



NEWS RELEASE

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NJ SHARING NETWORK'S ANNUAL 5K CELEBRATES AND HONORS TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS AND DONORS

Organization continues to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation through their annual 5K Celebration of Life event

PARAMUS, NJ, April 24, 2016 – Kathy Phillippi has seen both sides of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Her sister, Margaret “Marji” Serra, was given another 20 years of life thanks to a kidney transplant. Kathy’s husband, Walter “Wally,” helped others as a tissue donor after passing away in 2014. The Phillippi family participated in NJ Sharing Network’s Annual 5K Celebration of Life for the first time that year to celebrate Wally’s gift. Kathy and the Phillippi family are participating again this year to celebrate and honor Wally, Marji, and others who have been touched by transplant. Inspirational stories like these, and others, are prevalent at NJ Sharing Network’s Annual 5K Celebration of Life events.

NJ Sharing Network, a nonprofit organization that saves lives through organ and tissue donation, kicks off their Annual 5K Celebration of Life Walk/Run at Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ. Every year, the event brings together thousands of walkers, runners and volunteers to honor those who gave the gift of organ or tissue, pay tribute to those who have received a transplant, offer hope to those waiting for a transplant and remember those who passed away while waiting for the gift of life.

“The Annual 5K Celebration of Life is an amazing gathering of families and friends who have been touched by organ and tissue donation,” said NJ Sharing Network President and CEO Joe Roth. The outpouring of support for each other and dedication to our life-saving mission is inspiring.”

The organization hopes to raise \$1.25 million this year to support donor families, research and education about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Additional 5Ks will take place on Sunday, June 5 at the organization’s headquarters in New Providence, NJ (5K Walk & USATF Certified Timed Race) and on Sunday, August 21 at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ (5K Walk/Run).

NJ Sharing Network is proud of the strides the organization has made over the last year as it set a record in 2015 for making 531 organ transplants possible, a 37 percent from 2014. “It is the generosity of donors and their families, our highly trained staff and events like the 5K Celebration of Life that make these record-breaking numbers possible,” added Roth.

Today, there are 122,000 people waiting for a transplant and 22 die each day, but one donor can save eight people and one tissue donor can enhance the lives of 50 people. In New Jersey, there are 5,000 people on the waiting list and one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant.

New Jersey residents can help save lives by registering as organ and tissue donors at www.NJSharingNetwork.org, talking about it with their families and friends and joining NJ Sharing Network at its next 5K Celebration of Life.

About NJ Sharing Network

NJ Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally designated organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for New Jersey residents in need of life-saving transplants. NJ Sharing Network partners with Donate Life America, a not-for-profit national alliance that drives communities to increase their numbers of registered donors. NJ Sharing Network honors those who gave, pays tribute to those who received, offers hope to those who continue to wait, and remembers the lives lost while waiting for the gift of life.