Did you know?

- The oldest organ, eye, and tissue donor in the United States was 92 years old!
- You can sign up to be an organ donor despite any preexisting medical conditions.

Thank You!!!

Thank you to all of the attendees, donors, sponsors, volunteers and staff at Signature of Solon for making our 2016 Cleveland MOTTEP and The Leonard C. Rosenberg Foundation 11th Annual 'Gift of Life' Golf Outing a success! Our efforts would not be possible without your support.

Event Sponsors:


The proceeds from the event will support the programs and services of Cleveland MOTTEP.

Find out more about Cleveland MOTTEP by visiting our website, www.clevelandmottep.org or call Linda D. Kimble at 216-216-229-6170 x137
Tissue donation, which included bone marrow transplants, can enhance up to 50 lives.

Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplant

The Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplant (AMAT) was created in order to unite multicultural health professionals across the United States. Many believed that this would aid networking and effective approach towards garnering a positive response to organ donation and transplantation in multicultural communities. AMAT supports donation and transplant personnel specifically as these professionals may face challenges when communicating to grieving families, transplant candidates, patients, hospital staff, and the general public. Specifically, AMAT aids professional development, cultural competency training, and provides other expertise to their partners in the transplant field so that these professionals can accomplish their life-saving missions. AMAT seeks to dispel myths and misconceptions rampant amongst different minority communities. When asked about their approach, many respond that they try to place themselves in the shoes of these families; the pain of losing a loved one is universal. This experience also prompts self-awareness and reflection for coordinators who, no doubt, gain significant insight from these families. Many coordinators encourage families to have conversations about organ donation so as to avoid a surprising decision when informed about their loved one’s decision. Additionally, counselors declare a need for increased community outreach and leadership by people of color. Ultimately, through their actions, AMAT is able to take great strides closing the gap between minority and Caucasian organ donation rates and also reduce the number of transplants on the waiting list.

To learn more about AMAT, visit their website: http://www.amat1.org/

National Minority Donor Awareness Week occurs from August 1st-7th. Although minorities comprise a startling 58% of the donation waiting list, many are unable to match with a donor due to a shortage of minority donors. The shortage of donors stems from various cultural and religious beliefs, as well as a general mistrust of healthcare personnel. The objective of the National Minority Donor Awareness Week is to increase awareness of the need for organ, eye, and tissue donors amongst minority populations. This year marks the eighteenth year communities honor minorities who have pushed for organ donation by donating themselves, encouraging others to register as donors, and/or by taking better care of their own health in order to minimize need for a transplant.
Why National MOTTEP?

Dr. Clive O. Callender founded National MOTTEP to educate and empower minority communities of the urgent need for organ, eye, and tissue donors. After spearheading National MOTTEP in 1991, Dr. Callender also became responsible for creating the National Minority Donor Awareness Day in 1996, a gesture which soon grew into a week long event.

The need for MOTTEP is evident today as the need for transplants in minority communities is disproportionately high. Although organ, eye, and tissue donors are frequently matched to recipients of different backgrounds, compatibility of blood types and tissue markers increases when two individuals are of the same ethnicity or race.

This becomes of utmost importance as certain ethnic groups are more likely to suffer from particular diseases. For instance, African Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics/Latinos are three times more likely than Caucasians to suffer from end-stage renal (kidney) diseases. Renal diseases often stem from high blood pressure levels, the onset of diabetes, and obesity. The need for more minority donors becomes evident when one notes that although African Americans comprise only 13% of the U.S. population, they compose 35% of the waiting list for a kidney transplant. Recognizing the increased compatibility of individuals of the same background brings to light the importance of MOTTEP. In addition to acquiring a larger donor population, MOTTEP strives to provide preventative education to minority communities which encourages them to consciously adopt a healthier lifestyle in order to avoid diagnosis of diseases that would require a transplant.

Cleveland MOTTEP is one of 9 MOTTEP sites around the nation and is the only organization in Ohio providing community based, culturally specific transplant, health and prevention education exclusively to the minority community. Cleveland MOTTEP aspires to be a trusted source of information concerning minority organ, eye, and tissue donation and executes two Teen Summits, participates in community outreach, and is involved with hospital lobby donor registration programs.

To learn more about the organization call 216-229-6170 extension 137 or visit our website at http://clevelandmottep.org/
In honor of August being National Minority Donor Awareness Week, common myths and misconceptions about being an organ, eye, and tissue donor will be addressed. The decision to register as an organ donor is a very important one as it saves someone’s life. In fact, when someone signs up as an organ, eye, and tissue donor, they have the opportunity to save and enhance almost 50 lives! However, many individuals, especially minorities, are not registered as organ, eye, and tissue donor due to myths that they believe are true. The following are common misconceptions and myths that prevent people from signing up as organ, eye, and tissue donors and a clarification.

If I'm in an accident and the hospital knows that I am designated as a donor, the doctors won't try to save my life.

