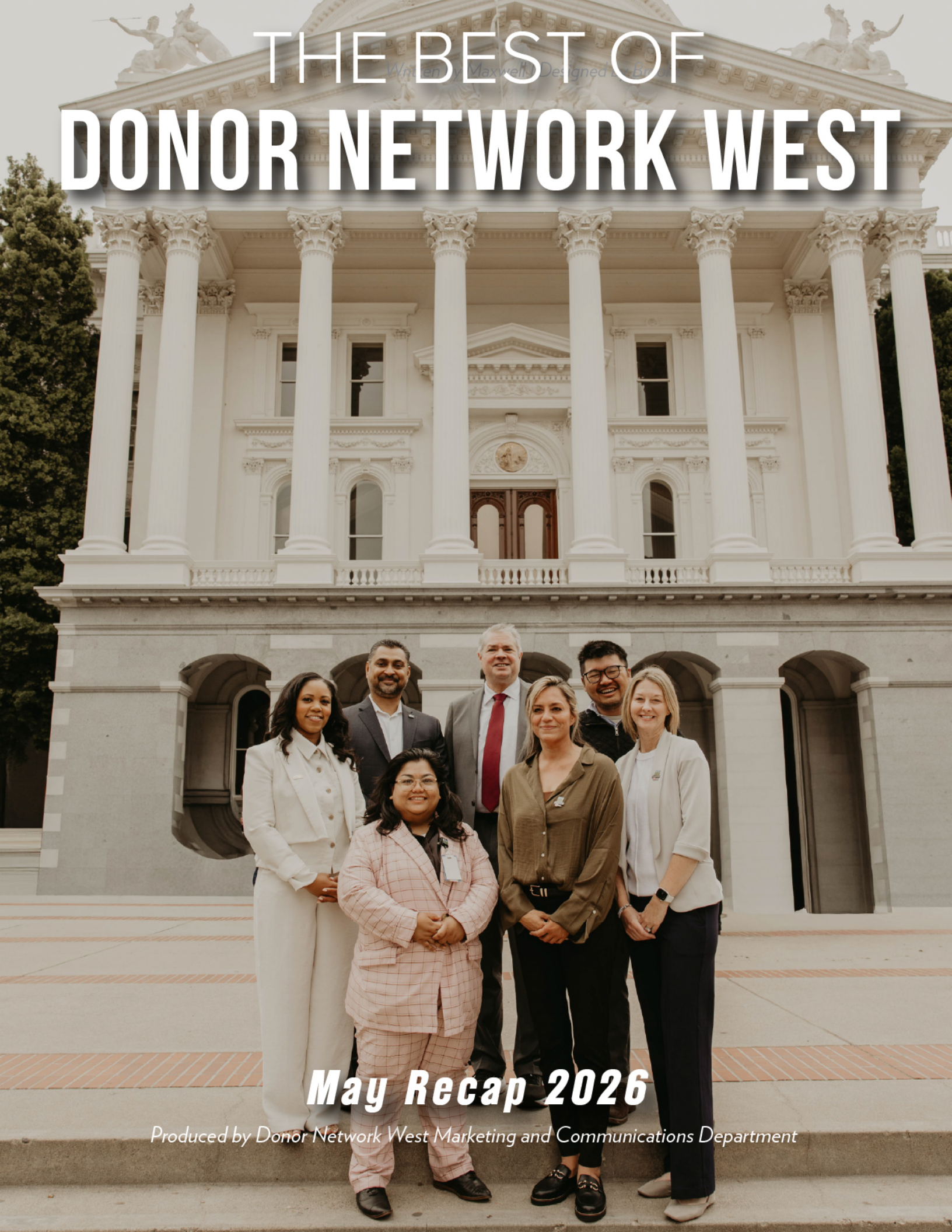


A group of seven people, four men and three women, are standing in front of the California State Capitol building. They are dressed in professional attire. The building is a large, white, classical-style structure with many columns and a pediment. The sky is clear and blue. The text "THE BEST OF" is written in a large, white, serif font at the top. Below it, "DONOR NETWORK WEST" is written in a larger, bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "May Recap 2026" is written in a white, italicized, sans-serif font. Below that, "Produced by Donor Network West Marketing and Communications Department" is written in a smaller, white, italicized, sans-serif font.

