



## 2008 MEDIA INFORMATION Contact: 1-800-462-0755



A Donate Life Organization

### The Need

- Every 90 minutes someone like you and me dies in the U.S. waiting on a transplant. This is a transplant that could give that person many more years of a new and normal life.
- An average of 18 people die each day in the U.S. from the lack of available organs for transplant.
- Another name is added to the transplant list nationally every 12 minutes.
- There are approximately 700 people on the South Carolina waiting list for a life-saving transplant.
- Approximately 90% of patients on the South Carolina waiting list need a kidney and most of those patients are African American.
- Compared to the kidney waiting lists for all other states, South Carolina's list includes the second largest percentage of African Americans awaiting a kidney.

### Latest Data

- In the U.S. nearly 100,000 men, women and children currently await life-saving organ transplants.
- Nationally, in 2007 there were 8,087 deceased organ donors and 6,306 living organ donors resulting in 28,352 organ transplants.
- In the U.S., approximately 33,000 cornea transplants were performed in 2006.
- More than 1 million tissue transplants are performed every year.

### When You Have Questions

**Media Contact:** Mark Johnson, *Media Relations Coordinator* at 1-800-462-0755

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***“You Have the Power to Donate LIFE. Be an Organ and Tissue Donor.”***

**[www.lifepoint-sc.org](http://www.lifepoint-sc.org)**



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### Who We Are

**LifePoint** is certified by the federal government, as the designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for organ recovery services in South Carolina, with the exception of Aiken and Edgefield counties.

### What We Do

- Provide education on organ and tissue donation to South Carolinians
- Develop and implement statewide donor awareness campaigns
- Dispel myths with facts concerning organ and tissue donation
- Support and educate families at an emotionally devastating time, so they can make a well-informed decision about organ and tissue donation. (Whether they decide for or against donation, our aim is to assure that they will feel they have made the right decision in the months and years to come.)
- LifePoint actively provides organ, tissue and ocular donor services to 63 hospitals throughout the state.

### How the Media Can Help

- Tell the stories of South Carolina's donor families/recipients
- Report the staggering imbalance between the number of organs available and the number of South Carolinians on the transplant waiting list
- Educate the public concerning the need to save and enhance lives through organ and tissue donation for transplantation.

#### **Personal Stories for the Media**

- Donor families can describe how they made the choice to donate life to one or more people.
- Living donors can be interviewed about their choice to donate life to another.
- Transplant recipients can describe how their lives were saved by others who chose to donate life.

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