout the state have been a special part of LifePoint events during 2007.

Among the Summerville Lions who participated in the 2007 holiday tree trimming ceremony at Summerville Medical Center were (left to right): Rosemary Sutton, President Summerville Noon Lions Club, Ann Fraser, and Dianne Jenkins. Along with the other Lions who attended, they helped place ornaments on the tree in memory of organ, tissue and ocular donors and celebrated the hospital staff's role in furthering donation.



## A Cornea Recipient Says "Thank You"



*I am a 63-year-old living in Wagener, S.C. I was diagnosed with Fuchs' Dystrophy a few years ago, but have had this condition longer as doctors I had seen before had been unable to diagnose the condition.*

*One percent of the population has this slow-progressing disease that usually affects both eyes and is slightly more common in women than in men. Although doctors can often see early signs of Fuchs' Dystrophy in people in their 30s and 40s, the disease rarely affects vision until people reach their 50s and 60s. The disease occurs when endothelial cells gradually deteriorate without any apparent reason. Over the years, the endothelium becomes less efficient at pumping fluid out of the stroma, causing the cornea to swell and distort vision. Eventually, the epithelium also takes on fluid, resulting in pain and*

*severe visual impairment. Epithelial swelling damages vision by changing the cornea's normal curvature, causing a sight-impairing haze to appear in the tissue and producing tiny blisters on the corneal surface.*

*At first, a person awakens with blurred vision that will gradually clear during the day. As the disease worsens, and reduced vision throughout the day interferes with daily activities, a person may need a corneal transplant to restore sight.*

*By December 2006, my vision had gotten worse and was interfering with my quality of life. I accepted it was time to have a procedure referred to as DSAEK, a type of cornea transplantation and repair. On March 20, 2007 and then again on April 17, 2007, I had two separate surgeries that included cornea transplants and the removal of cataracts and replacement of lens. My surgeries were performed by a cornea specialist in Columbia, Dr. Rick Milne, whose expertise along with the Master's guidance assisted with the "gift of sight" I received. My recovery has been remarkable and this was made possible by two organ donor families who gave me the "gift of sight." My vision is now 20/25; and I no longer wear glasses.*

*I have been an organ donor since I was 20, but I never dreamt I would become a recipient. I have learned from my personal experiences the gift that one can give to someone else by becoming a donor.*

*Grateful and Humbled,  
Nancy Bommer*

### LIFEPOINT PROVIDES EYES FOR RESEARCH

LifePoint had 794 eye donors during 2007 and has contributed eyes for the following types of research:

- Glaucoma
- Macular Degeneration
- Diabetes
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Development of a drug to treat Parkinson's Disease
- Improved intra-ocular lenses to replace cataracts

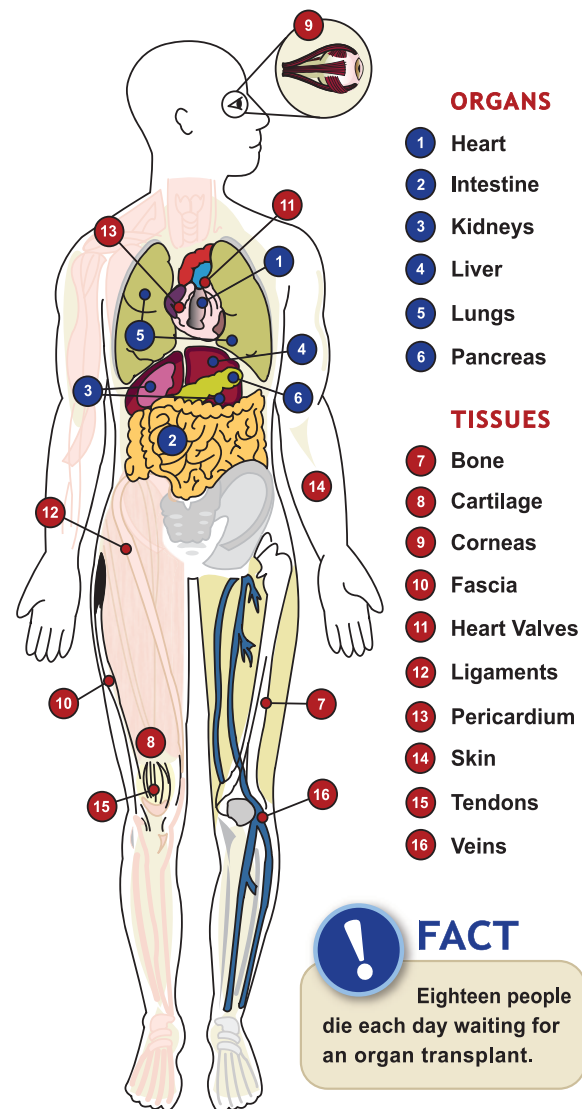
### DID YOU KNOW?

One donor may save or improve the lives of 50 or more people.

All parts of the eye are considered valuable donations. The corneas can restore sight, the sclera can be used for reconstructive surgery, and whole eyes can be used for research and education.

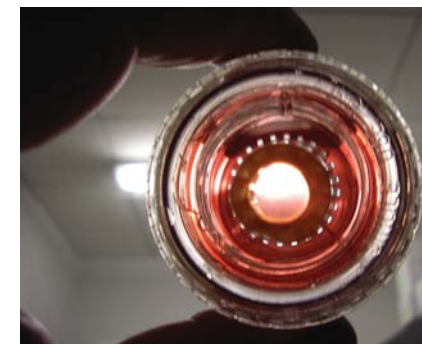
Corneal transplants are the most frequently performed human transplant procedure.