THE BEST OF DONOR NETWORK WEST

May Recap 2026

Produced by Donor Network West Marketing and Communications Department



DONOR NETWORK WEST



As we close out May and enter another wonderful summer of events celebrating the gift of life, we're ecstatic as an organization to bring our communities across Northern California and Northern Nevada together on the iconic Virginia Street Bridge, to experience the magic of the Transplant Games of America in Denver, to host our golfing classic and celebrate our community throughout Pride Month!



We hope you enjoy reading this monthly newsletter as much as we enjoyed creating it to educate the world about the #GiftOfLife



Visit our
shareables page here



Best of Donor Network West
Newsletter Library

Kate Mara Our New #TeamCalNev Athlete

This June, our #TeamCalNev athletes are headed over the Rocky Mountains to compete for the gold at the Transplant Games of America in Denver this year.

One of our newest athletes, Kate Mara, a heart transplant recipient, is ecstatic to show how far a heart transplant can go as she represented the second chance that her donor gave her through the gift of a heart. Listen and learn about how Kate Mara's second chance at life has led her to the Transplant Games of America in Denver.



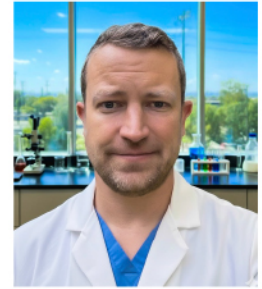
[Click here to watch the video](#)



A VITAL Change in Saving Lives

Donor Network West and UCSF announced the result of a five-year collaboration developing a scalable model that secures access to viable, donated organs and tissues not used for transplant for research, helping address a long-standing challenge in the study of human biology. As the federally-designated organ procurement organization serving Northern California and northern Nevada, Donor Network West connects nontransplantable and consented organs and tissues to researchers across the country, including UCSF, in support of scientific and medical discovery.

Established in the UCSF Department of Surgery by Dr. James Gardner, the Viable Tissue Acquisition Laboratory program—VITAL Core—enables the rapid recovery and delivery of organs and tissue samples to researchers through a close working relationship with Donor Network



[Read the full release about the VITAL Core, here:](#)

SODA Chapter Update

We are thrilled to welcome SODA at with the SODA National Team!❤️ This new chapter is led by seasoned SODA pro Richelle, who served as one of SODA'S first National Student Liaisons and also founded @stevensonsoda on instagram.



Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage

This annual celebration is an opportunity to honor the rich cultural heritage and contributions of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in the United States.

Supporting organ and tissue donation within the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities is particularly vital due to matching donors with recipients of similar ethnicity and cultural background. Ethnicity and cultural factors play a role in organ and tissue compatibility. More donors from the same ethnicity and culture increase the chances of finding suitable matches for patients in dire need!



Lobby Day in the Capital

Pushing AB466 Forward

Donor Network West, alongside our incredible Donate Life California group, consisting of OneLegacy, LifeSharing, and Sierra Donor Services, came together in the capital of California, Sacramento, for Lobby Day and to raise awareness and education about AB466, authored by Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache (D-Lynwood)

AB466 brings educational and awareness information about organ, eye, and tissue donation to new and returning college students across California. Specifically, colleges can now offer donation education during student orientations at University of California campuses, California State Universities, and California Community Colleges.

Our President and CEO, Dr. Janice F. Whaley, was joined by our Donor Network West Ambassadors, leadership, and staff, and proudly advocated for AB466, alongside Donate Life California CEO Jim Martin, One Legacy CEO Prasad Garimella, LifeSharing CEO Jeffery Trageser, and more.



