

THE BEST OF DONOR NETWORK WEST

2024
Summer Recap
NEWSLETTER

Written by Maxwell | Designed by Brooke

Gearing Up in Full Stride!

Welcome back or for the very first time to The Best of Donor Network West! It is our privilege to bring you the greatest of our communities across our donation service area, Northern California and Northern Nevada.

Stay up to date with the amazing individuals who promote the gift of life and the inspiring events that bring us closer.



"Best of Donor Network West"
Newsletter Library



TRANSPLANT GAMES
of AMERICA 2024
Birmingham, Alabama

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."
- William James



Luis Mayen

Living Kidney Donor

Our Living Donor Hero is Flying to the Rose Parade!

Donor Network West is proud to send Luis Mayen, our esteemed Vice President of External Affairs and Strategic Partnerships and living kidney donor, to the 2025 Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA.

His donation was altruistic, and he views it “purely as a Gift of Life” to a dialysis patient in dire need of a second chance. Luis hopes his recipient is doing well and hopes to learn more about her one day—their stories are now inextricably connected. “This person gets a whole new lease on life, and I would love to write to her, giving her my well wishes. I’m curious to know how she’s doing and feels.”

“We get to help hundreds to thousands of people living with kidney disease on a day-to-day basis here at Donor Network West. I am so proud to say that personally, I was able to help someone.”

-Luis Mayen

More information to come about the send-off event happening this November / December! Please join us in congratulating Luis!



Transplant Games of America

2024 -Birmingham, AL

The Best Team in America!

The Transplant Games of America is an important event that takes place every two years, inspiring thousands across the nation to see the miracle that is organ donation, transplantation and research.

This year, Donor Network West participants competed in honor of previous Team CalNev athlete and double-lung transplant recipient, Isabel Stenzel Byrnes. Isabel and her twin sister, Anabel Stenzel, were passionate advocates for organ donation and transplantation and their family lit the Transplant Games torch during the opening ceremony. The sisters' documentary adaptation of their memoir, "The Power of Two," was shown during the Games.

Donor Network West's "Team CalNev" competed against 40 teams across 20 athletic and recreational competitions to win a staggering 123 medals—83 gold, 20 silver and 20 bronze—ultimately winning the Team Cup, which is awarded to the team that earned the most medals per participant.

Among this year's top competitors was Matt De Fina, double lung transplant recipient, team captain of #TeamCalNev and now, Transplant Games of America Basketball Champion.

Matt De Fina is the embodiment of perseverance, willpower, and how powerful a second chance can be. A shining example of what the Transplant Games of America is all about.

He led his incredible team of Team CalNev transplant athletes to the Basketball 3v3 Gold Medal at this year's Transplant Games of America, and we had the chance to hear his thoughts on Team CalNev's triumph.



**TRANSPLANT GAMES
of AMERICA 2024**
Birmingham, Alabama



Matt De Fina Interview



Team CalNev Introduction



TGA Introduction



Volunteers Needed!

Calling All Donate Life Heroes

We're looking for incredible volunteers and ambassadors for our 5k Run/Walks this year and would be honored to have your support! Whether you're directly connected to the world of organ donation & transplantation or simply are looking for a great cause to dedicate your volunteer hours towards, it would be our privilege to have your support

Saturday, September 14th

San Ramon, CA | Bishop Ranch



VOLUNTEER
for the
RUN/WALK



Saturday, September 21st

Fresno, CA | Woodward Park



VOLUNTEER
for the
RUN/WALK





Fundraising Update

Our Community Has Our Back!

So far, we've raised nearly **\$131,004.13** between our Donor Network West Foundation 5k Run/Walks, and we're so thankful to everyone and every organization that has joined us in saving and healing lives through organ donation, transplantation, and research. Our 5k Run/Walks are dedicated to celebrating and honoring donor heroes, donor families, transplant recipients, and the medical heroes who help make the #GiftOfLife come to fruition. The incredible efforts of our communities, their leaders, and supporters make these fundraising efforts possible, and every contribution furthers our ability to help save lives!

If you or an organization you know are interested in how you can become a sponsor for our Donor Network West Foundation Run/Walks or wish to join our community in a Run/Walk to save lives, **click/scan here:**



#TeamKarlyNetwork
at the 2023 Run/Walk



5K.DNWEST.ORG

foundation@dnwest.org | 925.655.9787



STRIDE FOR HOPE

Now Presenting...

have you met our Presenting Sponsors for our Donor Network West Foundation
San Ramon and Fresno 5K Run/Walks, UCSF Health and CSM Aviation!

