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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**(Name of hospital) Joins OneLegacy in April**

**to Honors Donors, Recipients During Donate Life Month**

***National Celebration Shares the Importance of Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation***

***and Honors Donors who Gave the Gift of Life through Donation***

**(CITY) – April XX, 2023** -- (Name of hospital) is partnering with OneLegacy during the month of April, joining thousands of hospitals and community organizations around the U.S. to celebrate National Donate Life Month. This month-long celebration includes local, regional and national activities designed to help inspire people in the U.S. to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to honor those that have saved lives through the gift of donation.

 “More than 20,000 people are currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant in the state of California, but there are simply not enough donors to meet the growing need,” said (hospital spokesperson). “Nationwide there are more than 100,000 people on the waiting list, and unfortunately 17 people die each day while waiting for a lifesaving organ donation. But it doesn’t need to be this way.”

A single organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people and transform the lives of as many as 75 more by donating their corneas and tissue. Nearly 43,000 lifesaving transplants were performed in the U.S. in 2022, an increase of five percent from 2021. The need for lifesaving transplants continues.

National Donate Life Month recognizes the generosity of those who have saved and healed lives by becoming donors, while also highlighting the critical need for more people to register as donors. Activities in April include:

* **Flags Across America** – (name of hospital) will be joining thousands of hospitals around the country in flying a Donate Life flag throughout the month of April. The flag is a visible and unifying statement about the importance of donation and celebrates the hundreds of thousands of donors and recipients whose lives have been affected by organ, eye and tissue donation.
* **Blue and Green Day and Spirit Week** – On April 22, hospital employees will be encouraged to wear blue and green – the official colors of Donate Life – to call attention to the power of organ donation and the need for others to register to be donors. Blue and Green Spirit Week will be celebrated from April 16 to April 22 with a series of activities. (Name of hospital) encourages everyone in the community to show their support by wearing blue and green that day.
* **OneLegacy Run/Walk** – (Name of hospital) will be supporting the OneLegacy Run/Walk in 2023 with a team (or as a sponsor) by engaging hospital staff to participate in this annual event. Celebrating 21 years, the OneLegacy Run/Walk (formerly known as the Donate Life Run/Walk) will take place at Azusa Pacific University on Saturday, April 29, 2023, and is the largest event of its kind, gathering thousands people touched by the power of organ, eye and tissue donation.

“Organ, eye and tissue donation is one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity,” said Prasad Garimella, CEO of OneLegacy, the largest organ, eye and tissue procurement organization in the U.S., serving seven counties in Southern California. “We are grateful for [hospital name] to continue partnering with us to share the importance of this message.”

Becoming an organ or tissue donor is easy. People may register at the local DMV or online at [www.OneLegacy.org/Register](http://www.onelegacy.org/register).

To help facilitate organ recovery and placement, *(name of hospital)* is one of more than 200 hospitals and 10 transplant centers in Southern California who works directly with OneLegacy, the largest nonprofit organ, eye and tissue recovery organization in the world.

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