

## Create a Donate Life ECHO

### First year observance planned for mid-July to reach multi-cultural communities with inspiring messages of organ, eye and tissue donation

When the country's first successful human organ transplant took place in 1954, it was with one twin donating a kidney to another. Fast forward nearly 60 years later and meet Marlee Phomsopha and Marlay Manopaseuth of Charlotte. In 2008, Marlee was diagnosed with end state kidney failure, the result of Berger's disease. Her twin sister immediately stepped forward and agreed to donate one of her kidneys to her sister and her best friend. Born to Laotian immigrants, they were raised by their parents to take care of each other.

Not everyone is as lucky as Marlee to have a living donor. Since Marlay's transplant, she and Marlee are both doing well. Marlee returned to her position as a pediatric dental assistant, Marlay to her job as a nurse at Carolinas Medical Center (CMC). In 2011, they both had their first babies six weeks apart.

Marlee and Marlay are faces on the donor statistics faced by ethnic minorities throughout the United States and for whom this new observance to bolster their engagement was designed. Donate Life North Carolina has joined forces with the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT) and Donate Life America to launch Donate Life ECHO (Every Community has Opportunity). ECHO has two objectives: one is to focus on the power of sharing one's personal decision to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor with members of one's community; the second is to encourage registered donors to ask members of their personal networks and extended communities to talk about organ, eye, and tissue donation and register as donors.

As nearly 60 percent of the waiting list is comprised of ethnically diverse patients, the need for increased education efforts and new strategic approaches is an important step toward increasing the number of registered donors in multi-cultural communities. In NC, 58% of those waiting for an organ transplant are from minority communities. Last year of the 1,005 transplants that were performed in NC, 42% went to minority recipients.

"We're excited about this strategic initiative to create an ECHO across North Carolina to empower individuals to echo the message of the power of donation in their respective communities," said Sharon Hirsch, Executive Director of Donate Life NC. "The culturally relevant tools and resources we will use are designed to spark meaningful conversations with families and communities about the importance of registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor."

Donate Life NC and all of the state's recovery agencies, including LifeShare Of The Carolinas, are encouraging North Carolina residents to create an ECHO and to share more inspirational stories like Marlee's and Marlay's. To make it easy, follow LifeShare on Facebook and Twitter during mid-July.

Currently, there are approximately 123,000 individuals in the United States on the waiting list for an organ transplant. About 3,100 of them reside in North Carolina. Individuals interested in registering as an organ or tissue donor may do so at the NC Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when applying for a driver's license or State-issued ID card or anytime at [DonateLifeNC.org/register](http://DonateLifeNC.org/register). You never know who you will inspire – or whose life you may save!

**About LifeShare** LifeShare Of The Carolinas is the regional organ procurement organization designated by the federal government to serve 44 hospitals in a 22 county region throughout southwestern North Carolina. In addition to facilitating organ transplants, LifeShare also operates an eye facility and recovers tissue for transplants. For additional information, visit [www.LifeshareCarolinas.org](http://www.LifeshareCarolinas.org).

### RCC Dialysis Technology Program Training Much Needed Healthcare Workers

The stats for kidney disease are staggering: One in three American adults is currently at risk for developing kidney disease. Once the kidneys fail, dialysis or a kidney transplant is required. Approximately 450,000 Americans are on dialysis. Richmond Community College has a unique Dialysis Technology program that trains technicians to work in dialysis centers, hospitals and other healthcare settings that offer dialysis treatment.

RCC instructor Renea Craven experienced firsthand the need for skilled and motivated healthcare workers when her husband was diagnosed several years ago with kidney cancer that resulted in his being dependent on dialysis treatment. "Dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment, and you want a healthcare provider who is not only knowledgeable but also empathetic because you're going to be seeing them not just one time but several times for several hours at a time," said Craven, who is Allied Health chair and lead instructor for the Medical Assisting program at RCC.

Craven spearheaded the Dialysis Technology program at RCC, which can be completed in one year. "This diploma program provides technicians with the skill set to serve as support staff for physicians treating dialysis patients. It will also teach them how to be advocates for their patients," Craven said. "The majority of people who are on dialysis are chronically ill, and some will be on dialysis the remainder of their lives after kidney failure. You don't want a caregiver who hooks a patient up to a machine and then walks away. You need someone who is concerned for that patient's other needs such as diet and nutrition, family or work issues, problems with insurance, depression or fatigue and their overall care plan."