Saturday, September 14th
San Ramon, CA | Bishop Ranch



Saturday, September 21st
Fresno, CA | Woodward Park

UCSF Health

UCSF Health has been one of Donor Network West's longstanding partners, and their excellence knows no bounds. UCSF Health is consistently ranked among the Top 10 (Wow!) hospitals in the nation. From treating the rarest symptoms to performing groundbreaking surgeries (including transplantation) UCSF Health has been taking care of the San Francisco Bay Area since 1864! It's been a privilege that UCSF Health has had our back in saving and healing lives in California, and that won't change anytime soon.



CSM Aviation proudly provides fixed-wing air charter service to the United Network for the Organ Sharing (UNOS) community, providing on-demand air medical transportation services over the past ten years with a perfect safety record. CSM Aviation helps maximize the potential of organ donation alongside Donor Network West. Together, we can go further. Our partnership ensures more lives are able to be saved and healed.





Warriors in The House

DJ D Sharp

Attention Run/Walkers!

Introducing DJ D Sharp to our 2024 Donor Network West Foundation Run/Walk in San Ramon, CA! A Bay Area and Oakland native, D Sharp has been a thunderbolt of energy as the official DJ for the Golden State Warriors for nearly a decade, igniting a crowd of almost 20,000 dedicated fans in the electric Chase Center. This year at our Foundation's Run/Walk in San Ramon, we'll have the honor of DJ D Sharp keeping our Donate Life Heroes electrified and ready to roll! DJ D Sharp's turntables rip dance floors and energize audiences worldwide. From rocking the social network halls of Facebook to blowing the roof off in the magic city of Vegas to energizing the White House for former Commander-in-Chief Barrack Obama, there's no space that D Sharp can't light up. You do not want to miss this! Grab your tickets to our Foundation Run/Walk in San Ramon, CA.



SUMMER'S LETTER

#BeLikeTyree

Dear Donor Families,

Please accept my deepest condolences and sympathy for the loss of your loved one.

I am writing this letter to share with you the story of my 22-year-old son Tyree, who tragically passed away in a pedestrian accident just before Thanksgiving, in November of 2022. Though he fought incredibly hard, unfortunately the trauma to his brain was just too much. Despite the devastating loss that his passing has brought upon our family and friends, we find solace in the fact that Tyree was able to leave behind a legacy of kindness and generosity through his selfless act of organ donation. The Donor Network West (DNW) team was incredibly supportive, empathetic, and understanding while we navigated the conversations about Tyree's organ donation.

Tyree was always a giving person, especially when it came to children. He had a natural affinity towards them and went out of his way to make them feel loved and special. Whether he was volunteering at local youth centers, working as a gymnastics coach and coaching toddlers, or simply spending time with his bonus siblings and cousins, Tyree always put the needs of others before his own. It is no surprise then that he registered to become an organ donor at such a young age, as it was a way for him to continue giving even after he was gone.

Thanks to Tyree's donation, numerous lives have been saved and improved. His organs were transplanted into several individuals, including a young girl who received his heart. The thought of Tyree's heart beating inside another person, allowing them to live a healthy and fulfilling life, brings us immense comfort and pride. This is the basis and foundation for our team name, #BeLikeTyree.

In September of 2023, I decided to rally my family together and participate in my first-ever Donor Network West Run/Walk. It was the most amazing way to honor Tyree. I was especially touched by seeing the grieving families gather to support one another. They were new family members that I had never met but felt so connected to.

We hope that Tyree's story inspires others to consider registering as organ donors themselves. It is a selfless act that can bring hope and healing to families like ours during times of immense grief. We are forever grateful for the second chance at life that Tyree has given to so many, and we will continue to honor his memory by spreading love and kindness wherever we go – including and especially at these amazing annual walks!

I, along with Donor Network West staff, look forward to seeing you at one of this year's events.



Summer Eyo

Summer Eyo

Tyree's Mom
Organ & Tissue Donor
& Team Captain of
#BeLikeTyree



Donor Network West in the News!

DONOR

Patrice Sanders Honor Walk - (Fresno)

Several dozen people gathered at Community Regional Medical Center to honor Patrice Sanders before she went into surgery to donate her organs. "It's really touching to see all the people that she's touched and to who she meant so much to," said Paige Sanders, Patrice's sister. Our very own Senior Director of Donation Development in Fresno, CA, Jaclyn Manzanedo, CTBS gave her thanks to Patrice, her family, CRMC and shared her thoughts on Patrice's #GiftOfLife and it's impact in her passing. Sanders was a Valley Children's Hospital nurse for 36 years.

Patrice's family and friends have started a team in her honor and will be attending the Fresno Run/Walk. Be on the lookout to welcome Team Patrice to our inaugural event.



