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Transplant Times

Organ Transplant Awareness Program

December 1, 2020

Promoting Organ Donor Awareness; Supporting the Transplant Community

Hello Transplant Community Members,

We find ourselves nearing the end of a year that has been difficult in so many ways. Regardless of the environment I am still feeling very blessed to be alive. I look forward to a year when we can hold business meetings and spend social time together. The Christmas dinner last year was very special and I will miss seeing everyone this Christmas. I continue to promote organ donation in any way I can. An United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) survey conducted in 2019 found that after news coverage and the DMV, people learn about organ donation mostly through discussions with family and friends. Of the 10,000 people surveyed, 90.4% believe in organ donation but only 49.9% were registered organ donors. With twenty people dying each day we have a long way to go to increase organ donor registration. The survey also noted that 20.7% learn about organ donation at health fairs. I am looking forward to resuming our outreach activities.

*Once again the Scholarship Program will begin soliciting essays for organ donation related scholarship. There is more information and an application form on the website, **OTAPNM.com** Please contact Margaret Lopez at silverlopez@aol.com to volunteer to be a reader, no experience necessary!*

The support group will meet on Friday, December 4th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. RSVP to rioreal@earthlink.net.



Organ Donation The Ultimate Gift



Congratulations Transplant Recipients!

Robert Golding	Kidney Transplant	December 13, 2001	19 yrs
Joel Scott	Beth's Kidney Donor	December 13, 2001	
Doris Alrick	1st Kidney Transplant	December 24, 2004	

Changes to kidney and pancreas allocation to be implemented later this year

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UNOS News Bureau

(804) 782-4730

newsroom@unos.org

In late 2020, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network will implement policies to remove donation service area (DSA) and OPTN region from kidney and pancreas allocation. At implementation, DSA and region will be replaced with a 250 nautical mile (NM) fixed circle. The exact implementation date is still being finalized and is planned for mid-December of this year.

In the new system, deceased donor kidney and pancreas offers (except for rare, very well-matched donor and recipient combinations nationwide) will be offered first to candidates listed at transplant hospitals within 250 NM of the donor hospital. Offers not accepted for any of these candidates will then be made for candidates beyond the 250 NM distance. Kidney and pancreas candidates will receive proximity points in the new system that prioritize them within their classification.

The OPTN Board of Directors [approved the new system at its December 2019 meeting](#). The board approved three additional policies [at its virtual meeting in June of this year](#). These supplemental policies will be implemented alongside the two policies to remove DSA and region from kidney and pancreas allocation and address:

- How deceased donor kidneys and pancreas from Alaska are distributed in the new system
- How OPOs will reallocate released kidneys and pancreas in the new system
- How medically urgent kidney candidates are prioritized in the new system

More information about the changes involved with these policies can be found in the Professional Education section of the OPTN website.



Organ Transplant Awareness Program Organ Donation Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors!

This is an essay contest sponsored by Organ Transplant Awareness Program of New Mexico. This year there will be two \$500 scholarships awarded to New Mexico high school seniors. The awards are in memory of Betty Montoya, kidney recipient and Jaime Munoz, double lung recipient.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to promote organ and tissue donation as an important social responsibility while assisting New Mexico youth with higher education. Currently 800 New Mexicans await life-saving organ transplants. Unfortunately, many of these candidates will die before suitable organs and/or tissues become available. By increasing awareness of organ and tissue donation, we help people make informed decisions about registering to be an organ donor.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- High school senior attending public, private or home school in New Mexico from Socorro north.
- Have a grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale.
- Intend to enroll in an accredited college, university, or vocational-technical school.

TO APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP

1. Complete the attached application.
2. You may choose to write your essay on either of two topics:
 - a.) A Personal Story involving organ transplant or tissue donation.
 - b.) An Informative Essay on organ transplant or tissue donation.
3. All essays must be a **minimum** 2 full pages, 1" margins, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times Roman font, **plus** a title page with applicant's name, essay title and state either "Personal" or "Informative".

SELECTION PROCESS

- An impartial selection committee will evaluate each application and essay. Upon review of all applications, the final committee will select the winning essays for awards.