**Healthcare Staff Needed** Davita Kidney Care operates 10 dialysis centers within a 50-mile radius of Richmond County and has 64 centers in North Carolina and 20 centers in South Carolina. At the national level, DaVita operates or provides administrative services at 2,098 outpatient dialysis centers and serves about 165,000 patients.

Fresenius Medical Care is another leading dialysis provider that operates about 20 regional facilities and 2,261 nationwide.

Dr. John Shepherd, a nephrologist with Pinehurst Associates, ran into a growing need for staffing at dialysis centers. "One of the problems we run into at the unit is we have chairs available, but sometimes we don't have the staffing available – be it nurses, technicians, social workers or dieticians. To have a conduit of trained technicians from the college would be helpful to get patients in and out more smoothly," said Shepherd.

Shepherd said the medical economy is going to continue to grow, so a technician program such as the one being offered at RCC is a great starting place for students who want to pursue a career in health care. "I've known a lot of technicians who started in a dialysis center and ended up going into medical school," Shepherd said.

**Altering the Healthcare Scene** "As with all RCC's programs, the College is in tune with what would better serve our community," Dr. Dale McInnis, RCC president, said. "Unfortunately, the need for more dialysis technicians is real and is not going away. This program is our opportunity to alter healthcare and provide chronically ill patients with the very best in specialized care."

For Craven, this program represents a lifeline for many, including her husband, who suffer from kidney failure. "When you are dealing with dialysis, you are dealing with someone's life. This Allied Health program will give people the skill set to be excellent caregivers in our communities and beyond," she said.

**Apply Now** RCC is currently enrolling students for the fall semester in the Dialysis Technology diploma program as well as its other certificate, diploma and degree programs. New student registration will be held July 9 and August 11-13 on RCC's main campus, 1042 W. Hamlet Ave., Hamlet, N.C. Applications can be submitted online at [www.richmondcc.edu](http://www.richmondcc.edu).

For more information call RCC at (910) 410-1700 or visit [www.richmondcc.edu](http://www.richmondcc.edu).

### Lifetime License Holders: Time to Request Seasonal Information

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is reminding lifetime license holders that it is time to request a copy of the 2015-16 North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest for the upcoming season, which begins Aug. 1.

Lifetime license holders who have a license that entitles them to hunt big game and migratory game birds also can request their big game harvest report cards, HIP certification and bear e-stamp, if applicable. Requests can be made by:

- visiting the Commission's website, [ncwildlife.org/lifetime](http://ncwildlife.org/lifetime);
- calling toll-free 888-248-6834, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday-Friday; and,
- visiting a Wildlife Service Agent. Most agents are located in bait and tackle shops, hunting and sporting goods stores and larger chain stores across the state. A \$2 transaction fee may be added to your total order (NCGS §113-270.1B).

The 2015-16 N.C. Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest will be available at agent locations and on the Commission's website, [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), on August 1.

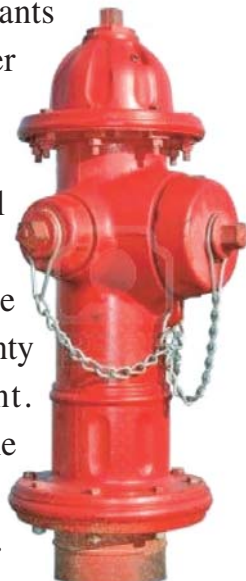
## Unauthorized Hydrant Use

The use of Anson County Water Department fire hydrants for obtaining water for agricultural or any other purpose without written consent of the Water Department is a violation of state and federal law. Hydrants are for use by written-permitted users, water company or fire department personnel only.

The Anson County Water Department will take legal action against any individual or business that unlawfully obtains water from the Anson County water system. Please report suspicious activity to the Anson County Sheriff's Office or the Water Department.

Hydrant use permit information is available from the Anson County Water Department.

Information is available at 704-694-5208.



### Family Trip to Myrtle Beach Offered

Grace Senior Center is sponsoring a one day family trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on Thursday, August 6. Time will be spent on the beach, Broadway at the Beach and dining at Bennetts Calabash.

Bennetts Calabash specializes in seafood, but has a variety of meats (chicken, steaks, ribs), vegetables and desserts.

The cost of the trip is \$65 for adults. The cost for children is \$25 for ages 5 to 13. This includes your dinner. They are now accepting deposits for this trip. The final day to pay is August 4. Please call 704-694-6616 to register or for more information.

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