



CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Spiros Mantzavinos
(302) 327-3344
smantzavinos@christianacare.org

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Awards Christiana Care for Outstanding Organ Donation Rates

WILMINGTON, DE (November 6, 2008) - For the second consecutive year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) awarded Christiana Care Health System its Medal of Honor for Organ Donation for achieving and sustaining a donation rate of 75 percent or more of eligible donors.

Established in 2002, this benchmark was created as part of the National Breakthrough Collaborative in an effort to maximize each and every organ donation opportunity. Since then, approximately 4,000 more transplants were performed in the U.S. last year – more than 28,000 – compared with 24,000 that were done in 2001, the year prior to the Collaborative's onset.

“This accomplishment could not have occurred were it not for the cooperation between Christiana Care nurses, physicians and the Gift of Life,” says Dr. Gerard Fulda, Christiana Care's Director of Critical Care who accepted the award on Christiana Care's behalf. “By working together, we have been successful in having more organs available to local patients on the transplant waiting list, saving hundreds of lives,” adds Fulda.

Christiana Care received its Medal of Honor for Organ Donation during the fourth National Learning Congress, held last month in Nashville, Tenn. The National Learning Congress is part of a national initiative to create best practices in organ donation and transplantation science including family care and communication, clinical support for organ donors and transplant process management.

Gift of Life Donor Program – the organ and tissue donor program serving Delaware, eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey – representatives at the Congress celebrated the great work of Christiana Care and its dedication to saving lives through donation. “The National Learning Congress afforded us excellent opportunities to strengthen relationships, celebrate successes, and most importantly, to refocus our collective energies toward the work at hand, ensuring that optimal donation systems are in place across our region,” said Gweneth George, Director of Hospital Services, for Gift of Life.

Today, there are more than 5,600 patients in this region awaiting the gift of a life-saving organ transplant. The continued collaborations are paramount to ensuring that we create a future where no patient dies before an organ transplant becomes available.

-30-

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the region's largest health care providers, serving Delaware and neighboring areas in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A not-for-profit teaching hospital, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as for its Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest capability).

Christiana Hospital is the only Level I trauma center between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

With more than 10,000 employees, Christiana Care is the largest private employer in Delaware and the 10th largest employer in the Philadelphia region. In 2007 Christiana Care had more than \$1.5 billion in total patient revenue and provided the community with \$35.7 million of free care and medicine. Find more information at www.christianacare.org.