



#### **A Message From Our CEO**

Working with our hospitals, transplant centers, DMV, board of directors, community partners, and most importantly our donor families, Carolina Donor Services experienced some amazing accomplishments in 2018.

The gifts of organ, eye and tissue donation save and heal lives. The generosity of our registered donors and all of our donor families significantly led to our success. More than one million North Carolinians registered their decisions to become organ, eye and tissue donors in 2018.

Tissue donation is an integral part of our mission. Last year, the total number of tissue donors increased 48 percent and total tissues donated increased 23 percent. The donated tissue will be used for patients with serious or life-threatening medical issues. It will save patients with severe burns and those needing heart valves. Donated tissue will heal people with torn ligaments and tendons; restore hope and mobility to injured military personnel; provide confidence to women undergoing breast reconstruction surgery; and repair spines, jawbones, and teeth.

For the first time, our research efforts played a critical role in recovering an abdominal wall and bilateral hands for two recipients.

Hundreds of North Carolinians returned to their families, communities, schools, and workplaces because we facilitated the recovery of 616 organs for lifesaving transplants.

Throughout all of this, our Life-Anew program provided on-going support and education to grieving families. Hundreds of families gathered to honor their loved ones during our annual Donor Family Tributes in Winston-Salem, Greenville, and Durham.

Though 2018 was extraordinary, I believe the compassionate team at Carolina Donor Services is positioned to save and heal even more lives in 2019.

Sincerely,

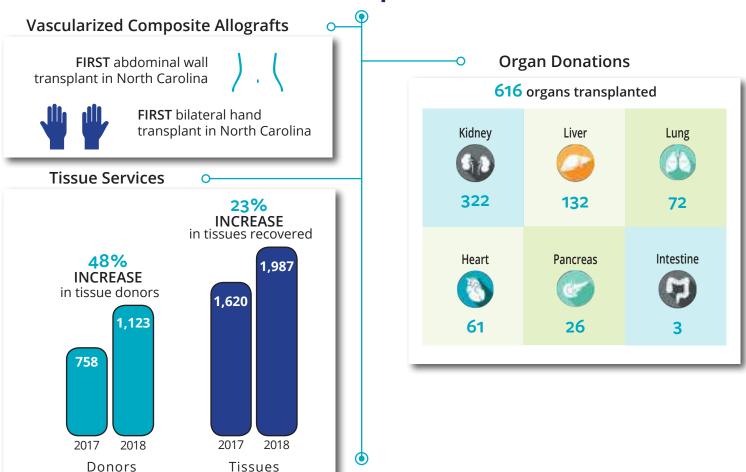
Danielle Niedfeldt, RN, JD President & CEO

Danielle Niedfeldt

Carolina Donor Services



# **2018 Accomplishments**





## **Abdominal Wall Transplant**

On November 15, 2018, Carolina Donor Services along with Duke Health celebrated a historic achievement - the first abdominal wall transplant in North Carolina, which saved Johnathan Nauta's life. Johnathan is a 37-year-old veteran who experienced an appendix burst at age six and struggled with intestinal blockages throughout his life. Before the transplant, Johnathan lived with tubes and waste bags.

Marcus Scales, a 13-year-old from North Carolina, was the organ donor that saved Johnathan and six others' lives. He and his family were honored during this celebration. "The donor family was extraordinary," said Danielle Niedfeldt, president and CEO at Carolina Donor Services. "When it became evident that Marcus would not survive, his parents Sherry and John asked about the ability to donate his organs, eyes and tissues. They wanted something good to come from this tragedy."

Thanks to the generosity of Marcus Scales and his family, Johnathan is now able to eat solid food, and for the first time since he was 11, have a belly button.

Photos courtesy of Duke Health

#### **Bilateral Hand Transplant**

"I just can't believe this is possible," says patient Debra Kelly. "It's just beyond my expectations." This is Debra's response to the bilateral hand transplant she received on Thanksgiving Day 2018.

Debra was listed for the bilateral hand transplant in September of 2018. After several calls fell through, she is grateful for the donor's gift and for the team who made her transplant possible.