[Link to AB466 Article:](#)

TOGETHER *as* ONE

We Bridge the Gap!

Heal a life through organ, eye and tissue donation

Together as One, every year, every day, and in every action we take, we are bridging the gap.

Last Saturday afternoon, we had the honor and privilege of bringing together the Donate Life Community and inviting more members into the family by hosting our Together as One Banquet on the Virginia Street Bridge.

Our people were amped all afternoon and night as New Wave Crave rocked the stage, Archie and the Reno Aces came to show love, and MC Katey Roshetko of KOLO provided an incredible session of interviews with our community members of donor families and transplant recipients, sharing their stories with hundreds who came across the bridge that day.

It's a yearly celebration we're so grateful for, and seeing it grow to this level has been a remarkable sign of love from the Biggest Little City in the World.

Stay tuned as more photos and videos of this phenomenal annual celebration will be shared all week on social media, and highlighted in our upcoming newsletter at the end of June



Celebrating love and hope for all!

At Donor Network West, we believe in the power of unity, acceptance, and equality for all. As we join hands with the LGBTQIA+ community during this special month, we proudly stand as allies, embracing the diversity that enriches our world.

Pride is about celebrating love in all its forms and who you love doesn't change your ability to save lives through organ donation.

Inclusivity lies at the heart of our mission. We firmly believe that no matter your gender identity or sexual orientation, everyone deserves equal access to life-saving

The **LGBTQIA+**
Community
proudly
shares life,
love & hope





3rd Annual HOPE

CHIPPING AWAY 4
Golf Tournament

Chipping Away 4 Hope Golf Tournament

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026

BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB | Lakeside Course

599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville, CA 94506

The Chipping Away 4 Hope Golf Tournament is honoring the life of Tyler Nelson, a courageous young man with cystic fibrosis who received a life-saving double lung and liver transplant and dedicated himself to raising awareness for organ donation — embodying the very hope this tournament celebrates.

Join Donor Network West Foundation for our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament, hosted by former San Francisco 49er William "Bubba" Paris. Play in honor of donors, in support of families, and in hope for the thousands of patients waiting for a second chance at life.

Chipping Away 4 Hope Golf Tournament

BLACKHAWK COUNTRY CLUB | Lakeside Course

Tournament Format 4–Person Scramble

Program

Registration: 10:00 AM
Shotgun Start: 11:00 AM
Cocktail Hour: 4:00 PM
Dinner Reception: 5:00 PM

Foursomes

\$2,000

The tournament fee is all inclusive of golf, cart, lunch, on-course refreshments and dinner.

Individual Golf

\$550

Dinner

\$200

Register Today!





STRIDE FOR HOPE

Walking to honor organ, eye and tissue donor heroes

**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL STRIDE FOR HOPE RUN/WALKS IN
SAN RAMON, CA AND FRESNO, CA EVERY SEPTEMBER.**

Celebrating our 16th year, this event celebrates the incredible gift of life through organ, eye, and tissue donation. Together we honor and celebrate donors and recipients, while raising awareness and inspiring hope with every stride!



San Ramon, CA
September 12th, 2026



Fresno, CA
September 26th, 2026

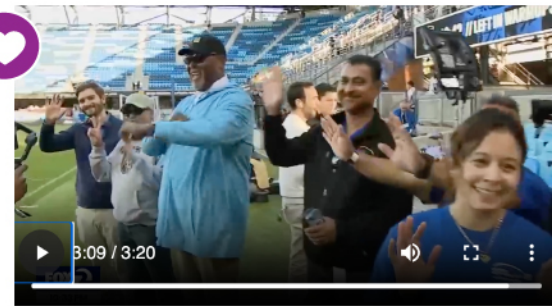


REGISTER TODAY!

