

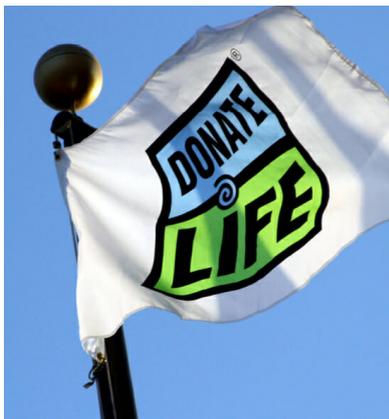
# THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER

## Resources for Hospital Partners

The Legacy newsletter is a monthly communication for CDT's partner hospitals across New York, Vermont and Massachusetts, containing updates, education and inspirational stories about the impactful work we can achieve through collaboration. Every issue of The Legacy is available online at [www.cdtnyvt.org/LegacyNews](http://www.cdtnyvt.org/LegacyNews). Scan the **QR code** with your smart phone camera to visit the page and access other helpful resources related to the donation process.



## In this Month's Newsletter



### Call to Action

*April is National Donate Life Month. Learn about opportunities to raise awareness in your hospital and community*



### Connect to Purpose

*A donor mom shares her perspective over 10 years after her son's passing and gift of life*



### Education Corner

*The call that may save up to 8 lives. Learn about best practices for organ donation referral*

# CALL TO ACTION

## April National Donate Life Month

This April, join thousands of hospitals and community partners as we celebrate **National Donate Life Month**.

This year's theme is "**Donor's are SuperStars**," as they give hope and light to the 100,000 people currently awaiting lifesaving transplant.

*"Not only do we live among the stars, the stars live within us."*

-Neil deGrasse Tyson



## Opportunities for Your Hospital This April



### Donate Life Rock Painting

CDT volunteers will provide a rock painting workshop. Once finished, rocks are placed in the community to start the conversation that could save lives!



### Fly the Donate Life Flag

Raise the Donate Life flag and fly it for the month of April to honor donors and inspire community members to give the gift of life.



### Make No-Sew Donor Family Blankets

CDT volunteers will help you make no-sew blankets which are offered to donor families to provide comfort as they go through the donation process.



### Wear Blue & Green on April 12

National Blue & Green day invites people from around the world to sport blue and green to encourage registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

**To schedule an event or receive promotional materials, please email Laura Fissette at [Lfissette@cdtny.org](mailto:Lfissette@cdtny.org) or call 518-928-8385**

# A Donor Mom's Perspective

## Daniel R. White- Donor Hero

-Mary Castilla, Danny's Mom

Daniel R. White II was a organ, eye and tissue donor in 2009. He was so full of life, a giver, the kind of smile that would light up the whole room, I know my son would of made the decision to donate, so it was without question to give the gift of life from him.

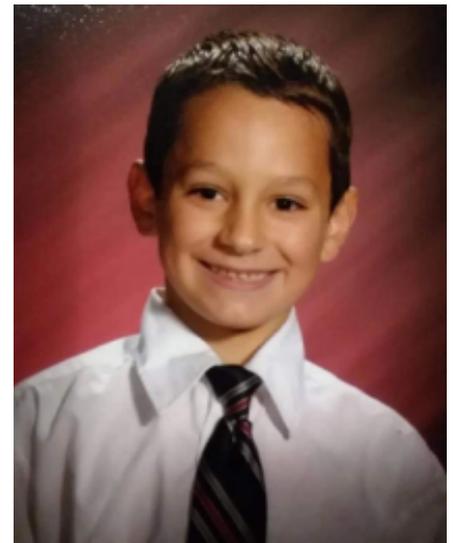
In raising awareness, I would like to add how important CPR is. My son, Daniel, was hit by a car when I was at work and if our neighbor, Frank A Popolizio, had not administered CPR to Danny, the best case scenario on a horrible situation could never of happened. Many do not know our story, and many do but for those who don't, I am feeling strong right now and I owe that to Frank.

Because he gave his all to save my son, not knowing Danny was brain dead , but continuing CPR until first responders arrived, I was able to make the decision to donate his organs. No, it wasn't easy, but when you're thrown into a tragedy you have to reach deep in your heart and make the best out of what you can.

I just knew that my son being such a good hearted soul would have made the same call as I did--shoot I felt as though it was him. I cried out to God more that day than I ever did. I was on my knees praying for a miracle at that moment when the Donate Life team came to speak to me I was very confused, hurt, and thinking how could this be happening. Now I look back and think it was horrible yes but Roman's 8:28 is all I see now.

At the time a boy 5 years old from NYC received his heart. A 43 year old women / mother of 4 and a neurosurgeon received his small intestines, pancreas and liver. She was born with type 1 diabetes. 2 blind people--one in Albany and one in Texas--were able to see for the first time. The list goes on, ALL in Danny's memory.

One act of kindness can change the world for good. I know this is long winded but sooo overdue. I hope that this inspires others to love deeper, try a little harder and most of all never give up the good fight and remember: ONE SMALL ACT OF KINDNESS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. 🙏❤️👣 Love never ends.



# EDUCATION CORNER

## Organ Referral Best Practices



The **clinical triggers** for calling CDT are designed to ensure that all potential organ donors are identified and evaluated in a timely manner, maximizing the opportunity families may have to consider saving lives through organ donation. Below are some tips for making referral.

### Initial Referral- Remember the GIVE Acronym

Please refer to CDT within 1 hour if you observe any of the following:

- G**lasgow Coma Score (GCS) of 5 or less, not due to sedation or paralytic
- I**mmminent death / grave prognosis
- V**entilator dependent
- E**nd of Life discussions anticipated



### Updating CDT After an Initial Organ Referral

After an initial referral is made, CDT will follow-up with hospital staff at least twice a day via phone, at approximately 8AM and 8PM. Outside of CDT follow-up, please alert CDT by phone if any of the following events occur:



**Code status change to DNR / no escalation of care**



**Significant neurological decline**  
Ex: unresponsive to stimuli, brain death testing planned



**Family decision to terminally wean or withdraw medical therapy**  
Ex: planned EOL meeting, family discussing funeral or asking about “next steps”



**Patient becomes unstable or unresponsive to medical therapies**  
Ex: maxed on pressors, s/p code, respiratory failure