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## **For Immediate Release**

### **ONELEGACY SUPPORTS LIVING DONATION IN CALIFORNIA**

#### **L.A. non-profit's mission supports statewide referral service and dialysis provider trainings to help thousands in need of kidney transplants**

**LOS ANGELES, Calif., May 20, 2013** – [OneLegacy](#), the non-profit, federally designated organ and tissue recovery organization serving the seven-county greater Los Angeles area, is supporting living kidney donation statewide by contributing to [Living Donation California](#), a first-of-its-kind, state-authorized information and referral service to inspire and inform people to be altruistic living kidney donors, and a second series of Explore Transplant dialysis provider trainings in June.

As one of the state's four organ and tissue recovery agencies, OneLegacy collaborated with [Donate Life California](#), which maintains the state's donor registry, and 15 kidney transplant programs to launch Living Donation California on May 14. Through its website, [www.LivingDonationCalifornia.org](http://www.LivingDonationCalifornia.org), the free service provides information about living kidney donation and refers potentially eligible individuals to a transplant center of their choice for evaluation by medical professionals. Living Donation California was inspired by the late [Steve Jobs](#), Apple founder and a liver transplant recipient, who was frustrated over the long wait for an organ transplant in California.

In addition, OneLegacy will follow up last August's series of four Explore Transplant dialysis provider trainings by hosting two more workshops on June 11 in Long Beach and June 12 in Pasadena. The additional trainings will ensure as many dialysis centers as possible are equipped with the research-based Explore Transplant patient education program, which has been shown to reduce racial disparities in access to transplant education and increase living donor kidney transplants.

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“OneLegacy is proud to contribute to the promotion of living donation in our state,” said Tom Mone, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President of OneLegacy. “While our mission to save and heal lives through organ, eye and tissue donation and inspire our communities to donate life is primarily centered on deceased donation, we recognize a mathematical certainty: to significantly increase the number of organs available for transplant, we must increase the number of transplants that come from living kidney donors.”

Circumstances allowing for organ recovery at the time of death are a rare (less than one percent) occurrence. Coupled with California’s low death rate, kidney transplant candidates in the state wait up to ten years, twice as long as the national average.

OneLegacy’s support of Living Donation California and the Explore Transplant trainings comes through its [OneLegacy Foundation](#), whose good works include recognizing the gifts of living donors and supporting clinical training of medical professionals. The OneLegacy Foundation contributed to Living Donation California by funding the production of living donor video testimonials for the service’s website, and is supporting the Explore Transplant Dialysis Provider Trainings in conjunction with the Donate Life Run/Walk Committee and FMQAI ESRD Network 18 of Southern California.

**By the numbers:**

- More than 17,000 Californians are on the kidney transplant waiting list; of them, 6,444 live in OneLegacy’s service area.
- 2,073 Californians received kidney transplants in 2012.
  - 1,441 were from deceased donors
  - 631 were from living donors
- 756 people died in California in 2012 waiting for a kidney transplant.  
(Source: Organ Procurement and Transplant Network)

*With more than 200 hospitals, 11 transplant centers and a diverse population of 19 million, OneLegacy is the largest organ and tissue recovery organization in the world. For more information, call OneLegacy at (800)786-4077 or visit [www.onelegacy.org](http://www.onelegacy.org).*