



**PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release**

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## **Clemson Wins Inaugural Donate Life Duel**

### ***Gamecocks and Tigers Engaged in First Statewide Organ/Tissue Donor Registry Drive***

**Greenville, Nov. 30, 2009** – Donate Life South Carolina and LifePoint are pleased to announce that the 2009 inaugural **Donate Life Duel** signed up over **3,000** newly registered organ and tissue donors and was an extremely close competition to the end. Fans of the Clemson Tigers won this first duel by only 370 participants/registrants! The **Donate Life Duel** began on October 1, 2009 and concluded on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at the annual rivalry football game between the University of South Carolina Gamecocks and the Clemson Tigers.

The Donate Life Duel gave fans of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks and Clemson University Tigers the opportunity to show their school spirit while saving lives. This friendly competition allowed supporters of both schools to help their "team" win by signing up more organ/tissue donors on the new South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry at [www.Every11Minutes.org](http://www.Every11Minutes.org).

Here are the final results of the two month campaign:

**Clemson Tigers: 1,716** organ/tissue donors signed up (56%)  
**USC Gamecocks: 1,346** organ/tissue donors signed up (44%)

Donate Life Duel Total: **3,062** organ/tissue donors signed up

Donate Life South Carolina and LifePoint would like to thank our "on campus" champions from both universities. At Clemson University, this included Dr. Patricia Knowles' Nonprofit Marketing and Promotional Strategy classes along with Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity. At the University of South Carolina, this included Jeffrey Ranta's Carolina Agency, Lauren Welch's University 101 students and the USC Blood Drive Committee.

"Donate Life South Carolina is excited to have launched this new campaign to register more organ/tissue donors and enjoyed working with energetic, enthusiastic college students, alumni, and others throughout the state," said Tracy Armstrong, Executive Director of Donate Life South Carolina. "The generosity of the fans of both teams hopefully will inspire more people to give the greatest gifts of all - life, sight and mobility."

The **Donate Life Duel** was a part of the 2009 National Donation Campus Challenge which is spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The National Donation Campus Challenge was designed to promote partnerships among organ and

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tissue donation organizations and colleges, universities, and other post-secondary institutions across the nation. Together, we have been working toward the nationwide goal of registering 60,000 new organ and tissue donor designations by Nov. 30, 2009.

Every 11 minutes another person is added to the national transplant waiting list. Even though the 2009 Donate Life Duel is over, individuals can still register their first-person, legal consent to become organ/tissue donors on the online registry at [www.Every11Minutes.org](http://www.Every11Minutes.org). Signing up on the S.C. Donor Registry takes just a few short minutes, but offers a lifetime to those in need of an organ or tissue transplant. One donor can potentially save up to eight lives through organ donation and improve the lives of 50 or more through tissue donation.

Over 104,000 people in the U.S. are waiting for a life-saving transplant. That is more people than fill the stands at Williams-Brice Stadium or Death Valley on game day. Unfortunately, an average of 18 of those on the waiting list will die each day before receiving a transplant. Approximately 900 people are on the South Carolina transplant waiting list.

**More information:**

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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 also maintains the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.

**About LifePoint**

LifePoint is the designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for organ recovery services in South Carolina. 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.