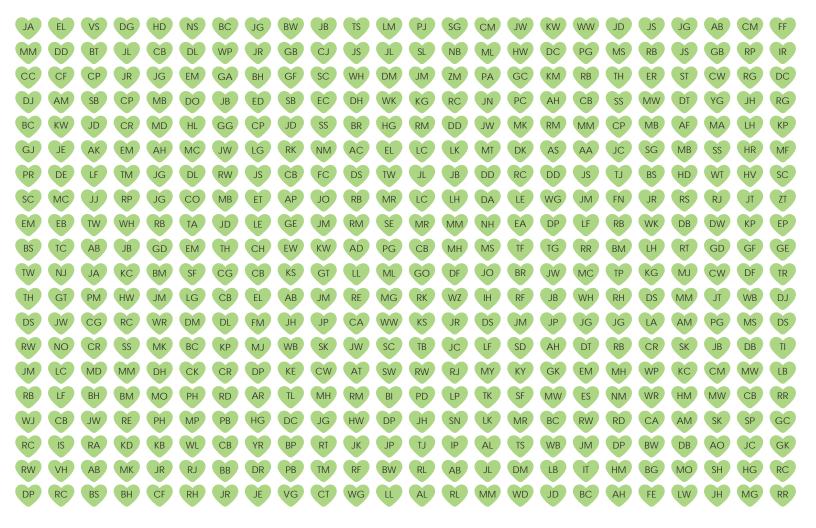
The surgery took 14 hours with teams rotating to perform the hand transplants simultaneously. This was a milestone - the first bilateral hand transplant in North Carolina.

Debra was discharged from Duke 10 days after the surgery and began occupational therapy. Soon after the transplant, she was able to wave, brush her hair out of her eyes, push up her glasses, and brush her own teeth.



# REMEMBERING THOSE WHO GAVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

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JH	MR	JD	JG	JM	EC	JO	SM	SF	TR	SF	BM	HG	GS	KC	НН	JM	RC	DP	CS	KP	PJ	FS	JK
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#### **Share Your Heart**

Surrounding National Donor Day in February, Carolina Donor Services kicked off a grassroots campaign called "Share Your Beautiful Heart" to spread awareness of the critical need for organ, eye and tissue donors in North Carolina.

Carolina Donor Services staff and partners placed thousands of small, heart-shaped boxes in public places such as grocery stores, rest stops, ATMs, picnic benches, and college campuses throughout North Carolina. Each box held several lapel pins that read, "Share the love, become an organ donor". The boxes also included a message encouraging the finders to share a photo with the found heart-shaped box on social media and then place the heart somewhere else in their community for another person to find.

"The first Instagram post of a found heart box was from a wife of a double-lung transplant recipient who was overjoyed and grateful after finding the box at a car wash. That inspirational coincidence moved us all and was the perfect kickoff," said Danielle Niedfeldt, President and CEO of Carolina Donor Services.

Heart boxes were found all over with pictures posted east to west, north to south, including Winston-Salem, Benson, Greenville, Wilmington, and many more towns. One even traveled 340 miles to Savannah, GA.

## The Dog Days of Summer



Carolina Donor Services' fun and furry campaign, The Dog Days of Summer, created a family friendly way to approach organ, eye and tissue donation in the community and online. The theme throughout the Dog Days was, *Be the Hero Your Dog Sees*, encouraging

people to be a hero and register as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

Photo shoots held with staff, volunteers, community partners, and of course man's best friend supplied us with content to create materials for community outreach and social media. Partnering with vets and groomers extended the community outreach to more folks with furry friends.





## **Advocacy Symposium**

In October, Carolina Donor Services held a fun and educational event for transplant recipients, donor family members and friends, transplant candidates, and recipient caregivers with interest in learning more about donation as a Friends for Life Ambassador.

Topics covered at the Advocacy Symposium included: how to utilize social media as a donation advocacy tool, updates on research projects, how to share your story, the variety of life-enhancing tissue uses and many more subjects to help our Friends for Life Ambassadors and community partners excel as pro-donation advocates.

Interested in being a Friends for Life Ambassador?
Visit: CarolinaDonorServices.org/volunteer

#### **Faith-Based Leaders Breakfast**

With over 40 people in attendance, the Faith-Based Leaders Breakfast raised awareness on the importance of becoming an organ, eye and tissue donor within the faith-based communities of all denominations. We extended an invitation to those in attendance to partner with us to increase the donor registration rate and save lives through the Faith-Based Partnership Opportunities Scorecard. We had amazing speakers, Coach William Knight (recipient), Dr. Sandra Coley (donor mom), and Charles White (Carolina Donor Services Hospital Development Specialist).



#### **Surmounting Storms**

#### **Hurricanes Florence & Michael**

Two hurricanes wiped through North Carolina in a short time span causing adversity throughout the state and especially in clinical operations.

During these natural disasters, our teams and partners worked tirelessly to fulfill our mission. With careful coordination, donors were brought further inland in order to save lives on the waiting list.

In a rare instance local authorities, including an air force base, pulled together resources in order to make a recovery possible. Power outages and loss of air conditioning took place during this recovery, but this did not stop the transplantation of a desperately needed liver.

#### **December Snow Storm**

Before winter even began, North Carolina saw a snow storm that impacted much of the state. We continued on with our life-saving mission despite the weather conditions, but not alone. When a vehicle for organ transport was not able to make it up the slippery slope to one of our offices (pictured right), our partners assisted us in carrying the organ to the transport vehicle.

We continue to recognize how important our partners are in saving the lives of over 3,000 North Carolinians on the waiting list.



