

This is a release from Lifeshare of the Carolinas: For the first time in the organization's 46-year history, LifeShare recovered organs from over 100 donors in 2016. There were 104 to be exact, whose generous gifts resulted in 304 organs being successfully transplanted. That figure compares to 79 organ donors in 2015.

Jerome Menendez, LifeShare's Executive Director, attributed the record figure to several causes, including ongoing support from our hospital partners. Other contributing factors were an increase in the number of eligible donors, new clinical reforms, media attention of donation, heightened community awareness, and the tremendous giving spirit of the people of North Carolina.

"Without a doubt, this milestone can be attributed to the incredible generosity of our donors and their families. During one of the most difficult and emotional times in their lives, these families made the unselfish decision to donate their loved-one's organs so that others might live," Menendez said.

It is no coincidence that the number of NC residents who have designated themselves as donors through the NC Organ Donor Registry has reached an all-time high. The number of state residents who have designated themselves as donors is rapidly approaching five million, making the registry the sixth largest in the United States.

"We are so grateful for our donor families and transplant recipients who feel called to share their stories with our local communities. These powerful experiences leave lasting impressions on individuals and, in many cases, help them make the decision to become organ donors," Menendez continued.

Despite the increase in the number of donors, the demand for organ transplants continues to far outpace the supply. Nationwide, there are close to 120,000 people on the waiting list for an organ transplant. Thousands of others are in need of donated tissue to restore sight, improve mobility and to heal burns.

As the federally designated organ procurement organization for the region, LifeShare is poised to continue to maximize the donation process in 2017. There are approximately 2,900 North Carolina residents on the waiting list, who are counting on us to do so.

About LifeShare: LifeShare has been serving the citizens of southwestern North Carolina since 1970 as the official link between those awaiting organ transplants and the donors who make those transplants possible.

Headquartered in Charlotte, the organization maintains a satellite office in Asheville. In addition to facilitating organ transplants, LifeShare also operates an eye bank and recovers tissue for transplantation. For additional information, visit their website at www.lifesharecarolinas.org.

How to Register as a Donor: Registering as a donor is easy. North Carolinians can register to be organ donors when they visit their local Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office by requesting a red heart on their driver's license or state-issued identification card. Additionally, individuals can register online by visiting DonateLifeNC.org/register, by sharing their decision to donate on Facebook or through the Apple Health App.

Anson Women's League Soup Luncheon is February 14

The Anson Women's League (AWL) will be hosting its annual soup luncheon on Tuesday, February 14. For \$7 you get delicious homemade vegetable-beef soup, a toasted cheese sandwich, drink and your choice of a wonderful homemade dessert (eat-ins only) at First Baptist Church on Lee Avenue in Wadesboro.

This traditional, fun event is one of the AWL's major fundraisers for many charitable donations, which includes the annual AWL scholarships for graduating Anson County seniors. Your enjoyment will help support many worthy causes here in Anson County.

Tickets are available from any AWL member. Contact Ross Huntley at (704) 994-3437, Misty Norden at Uwharrie Bank (mistynorden@yahoo.com) or Beverley Getzen at (704) 694-7022 (bbgetzen@gmail.com) to purchase tickets in advance or for more information.

They cannot deliver, but can prepare meals in bulk orders for take-out if you let them know how many orders and at what time you will pick them up. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Plan to come and enjoy a delicious meal in great company!

Free Parenting Classes, Diapers, Ultrasounds & Pregnancy Tests

Learn about parenting in a small group setting while earning free diapers. Free parenting classes are offered by HOPE Pregnancy Resource Center at 3 p.m. on Tuesdays. They take place at the HOPE Office located at 19 South Williams Street in Polkton. Attendees earn a pack of diapers for every two classes they participate in. To sign up call 704-690-6689.

HOPE offers free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds in their office every other Monday. You can all them for dates and times. It is always best to schedule the tests and ultrasounds, but they do try to accommodate walk-ins when possible.

Be sure to ask about HOPE's clothing ministry. The website for HOPE is www.hprc-anson.org.

Anson Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers Would You Like to Help?

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping, call 704-694-4832.

Anson County Animal Shelter is listed on Petfinder.com. This is a searchable national database of pets available for adoption that includes a description and photo. All the animals that are up for adoption are listed and have a picture. Just go to Petfinder.com and search for any Anson County town or zip code.

A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win.

And remember, older animals need a home and love too!

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center Computer Skills Classes

Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center offers computer skills classes for all ages. Classes are tailored for beginners or intermediate students.

If you are interested please contact BRLC to register. They are located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

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JANUARY IS CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

January is the month for Cervical Cancer Screening

Schedule a Well Woman Physical Exam for Screening in 2017. The Family Planning Clinic offers Cervical Cancer Screening on all female clients 21 and older.

Funded by the Title X Federal Project Grant.

Call or visit the Anson County Health Department
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