
For immediate release

Contact: Deborah Labb, Communications
630/758-2721 (direct)
dlabb@giftofhope.org

630/758-2600
www.giftofhope.org

Gift of Hope Hospital Partners Receive HHS Medal of Honor for Organ Donation Rates

ELMHURST, Ill. (October 10, 2007)—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded 22 hospitals in Illinois with the national Medal of Honor for their work in saving and enhancing lives through organ and tissue donation. The hospitals all work with Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, the organ procurement organization that coordinates organ and tissue donation in the northern three quarters of Illinois and northwest Indiana, and were among 392 hospitals across the country honored for exemplary leadership and commitment to organ donors, donor families, and the nearly 100,000 patients on the national transplant waiting list.

The 392 winners represent hospitals with eight or more potential organ donors during the 26-month award period ending in June 2007, who sustained a donation rate of 75 percent or higher from among eligible donors for at least a year. The percentage reflects the rate at which potential donors at the time of death actually become lifesaving donors.

HHS and the Boston-based Institute for Healthcare Improvement established the 75 percent goal in April 2003 as part of an ongoing national initiative called the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative. Through it, organ procurement organizations like Gift of Hope, hospitals and key national healthcare leaders share and apply best practices to their work with potential donors, their families and the donation process. The success of the Breakthrough Collaboratives has made it possible to transplant 4,146 more organs in 2006 than in 2003. In 2006, 31,184 organs were transplanted during 28,923 organ transplant operations. Of the total number of transplanted organs, 24,461 came from deceased donors (78.4 percent), and 6,723 were from living donors (21.6 percent).

Representatives of the current award-winning hospitals and organ procurement organizations were recognized at a formal dinner and ceremony on Oct. 10, 2007, at the Third National Learning Congress on Organ Donation and Transplantation held in Nashville.

(more)

2007 Gift of Hope Hospital Partner HHS Medal of Honor Winners	Highest Donation Rate
• Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn	84%
• Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove	100%
• Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge	95%
• Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Elk Grove Village	78%
• Blessing Hospital, Quincy	100%
• Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana	75%
• Central DuPage Hospital, Winfield	75%
• Holy Cross Hospital, Chicago	83%
• John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago	80%
• Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood	84%
• Memorial Medical Center, Springfield	90%
• Northwest Community Hospital, Arlington Heights	88%
• Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago	85%
• OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria	100%
• Our Lady of Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago	80%
• Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet	80%
• Rockford Memorial Hospital, Rockford	75%
• Rush University Medical Center, Chicago	90%
• St. James Hospital – Olympia Fields	85%
• St. John’s Hospital, Springfield	100%
• The University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago	83%
• University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago	86%

Additional information on HHS’ donation initiatives and the Organ Donation and Transplantation Breakthrough Collaborative is available at www.organdonor.gov.

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network is proud to serve as the federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organization (OPO) that coordinates organ and tissue donation and services to families of donors in the northern three-quarters of Illinois and northwest Indiana. Since its inception in 1986, Gift of Hope has coordinated donations that have saved the lives of more than 14,000 organ transplant recipients, and improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of tissue transplant recipients. As one of 58 organ procurement organizations that make up the nation’s organ donation system, Gift of Hope works with 183 hospitals and serves 11.7 million residents in its donation service area.

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