[KTVU-TV \(Oakland, CA\) - The Ten O'Clock News on KTVU Fox 2](#)

KTVU-TV (Oakland, CA)

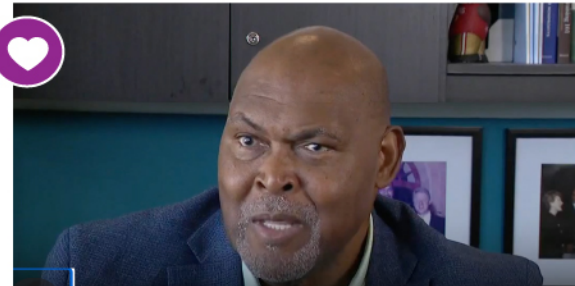
Former Bubba Paris, a three-time Super Bowl champion with the San Francisco 49ers, is now leading efforts to connect patients with life-saving organ transplants as executive director of Donor Network West in Northern California and Nevada. Organization is expanding its work with a new four-story facility in San Ramon dedicated to transplant support.



[KCBA-TV \(Monterey, CA\) \[inactive\] - Chicago P.D.](#)

KCBA-TV (Monterey, CA) [inactive]

Former Bubba Paris, a three-time Super Bowl champion with the San Francisco 49ers, is now leading efforts to connect patients with life-saving organ transplants as executive director of Donor Network West in Northern California and Nevada. Organization is expanding its work with a new four-story facility in San Ramon dedicated to transplant support.



[Morning Break Preview](#)

KOLO-TV (Reno, NV)

KOLO 8 briefly mentions that Donor Network West is again taking over the Virginia Street Bridge in Downtown Reno next week to host its Annual Together as One community event.



[Community invited to Together as One, a Donor Network West event](#)

By Katelyn Farnsworth | KOLO-TV (Reno, NV)

Join Donor Network West next weekend at the iconic Virginia Street Bridge in Reno for a one-of-a-kind gathering and fundraiser. The Together as One event invites the community to share a meal, stories and meaningful conversations about the power of organ, eye and tissue donation. Donor Network West's Director of Tissue Operations Matt Graves joined host Katey Rochetko to help promote the event.



Community invited to Together as One banquet for Donor Network West



First Do No Harm: A medical standard or a medical option?

AMERICA OUT LOUD PODCAST NETWORK (Podcast)

The article explores the ethical and practical pressures on doctors and transplant systems. It frames the tension between saving lives through transplantation and the risks or controversies that can arise in the process. Donor Network West is mentioned as a key resource for statistical numbers that reflect average wait times for transplants.



Donor Network West and UCSF Establish Scalable Model to Expand Real-Time Access to Viable Human Organs and Tissue for Research

Associated Press: Press Releases

Donor Network West and UCSF announced the results of a five-year collaboration that created a scalable model for connecting donated organs and tissues — those not suitable for transplant — to medical researchers across the country.

Donor Network West and UCSF Establish Scalable Model to Expand Real-Time Access to Viable Human Organs and Tissue for Research



Tumor-targeted bispecific antibodies effectively inhibit oncogenic pathways while minimizing toxicity

By Robert A. Kozol, Peishi Rao, Yvonne T. Kschonsak, Wei-Ching Liang, Joyce Chan, David Kan, Thao Nguyen | Science Magazine

This paper presents research on a new approach to cancer treatment using bispecific antibodies (bsAbs) engineered proteins that can simultaneously target two different molecules. Donor Network West is mentioned as a key resource for the UCSF's VITAL Core program and supplied human organ and tissue samples, which enables exactly this type of high-impact research. This Science Advances paper, authored by UCSF-affiliated researchers, is an example of the scientific output made possible through access to those donated human tissue samples.



Community banquet on Virginia Street Bridge to honor organ donation community

KTVN-TV (Reno, NV) Liang, Joyce Chan, David Kan, Thao Nguyen | Science Magazine

Donor Network West Foundation is hosting a community banquet to honor donor families, celebrate transplant recipients, and raise awareness for organ, eye, and tissue donation. The event is scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 6, on the Virginia Street Bridge at 1 N. Virginia Street.



2 NEWS NEVADA



DONOR NETWORK WEST



@mydnwest

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!