Watch emotional farewell to dying nurse as she gives one final gift ([usatoday.com](https://www.usatoday.com))



NEW AT TEN

A FINAL WALK TO SAVE LIVES
FRESNO NURSE DONATES ORGANS TO HELP OTHERS

Paul Freeman – Honor Walk (Fresno)

Paul Freeman has given the gift of life after his life was cut short by a crash in Visalia. Loved ones gathered at Valley Children's Hospital Saturday, moments before an honor walk taking the teen known as "Little Paul" into the operating room. His family made the emotional decision to make him a donor hero.



[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)



Dr. Maddie Giegold – Honor Walk (Fresno)

Dr. Maddie Giegold's adventurous life was cut short suddenly, just five days before completing her residency. The 32-year-old spent the past few years as Chief Resident at Community Regional Medical Center through its partnership with UCSF Fresno. "She was really excited to get to do a lot of things, and she was really excited for this next chapter, and I felt that she and her family were really robbed of that," said Trautner. Through their grief, Maddie's family and friends filled the hallways of CRMC for an honor walk celebrating her final act of service with a mountain of sunflowers.



[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)



ONLY ON **10 NEWS**

DOCTOR DIES DAYS BEFORE FINISHING RESIDENCY
32-YEAR-OLD DR. MADDIE GIEGOLD WORKED AT CRMC IN FRESNO

Team CalNev wins the Team Cup at the 2024 TGA in Alabama!

DNW Leading into the 2024 Paris Olympics, which began Friday, July 26, Donor Network West celebrates its team of athletes representing northern Nevada and northern California who participated in the Transplant Games of America that took place in Birmingham, Alabama earlier this July.



[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)



Mary Yamamoto – Reno Aces Home Run for Life

Our Donor Network West's Home Run For Life Ceremony on July 12th celebrated the life of Mary Yamamoto. Yamamoto saved the life of a mother of three through organ donation after tragically losing her own.



[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)



Skotti Torrence – A SODA Hero!

An incredibly unique Home Run For Life

Skotti Torrence has founded two student organizations at the University of Nevada, Reno (Student Organ Donation Advocates) to further education and awareness of organ, eye and tissue donation. The UNR Med SODA chapter earned the Most Impactful Community Partner Award from Donor Network West, and Torrence was asked to round the bases in recognition of her impact.



[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)



Donor Network West in the Community!

Giant Race

Donor Network West was privileged to join the San Francisco Giant's community for the Giant Race this August. The San Francisco Giants and Giant Enterprises collaborate to offer baseball fans and health and wellness enthusiasts an unforgettable journey of running, walking, fitness, and training experiences. We are privileged to spread the word about the #GiftOfLife in incredible community spaces like the San Francisco Giants provide to the Bay Area and California.



Modesto Appreciation Event

This August, Donor Network West hosted our gracious ambassadors from the Modesto and Stockton areas for Brushes and Bites! We painted, connected, and enjoyed some great food together!



Donor Network West in the Community!

NMDAM

Cesar Chavez Library

Donor Network West's community engagement team and ambassadors took the time this August to set up an incredible display focused on the importance of multiethnic donors in our diverse communities! Display at Stockton's Cesar Chavez Central Library will be available until September 3rd!



Pistahan Parade and Festival

Donor Network West was privileged to participate in the Pistahan Parade and Festival. It is the largest Filipino event of its kind in the United States. The 31st annual parade and two-day festival celebrate Filipino culture, community, and cuisine. Donor Network West and the Philippine Nurses Association of Northern California partnered on and distributed a commemorative sticker to mark the occasion. Our phenomenal community engagement team and volunteers work hard to ensure that our diverse community is informed about the importance of the #GiftOfLife. If you'd like to experience what it's like to volunteer for an incredible purpose, join us at our upcoming Foundation 5k Run/Walks!





One Voice One Vision TO SAVE & HEAL LIVES

NATIONAL MULTIETHNIC DONOR AWARENESS MONTH



The Need for Diversity

August is National Multiethnic Donor Awareness Month (NMDAM), a collaborative effort to save and improve the quality of life of diverse communities by creating a positive culture for organ, eye, and tissue donation. Why is NMDAM needed? 60% of national transplant waiting list patients are from multicultural communities. The need for donation and transplant is more pronounced in minority communities where disproportionately higher rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease contribute to organ failure, especially kidney failure. NMDAM is the National Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation Multicultural Action Group (NMAG) collaborative effort

You can find resources to share and read more about NMDAM at



nmag1.org

DonorNetworkWest.org





**“Socially Responsible AI (SoRAI)
is Donor Network West’s
commitment to AI”**

– Aninda Dutta

*Vice President, Business Intelligence and
Data Solutions, Strategy Officer*

I think everyone by now has heard of the word Artificial Intelligence (AI). Some of you may already know the concept of AI. However, I wouldn't be surprised if all of us have slightly different opinions about AI. Although AI is not a new technology, and all of us have been using it knowingly or unknowingly for the past decade; it is not until recently that AI awareness has become globally mainstream after the release of ChatGPT. It has captured everyone's imagination. Our heads are spinning. Some think of the endless good we can achieve with it, while others worry about potential bad outcomes that could result; and everything in-between. There are so many angles to think about. What's next? How fast will things change? How does our job change? What do we need to do as an organization? What do we need to do as an industry?

