Welcome to the Fall edition of Organ Notes, your quarterly newsletter for the 2018-2019 school year!

My name is Karen Herr and I am the new Project Coordinator for the Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness Program (OTDA) at Lancaster—Lebanon IU13. It is my pleasure to provide factual information, along with innovative ideas and fun ways to help spread the word about the power of being an organ donor.

The OTDA project funding comes from the Robert P. Casey Fund of 1996. In 1994, Governor Robert P. Casey signed Act 102, hereby creating a trust fund for the purpose of educating our youth about the importance of organ and tissue donation. The Department of Education has allowed the IU13 to help spread the message in PA. Our wonderful partners at CORE and Gift of Life are important in connecting resources to our schools so that all students in PA can have enriching activities and current information for them to consider giving the gift of life. We are excited to share the happenings of how schools across the state are actively participating and joining us on this incredible journey!

Former Baltimore Ravens and New York Jets tight end, Konrad Reuland was ten years old when his school invited a professional MLB athlete to speak. It was the inspiration that stayed with him throughout his life, encouraging his commitment to becoming a professional football player. However, at only 29 years old, Reuland suffered from a terrible headache while running on the treadmill. This led to brain surgery weeks later, but unfortunately he never regained consciousness. Rod Carew, a 71 year-old former seven American League batting champion as well as MVP in 1981, was buying time with a mechanical heart. On December 16, 2016, Carew had a match for his new heart and kidney. The Reuland family put the timeline of events together and realized that their son’s inspiration was indeed, the recipient of their son’s heart. Families were introduced, and there was an instant connection. Beyond that, Reuland’s mother got to listen to her son’s heart beat again. “My son’s heart is beating in your chest. You are a part of our family…”
Congratulations to the 2018-2019 OTDA Grant recipients!

- Butler County Area Vocational School
- Centennial School of Lehigh Valley
- Central Mountain High School
- Conemaugh Valley School District
- DuBois Area School District
- Hill House Passport Academy
- Homer Center School District
- Northern York County High School
- Southern Fulton School District
- Windber Area School District
- Universal Audenried Charter High School

Friday, May 10th, 2019

2019 OTDA SPRING INSTITUTE

at the Atherton Hotel
State College, PA

FREE to secondary school teachers, administrators & school nurses!

The OTDA program covers the cost of your registration, breakfast & lunch, and hotel (based on double occupancy)

- Learn more about the OTDA program
- Hear stories from those who have been personally affected by organ & tissue donation
- See what other high schools in Pennsylvania have done with their OTDA mini-grants!

Registration will be open in January 2019! All information, including a link to everything you need to apply, will be available on the IU13 website (www.iu13.org/OTDA)

We hope to see you there!
CHECK THIS OUT!

Check out these great ideas that students and staff have brought to light in order to incorporate OTDA into their schools and communities!

Northern York had some fun with the XL size Pa Driver’s License! They also visited the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation, the largest tissue donation bank in the world.

Southern Fulton’s 290 students ranging from 7th-12th grade took the pledge on April 4, 2018 to become organ donors when they become of legal age. Thank you for your example!!!

Bellefonte Area students set up an informational booth during a high school basketball game to help raise awareness to all who attended on the importance of organ donation.

Students from Southern Fulton High School took a trip to Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center to visit their cadaver lab!
Every 10 minutes, another person is added to the national transplant waiting list.

20 people die each day waiting for a transplant.

7,000 deaths occur every year in the U.S. because organs are not donated in time.

82% of transplant patients waiting are in need of a kidney.

95% of Americans are in favor of being an organ donor, but only 54% are registered.

Spread the word about organ donation and make the difference!
You have the power to help!