



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

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HHS Recognizes South Carolina Hospitals with Highest Organ Donation Rates

Charleston, Oct. 15, 2009: Ten South Carolina hospitals received awards from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Sept. 30, 2009, for their success in increasing the number of organs available for transplantation. Our state's 10 winners were among 428 of the nation's hospitals that received the department's Medal of Honor for Organ Donation during a ceremony at the 5th Annual National Learning Congress held in Grapevine, Texas.

Hospital executives, along with their respective partners in all 58 federally designated organ procurement organizations (OPOs), were honored for achieving and sustaining national goals for donation, including a donation rate of 75 percent or more of eligible donors at their facilities. (Three out of every four medically eligible donors became donors.)

One South Carolina hospital, **Palmetto Health Richland – Columbia**, was awarded a Silver 1 Medal for, not only achieving a 75 percent conversion rate, but also 3.75 organs transplanted per donor. Only 219 hospitals in the U.S. had this distinction.

Nine other South Carolina hospitals received Bronze Medals for achieving a 75 percent or greater conversion rate:

AnMed Health Medical Center – Anderson
Grand Strand Regional Medical Center – Myrtle Beach
Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center – Greenville
Lexington Medical Center – West Columbia
Medical University of South Carolina Medical Center – Charleston
Providence Hospital – Columbia
Roper Hospital – Charleston
Self Regional Healthcare – Greenwood
Spartanburg Regional Medical Center – Spartanburg

South Carolina's winning hospitals collaborate closely with the state's OPO, LifePoint, Inc., to implement best practices for honoring the final wishes of organ and tissue donors.

Nancy A. Kay, LifePoint President and CEO, said, “We would like to congratulate the 10 South Carolina hospitals that have received the Medal of Honor. This prestigious award is really a credit to their hard work during very difficult situations. It shows their commitment to saving lives through transplantation by honoring the wishes of donors and their families.”

The wishes of individual’s desiring donation, along with their legal consent, can now be indicated by potential donors on a South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, www.Every11Minutes.org. Established in December 2008, the registry is providing LifePoint, South Carolina hospitals, and families with increased clarity about a potential donor’s end-of-life wishes.

HRSA’s Donation and Transplantation Community of Practice brings together donation and transplantation professionals and hospital leaders to identify and share best practices to integrate organ donation into hospitals’ end-of-life care.

“These hospitals have made incredible progress in increasing the number of organs available for transplantation,” said Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N., administrator of HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which leads federal efforts to increase organ and tissue donation. “Their efforts reflect the heights Americans can reach when they work together toward a common goal.”

For more information about the Medal of Honor or the S.C. Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, contact: Mark Johnson, Media Relations Coordinator - LifePoint, at 1-800-462-0755 or 843-763-7755

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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 63 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.