### ORGANS & TISSUE THAT CAN BE DONATED



## DSAEK Update: LifePoint to Offer Pre-Cut Corneas for DSAEK

LifePoint proudly announces that we are poised to assist South Carolina surgeons by offering pre-cut corneas for DSAEK. Descemet's Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK) involves transplanting just the back layers (Descemet's membrane and endothelium) of the donor cornea into the recipient, instead of replacing the full thickness of the recipient's cornea. The advantages of DSAEK over traditional cornea transplants are that it requires only a small incision which can be closed with few or no sutures, more rapid visual recovery, and a decrease in the risk of serious long-term complications.



The preparation of the donor cornea can be done by the surgeon in the operating room or by an eye bank. Having the eye bank prepare the donor cornea reduces the amount of operating room time needed and allows for microscopic re-evaluation of the donor cornea prior to transplantation. Our LifePoint Ocular Services Staff is undergoing extensive training with the goal of offering our first pre-cut cornea in the first quarter of 2008.

A primary advantage to surgeons is that LifePoint Ocular Services has a 50-year history of experience and adherence to the highest quality standards. Thanks to the South Carolina Lions, we have been recovering and providing corneas for transplant since 1957. Originally known as the South Carolina Lions Eye Bank, the organization merged with LifePoint in 2003 enabling us to better serve our donor families. We are registered with the FDA and continually receive the highest level of accreditation from the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA). Our services also include processing sclera for transplantation and providing eye tissue for research.

## Meet Shirley McAdams, LifePoint Lions Liaison

Dear South Carolina Lions,

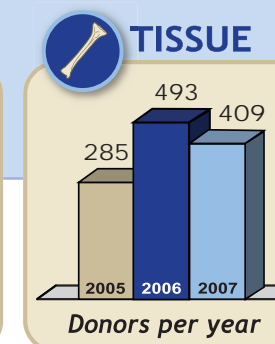
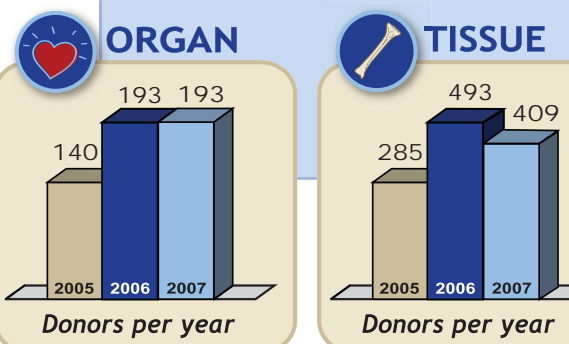
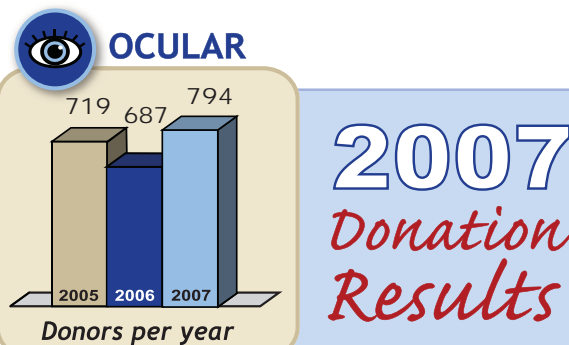
*As the new Professional Development Liaison and Special Events Manager for LifePoint, I am excited about working with the South Carolina Lions.*

*There is a great need in South Carolina for more organ, tissue and ocular donors. Currently, there are more than 700 people in our state who are on the waiting list for a life-saving organ transplant. This need is magnified nationwide as more than 98,000 people await the call that an organ is available for them.*

*It is critical that we continue to address this issue in our public education practices by dispelling myths and inaccuracies about donation. With your help, we hope to develop and implement programs throughout the state to share pertinent information about the lifesaving and life-enhancing power of donation and transplantation.*

*I look forward to helping continue the valued working relationship between the Lions of South Carolina and LifePoint. Please don't hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance to your club. I can be reached at: [mcadamss@lifepoint-sc.org](mailto:mcadamss@lifepoint-sc.org) or 1.800.462.0755.*

*Sincerely,  
Shirley McAdams*



## Donors, LifePoint Provide Neonatal Eye Tissue for Parkinson's Research

LifePoint is one of three eye banks which has been chosen to participate in a research project for providing long-term treatment of people with Parkinson's Disease. LifePoint supports ongoing progress in research by recovering eye tissue generously donated by families of deceased individuals whose eye tissue could not be used for transplant.

LifePoint is now seeking specific consent for neonatal eye tissue donation to further the current research project being conducted by Lonza, a Swiss pharmaceutical company. Researchers at their facility in Walkersville, Md., have developed a drug called Spheramine, which utilizes dopamine secreted from the retinal pigment epithelial cells. After careful excision from the eye, these cells are grown on culture plates and the dopamine harvested. Spheramine is beginning Phase III clinical trials and has been fast-tracked by the FDA.

LifePoint is grateful to donor families for providing the opportunity to help those affected by Parkinson's Disease.