

## Pope Francis Inspires Efforts to Increase Organ Donation

Pope Francis' visit to the United States has generated tremendous excitement and the momentum continues to build in anticipation of the arrival of His Holiness. From every corner of the country, including the Carolinas, Catholics and people of all faiths are inspired by the visit of Pope Francis and his support of organ, eye, and tissue donation.

As he met with the Transplant Committee for the Council of Europe in Rome last year, the Pope described the act of organ donation as a "testimony of love for our neighbor." In fact, all major religions support organ donation as an act of charity and love, the major tenets of Christianity. Faith and hope also play an important role in the donation and transplant process. Whether someone who needs a life-saving transplant or has donated a loved one's organs – all have faith in something greater than themselves.

"The donation and transplantation community welcomes Pope Francis," said Susan A. Stuart, Board Chair for Donate Life America. "As a Catholic, I have received much inspiration and direction from the Pope's teaching that hope is the anchor which keeps us holding on. The Pope's message of love and kindness can encourage more people to make the choice to give life by registering to become an organ, eye, and tissue donor – so that the anchor of hope transforms into reality for those who are waiting."

Today, there are more than 122,000 people nationwide whose lives depend on the kindness of strangers to make the choice to Donate Life. Sadly, 22 of these individuals die on average each day and these organs they need are not donated in time. That is exactly why organ donation is so important.

A recent poll stated that nine out of 10 Catholics are in favor of Pope Francis and his teachings. In honor of the Pontiff's powerful message of charity and love, LifeShare Of The Carolinas urges Catholics and people of all religions who have not yet registered as an organ, eye, and tissue donor to do so.

Registering is easy. Go to the DMV or visit [www.loveforneighbor.org](http://www.loveforneighbor.org). For additional information on organ donation contact Debbie Gibbs at [dgibbs@carolinas.org](mailto:dgibbs@carolinas.org). Don't take your organs to heaven. Heaven knows we need them here!

LifeShare Of The Carolinas is the regional organ procurement organization that serves a 23 county region throughout southwestern North Carolina. The organization is the bridge between people who need transplants and the donors who make those transplants possible. In addition to facilitating organ transplants, LifeShare also operates an eye bank and recovers tissue for transplants. For additional information, visit [www.LifeshareCarolinas.org](http://www.LifeshareCarolinas.org).

## Scouting Registration is Going on Now

**Register for Boy Scouts or Cub Scouts at schools or at regular meetings**

It is that time of the year again for Scouting registration at the schools. For those parents who are unable to make the registration meetings at the schools, you can register at the regular meetings of the Scout troops. Here is information about regular meeting times and dates for Anson County troops.

### • Boy Scout Troop 589

Meetings on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. at Pleasant Hill UMC. Leader is Perry Johnson, Scoutmaster. 843-622-7133 or [sharperstep@roadrunner.com](mailto:sharperstep@roadrunner.com)

### • Boy Scout Troop 170

Meetings on Mondays at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church. Leader is Kenny Brower, Scoutmaster. 704-695-5523 or [browsersauto@windstream.net](mailto:browsersauto@windstream.net)

### • Boy Scout Troop 503

Meetings on Mondays at 7:15 p.m. at Hopewell UMC. Leader is Wheeler Buckingham, Scoutmaster. 704-272-8972 or [buckingham947@windstream.net](mailto:buckingham947@windstream.net)

### • Boy Scout Troop 505

Meetings on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Olivet UMC. Leader is Chris McCormick, Scoutmaster. 704-475-5056 or [chrsmccr7@aol.com](mailto:chrsmccr7@aol.com)

### • Cub Scout Pack 530

Meetings 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. at Peachland UMC. Leader is Laura Laney, Cubmaster. 704-994-9173 or [laura\\_laney@yahoo.com](mailto:laura_laney@yahoo.com)

### • Cub Scout Pack 505

Meetings on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Olivet UMC. Leader is Theodore Horne, Cubmaster. 704-465-0430 or [theodore-hornejr@yahoo.com](mailto:theodore-hornejr@yahoo.com)

### • Venture Crew 589

Meetings: The venture crew meets for scheduled events throughout the year. Leader is Perry Johnson, Advisor. 843-622-7133 or [sharperstep@roadrunner.com](mailto:sharperstep@roadrunner.com)

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## Free Groceries Available for Those in Need on Wednesday, October 7

The Mobile Food Pantry will be at Austin Grove Baptist Church in Marshville (5919 Austin Grove Church Road) on Wednesday, October 7, from 11 a.m. to noon. Be sure to bring your own bags, boxes or carts to carry your food. Do not arrive before 9:30 a.m. If it is raining the day of or before the delivery, it will be canceled. If you have not yet done so, bring proof of your income to register. You can only pick up food for yourself and one other registered household.

This event is sponsored by Anson Crisis Ministry and local United Methodist, Baptist, Apostolic, and Presbyterian Churches. Interested in volunteering? Call Steve Little, Austin Grove Baptist Church (704) 320-6535 or Rev. Cindy Lunsford (828) 891-2753.



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*Pictured left to right:* Jessica Bowers, RN, Unit Manager; Deana Ratliff, RN, Wound Nurse; McKay Tillman, RN, Assistant Director of Nursing; Michelle Tillman, RN, Director of Nursing; Jennifer Polson, RN, Unit Manager, and Lori Ross, RN, MDS Coordinator.

**Please contact Terri Martin or Maria Hinson for a tour or admission information at 704-695-3301.**

**Gay Lookabill, Administrator**

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