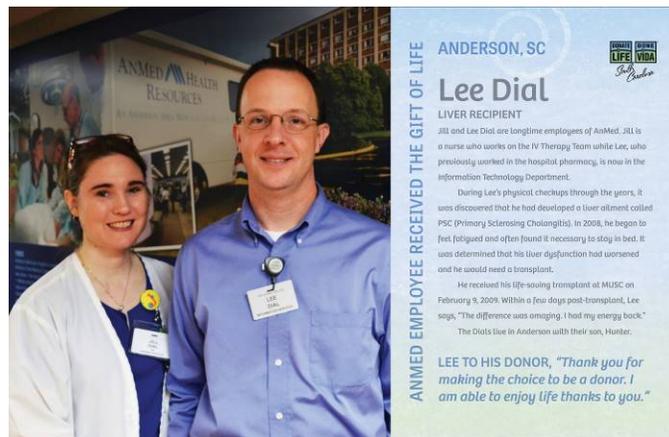




Contact: Mark Johnson
Media Relations Coordinator
Phone: 864-363-6305
E-mail: johnsonm@lifepoint-sc.org

“Sharing the Gift of Life” Inaugural Wall of Hope Unveiled For Donate Life Month To Raise Awareness About Organ/Tissue Donation

Charleston, SC – March 19, 2014: April is designated as **National Donate Life Month** by the United States Department of Health and Human Service and *Donate Life America*. LifePoint and *Donate Life South Carolina* have partnered with AnMed Health for South Carolina’s first *Wall of Hope* exhibit. It is entitled “Sharing the Gift of Life” with the purpose to help raise awareness about the need for more organ and tissue donors in Anderson County and all of the state. The *Wall of Hope* consists of a series of full color panels that tell the stories of local transplant recipients and donors. Several of the panels present poignant facts/statistics about donation and dispel many of the most common myths surrounding donation.



The unveiling of the AnMed Health *Wall of Hope* “Sharing the Gift of Life” exhibit will be on **Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 2:00 PM** in the AnMed Health Medical Center lobby in downtown Anderson. Several of the donor families and recipients featured on the panels will attend the unveiling. A brief ceremony will be followed by those in attendance having the opportunity to view the entire wall of hope.

Currently, over **121,000** people are on the national transplant waiting list and approximately **1000** of them are on the South Carolina waiting list. Because the great need for more organ and tissue donors continues to grow, April is designated as **National Donate Life Month** by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Transplantation. LifePoint and *Donate Life South Carolina* join other organ and tissue transplantation organizations across the country in recognizing this important designation.

**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**



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Media Relations Coordinator
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E-mail: johnsonm@lifepoint-sc.org

On average, 150 people are added to the nation’s organ transplant waiting list each day—one every 10 minutes. Without more donors, many on the waiting list will die waiting. In fact, an average of 18 people in the U.S. die each day because of the shortage of life-saving organs. It is hoped that the designation of April as **Donate Life Month** will call attention to the need for more organ/tissue donors in South Carolina as well as inform the public about the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.

In South Carolina 104 people became organ donors at their deaths during 2013 and helped save over 350 lives. Nationally, over 28,000 people began new lives last year thanks to organ transplants. Over 46,000 patients had their sight restored through cornea transplants and over 1 million tissue transplants were performed during 2013. In South Carolina there were also 342 tissue donors and 428 ocular (eye) donations. These donations save or improve the lives of South Carolinians and people across the country.

For more information about the “**Sharing the Gift of Life**” *Wall of Hope* exhibit, **Donate Life Month**, or to set up an interview with someone featured in the *Wall of Hope* exhibit contact Mark Johnson, Media Relations Coordinator for Donate Life South Carolina and LifePoint at 864-363-6305.

About LifePoint

LifePoint is the designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) in South Carolina and provides organ, tissue and ocular donor services to 62 hospitals throughout the state. LifePoint also helps support and educate families at an emotionally devastating time, so they can make well-informed decisions about organ and tissue donation. LifePoint works with Donate Life South Carolina to increase awareness about donation and the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. (*LifePoint-SC.org*)

About Donate Life South Carolina

Donate Life South Carolina is the statewide organization whose mission is to promote organ and tissue donation for transplantation and provides patient assistance for South Carolina transplant recipients. Donate Life South Carolina established and maintains the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. (*DonateLifeSC.org*)