



NEWS RELEASE

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NJ SHARING NETWORK HOSTS 5K CELEBRATION OF LIFE TO HONOR, TO REMEMBER AND TO GIVE HOPE

New Jersey non-profit organization gears up for 5K Walk and USATF Certified Race on May 20 in Long Branch and June 3 in New Providence

LONG BRANCH AND NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ – NJ Sharing Network, the nonprofit organization responsible for the recovery of organs and tissue for nearly 4,000 New Jersey residents awaiting life-saving transplants, kicks off their 5k Celebration of Life. Every year, the events bring together thousands of walkers, runners and volunteers to honor those who gave the gift of life, pay tribute to those who have received a transplant, offer hope to those currently waiting for a transplant and remember those who passed away while waiting for the gift of life.

The 5K Celebration of Life kicks off on Sunday, May 20 at the Great Lawn at the Ocean Promenade in Long Branch. The second date is **Sunday, June 3 at NJ Sharing Network's** headquarters located at 691 Central Avenue in New Providence. Both events are a 5K Walk & USATF Certified Race.

In addition to the 5K Walk and USATF Certified Race, participants can expect a day of music, dancing, food trucks, kids' activities, sponsor giveaways and many stories attesting to the power of organ and tissue donation. Attendees may see the families of organ and tissue

donors embracing transplant recipients, living kidney donors walking alongside the person whose life they saved, teams rallying around a community member currently waiting for a transplant, and many New Jersey residents showing their support for a worthy cause.

“The 5K Celebration of Life is a special time for our entire community. It brings together donor families, transplant recipients, those waiting for a transplant, volunteers, sponsors and partners who all play an integral role in making our life-saving mission possible,” said NJ Sharing Network President and CEO, Joe Roth. “The amount of support, compassion, and dedication is palpable as our teams walk and run to celebrate the gift of life.”

Through the 5K Celebration of Life, its Foundation hopes to raise \$1.25 million to increase the number of lives saved through innovative research, family support, public awareness and education about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

In 2017, more New Jersey residents gave the gift of life than ever before, resulting in over 550 lives saved. Every day, approximately three New Jersey residents are added to the transplant waiting list and last year nearly 100 people died while waiting for a transplant. One organ donor can save eight lives and one tissue donor can restore health to over 75 people.

Those interested in participating in the 5K Celebration of Life can learn more and sign up at www.NJSharingNetwork.org/5K.

About NJ Sharing Network

NJ Sharing Network – **selected by NJBIZ as one of the state’s “Best Places to Work”** in 2018 - saves lives through organ and tissue donation. Located in New Providence, NJ, the organization recovers organs and tissue and belongs to a national network that helps the 115,000 people waiting for a transplant. New Jersey residents can help save lives by registering as organ and tissue donors at www.NJSharingNetwork.org, having a conversation with family and friends and joining NJ Sharing Network at its upcoming events.