Awards will be sent to the institution the student plans to attend upon verification of enrollment. The award may be utilized for school related expenses (tuition, fees or books) Recipients will need to provide photo identification, college student ID and address of college's financial aid office. Please feel free to make copies and distribute to teachers, counselors, and students. Also, please post in the teacher's lounge, counseling offices, and on websites.



Essay Contest Application Form

Deadline February 14, 2021

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ Email _____ Phone _____

High School _____

Grade Point Average (GPA) _____

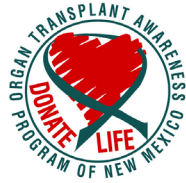
Description of extra-curricular activities (school and /or community)

List the College, University, Vocational, or Technical school you plan to attend.

Please tell us about yourself, your goals, and ambitions (you may add another page)

The Scholarship process restarts and is announced annually each December.

Please email your essay as a Microsoft Word Document organdonation@otapnm.com with “**OTAP Scholarship Essay**” in the subject field. Note: All essays will become the property of the Organ Transplant Awareness Program of New Mexico, Inc. for the purpose of future publication in any media format. Your award will be sent to your college’s the financial aid office. The winning Scholarship essays will be published on our website, OTAPNM.COM and used for promotional purposes.



2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Cell Phone _____

Email address for organization communications only _____

_____ I would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.

_____ \$15 Individual membership _____ \$25 Family membership _____ donation

All contributions are tax deductible

Please make checks payable and mail to: **OTAP,**
PO Box 37217
Albuquerque, NM 87176

_____ **Candidate:** Organ/Tissue Type: _____ Date Listed _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Recipient:** Organ/Tissue Type: _____ Date Received _____ / _____ / _____

2nd transplant date –month day year: _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Donor/member of a Donor Family:** Name _____ Organ/Tissue Type _____

Recipient _____ Transplant date –month/day/year: _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Friend of OTAP**

Opportunities - Please check all that apply:

I would like to volunteer: promotional events _____ fundraising events _____

Personal information such as phone number _____ and address _____ may be shared with others.

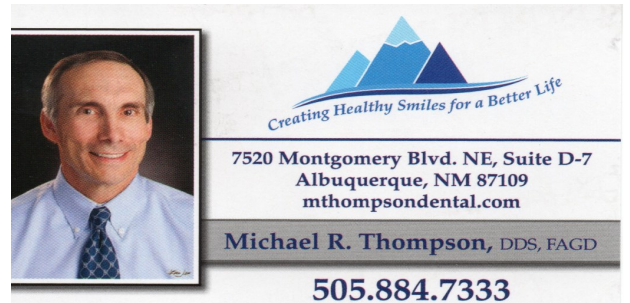
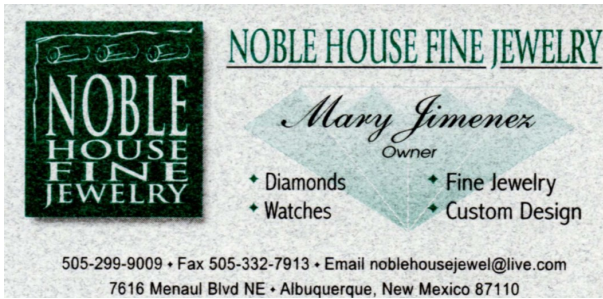
I am interested in working with the scholarship team _____ newsletter team _____ support group _____

I only want to receive the monthly newsletter. _____

Suggestions _____

_____ **Newsletter Sponsor (\$100 Annual Donation)** please send business card for ad in newsletter

Thank You for your support!



108,682

people need a lifesaving organ transplant (total waiting list candidates). Of those, 67,539 people are active waiting list candidates. As of October 27, 2020

AMAZON SMILE

Sign in to Amazon Smile and select Organ Transplant Awareness Program of New Mexico.

Amazon will make a donation to OTAP quarterly.

Or copy and paste this address to your browser:

Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3654972>

OTAP Mission Statement

The mission of Organ Transplant Awareness Program is to promote organ donation and support transplant community members including transplant candidates, donor families, living organ donors, transplant recipients, and transplant families. We promote organ donation by participating in a variety of community events. Our support group meets one time per month with those who need support or are seeking information about the transplant process.