**Truth:** Doctors, nurses and paramedics will do everything in they can to save your life. In fact, any personnel involved with the patient is not notified whether they are a registered donor until the patient is declared brain dead. Thus, whether or not the patient is an organ donor does not affect the medical care in any way. The local Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) is not notified until life-saving efforts have failed and the transplant team is not notified by the OPO until permission has been given by the deceased’s family.

My religion does not support organ or tissue donation.

**Truth:** All of the major religions in this country approve of organ and tissue donation and consider it a gift and an act of charity. If you have questions, contact your religious advisor.

My family will have to pay for all surgeries, medical care, etc. if I become a donor.

**Truth:** Costs related to donation are no responsibility to you or your family. The recipient is the one who must cover the costs.

Rich and famous people get moved to the top of the waiting list while "regular" people have to wait longer for a transplant.

**Truth:** The organ allocation and distribution system is blind to wealth or social status. The length of time it takes to receive a transplant is governed by many factors such as blood type, length of time on the waiting list, and severity of illness. Factors such as race, gender, age, income or celebrity status are never considered when determining who receives an organ or tissue transplant.
I have a history of medical illness. No one could benefit from my donation.

Truth: Very few medical conditions automatically disqualify you from donating organs. Although it may be that certain organs are not suitable for transplantation, other organs and tissues could still be potentially donated! Clinical professionals from the organ and tissue donor program will review medical and social histories with the donor’s family on a case-by-case basis to determine if the donor is suitable.

Even if I say I want to only donate my corneas, they will take all of my organs.

Truth: You can specify which organ and tissues you want to donate in your will or by telling your family which specific gifts you would like to donate at the time of your death. You can also make this indication when you sign up to be a donor at the DMV. Your wishes will be followed.

Organ and tissue donation will leave scars and my family will not be able to have an open casket funeral if I become a donor.

Truth: Doctors maintain the utmost dignity and respect for the donor and donor family wishes and so will remove organs/tissues in a manner in which no visible scarring will mar an open casket funeral. For instance, they are able to remove organs from the back.

I am too old to be a donor.

Truth: Fact: The nation’s oldest donor was 92 years old, proving that you are never too old to donate your organs. The oldest donor was named Carlton, who was a retired teacher and devoted father from Texas. Carlton was actually only nine days shy of his 93rd birthday when he became the nation’s oldest organ donor. Carlton’s wife and children made the decision to donate Carlton’s liver following his death from a brain hemorrhage. Thanks to this gift, a 69-year-old woman suffering from end-stage liver disease is alive and is progressing well. The decision to use your organs is based on strict medical criteria, not age. Don’t prematurely disqualify yourself. Instead, let the doctors decide at the time of your death whether your organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation. Therefore, people of any age wishing to become organ and tissue donors should indicate it on their driver’s license and inform their family of their wishes.
Community Conversations

On June 30th, 2016, I attended a community conversation about health and health disparities in the Latino community. This event was presented through a partnership between the City of Cleveland, Hispanic Alliance and Cleveland Office of Minority Health. Around thirty other Latinos from the community attended the event to discuss the state of Latino health in Cleveland and how we can address the disparities that exist in our community. There were a variety of health issues that were voiced among the audience, including fibromyalgia, mental health issues, and type II diabetes. It was interesting to hear people of the Latino community state that type II diabetes was an issue within their community, since that is one of Cleveland MOTTEP’s target groups.

Representing 12.5 percent of the US population, Hispanic Americans are the second largest minority group in the US and the fastest growing. A recent study by the American Heart Association states that the risk for a Hispanic American adult to develop type 2 diabetes is twice as high as a non-Hispanic American adult. The CDC also revealed that type II diabetes is one of the top five leading causes of death among the Hispanic community, but is not for the Caucasian community. Thus, it is important to spread education about prevention to this community in order to stop further complications before they happen.

Prevention education can be found on Cleveland MOTTEP’s website:
http://clevelandmottep.org/
Farewell

In the June Newsletter, Maria Atala was introduced as MOTTEP’s newest intern. She will no longer be with us for the month of August and leaves this message: “I would like to thank Linda Kimble and Sonya Callahan for making my internship at Cleveland MOTTEP a fun and great experience. I am very appreciative of Cleveland MOTTEP as I was able to learn more about the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation as well as prevention education as well as share this valuable information to the community. I am very lucky that I was able to work for such a great organization that promotes a great life-saving message to the community. I enjoyed my time at Cleveland MOTTEP greatly as I learned so much about the community.”

Get Connected with Cleveland MOTTEP!

If you want to volunteer for any of our upcoming events or want to learn more about Cleveland MOTTEP get connected with us at:

Main office number: 216-229-6170 extension 137

Website: http://clevelandmottep.org/

Like us on Facebook!

Just look up Cleveland MOTTEP on the search bar and hit like for more updates on Cleveland MOTTEP events and news on minority health.