As one of the technology leaders in our organization, I want to provide you with my perspective of AI as it relates to use in our organization, and my hope is that we will have many discussions as we go along the AI journey together to answer the questions posed above, and confront questions that are not yet known to us.

Non-profits such as Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) by and large don't create software tools. It's not our strength. But we do have huge amounts of data and we can be using that data, applying data science and AI to gain insight that drive social impact. We should not lose sight of the good we can do. However, in doing so, we must make sure any tool we develop to augment decision making or process improvement is developed with ethical considerations.

Organizations, both for-profit and non-profit, that are already leveraging the benefits of AI have put in place what is called “Responsible AI (RAI)”. RAI is a governance framework that includes rigorous policies and safeguards to manage the risks associated with AI. Some organizations choose to include Ethical AI as part of their RAI framework, others, not so much. After spending countless hours studying organizations that have adopted AI, and paying attention to the emergence of legislation governing AI from regulators, two things have become clear to me:

1. It may take years before both Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) & Health and Human Services (HHS) – our two regulatory bodies on the organ side – produce guidelines for OPOs. In the absence of such guidelines, it is upon us to develop our own Responsible AI (RAI) framework.
2. Developing a RAI framework similar to other organizations (mostly for-profit) is simply not good enough for our industry. We are a non-profit organization, embedded in the federal government, that delivers healthcare and health education. We need to go beyond the traditional RAI model. We need to add the values of Ethical AI and of a non-profit, the values of delivering healthcare and, most importantly, the values of serving a diverse community. With these in mind, I coined the term Socially Responsible AI (SoRAI).

In the coming months we will introduce Socially Responsible AI (SoRAI), and we will build the framework with your collaboration. It will be based on the foundational principles of Augmenting and Amplifying Human Potential and Positively Impacting Society. Any use of AI in our organization must pass through this litmus test.

Nish Dutta

A Word from Our Intern

My name is Nish Dutta. I have had the privilege of interning at Donor Network West with the marketing department for the past few months and want to document my experience working here and that of other interns. The work culture here is excellent, and everyone is welcoming and kind. Leadership is easy to communicate with and allows flexible work hours and workloads. You can only work up to 30 hours a week, which gives you a great work-life balance and a lighter workload. Your intern job will be a more supporting role for the department in which you work. As in the beginning, you will learn the ins and outs of your department and the team's goal. Before you take on your projects to help the team's productivity and allow the workflow to be smoother, overall, being an intern is outstanding with its unique workload and hours, allowing it to be a fantastic job opportunity serving as an excellent introduction to your chosen department where you will get hands-on experience whether that is being a surgical or marketing intern. It was a wonderful experience to play a role in furthering the marketing department's mission, and I'll be forever grateful for this experience going forward!



Donor Network West Leaders Program: The Capstone Project

Our Donor Network West Leaders Program had the honor of hosting our Capstone Project Presentation for our leaders. This Capstone program works to develop the next generation of leaders in the OPO industry. The program culminates in a capstone, which is being presented, where each leader identifies an opportunity in the organization to improve a process, increase donations, honor donors and families, or improve employee morale and work experience. Our phenomenal leaders put in countless hours towards these projects with those focuses in mind, leading the way for a better future.



**Congratulations to the the 2024
class of emerging leaders!**

New Hire Grads

We had the privilege of introducing our incoming new hires to the Donor Network West team and our mission to save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation for transplantation and research. Being part of the Donor Network West team means being part of a culture that emphasizes teamwork, integrity, diversity, and a passion for making a difference in the lives of others.



Donor & Tissue Ops Taco Party!

This August 14th, our incredible Tissue Operations team held a delicious taco party, giveaway and celebration for the incredible work the department does for our organization! Colleagues and leaders from several other departments stopped by to celebrate their success and enjoy some delicious food!



♥ **follow @mydnwest on social media** ♥
and don't miss a beat!



There are plenty of events and celebrations that we're privileged to be a part of! The best way to stay updated on everything we have going on is to follow us on social media @MyDNWest across all platforms! Our Instagram is a fantastic place to start, or maybe you enjoy Facebook. Either way, we're everywhere, and we'll see you there!

