

Media Release



For Immediate Release
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TRILLIUM GIFT OF LIFE NETWORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TORONTO AUTOMOBILE DEALERSHIP ASSOCIATION DELIVERS THE GIFT OF LIFE

Toronto - Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) announced today that it had boosted its organ and tissue retrieval potential in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) by one-third with the January 2009 donation of a new VW Routan van by the Toronto Automobile Dealership Association (TADA). With this third vehicle to transport organs and tissues, TADA and TGLN will facilitate more lives being saved.

“I am extremely grateful for our workplace partnership with TADA,” said Frank Markel, President and CEO of TGLN. “I commend all TADA members and employees for the important part that they play in helping us to both save lives and improve the quality of life for thousands of others.”

This is the third van TADA has donated to TGLN. In 2002 TADA provided a 2002 Dodge Grand Caravan and in 2006 a 2006 Chevrolet Uplander.

“TADA has always been passionate about organ and tissue donation. We know there is a shortage in organ and tissue donation in the GTA and through the donation of this van we are working collaboratively with TGLN to improve the situation when every minute matters,” said Paul Stern President of the TADA Foundation. “TADA is proud to be one of TGLN’s workplace partners, doing what we can to make more people aware of the need for organ and tissue donors to help save and enhance lives. We look forward to working with TGLN in the future on other exciting initiatives.”

Today there are more than 1,650 people in the province waiting for a lifesaving transplant. And the grim reality is that someone from that list dies every three days waiting for a transplant.

Brandon Gibson, of Scarborough, was thrilled to see the new van. He received a double lung transplant in 2006.

“Because of the generosity of my donor I got a second chance at life,” said Gibson, 16-years-old. “Before my transplant I had never experienced what it was like to be breath normal, to run with my friends, to play hockey. I had to stop playing hockey because my

lungs couldn't take it anymore. Everything changed when I received my transplant. Now, I am able to breath easy, I can do the things my friends do and I am playing hockey again.”

One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives and enhance as many as 75 others. You can register your donation decision by visiting your local Service Ontario Health Card Services – OHIP office or outreach centre where you renew your health card. You can also register by downloading and filling out a Gift of Life Consent Form from www.giftoflife.on.ca and mailing it to the address on the form.

If you've already signed your donor card, please also register and talk to your family about your decision.

For more details on Trillium Gift of Life Network, please visit our website at www.giftoflife.on.ca. You can also call 416-363-4001 or toll free 1-800-263-2833.

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