

**In Rochester,
RETB Educates
American Heart
Association's
Heart Walk 2003
Walkers of the
Benefits of
Cardiovascular
Tissues for
Transplant**

☀ Materials on our agency display informed those participating in this year's walk about the need for and benefits of tissue donation, focusing on cardiovascular tissues, such as heart valves.

Sixty percent of heart valves are used for surgeries in children under the age of 6 years. With the use of human heart valves, there is no long-term anticoagulant therapy needed and almost no rejection. Human allografts allow for growth into the graft, and don't calcify. This and information on other tissues

(skin, corneas, vein, tendons and bone) that are helping hundreds of thousands of people each year in the US were also highlighted, as was the importance of making your donation decision known to family members.



Communications Director Karen Guarino and Julie Stephany, a member of the agency's public relations committee.

**Attention Buffalo Bills Fans!
Visit our display in the vendor
tent during the
Bills Training Camp,
July 24-August 20.**

Family Life Expo 2003

☀ Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank participated in the Family Life Expo held at the NY State Fair Grounds in Syracuse, NY, on Saturday, April 15. Tammi Sharpe, regional coordinator, was one of the seminar presenters on that day, presenting the topic: *Giving Others a Brighter Tomorrow— What you need to know about eye, organ and tissue donation.*



Tammi (left) and Sue Sprague, kidney-pancreas recipient, co-president of Transplant Awareness Group of Central NY



☀ Cornea transplant recipient Mike Sargent, 5th grade teacher at John F. Kennedy School in Ogdensburg, NY, and Tammi Sharpe, regional coordinator, introduced the field of donation and transplantation to his students during

Eye Donor Month in March.

Medical reporter Cindy Habeeb of WWNY Channel 7 in Watertown, NY, taped an interview with Mike and Tammi at the school, which was aired later in the month during the 6 p.m. news.



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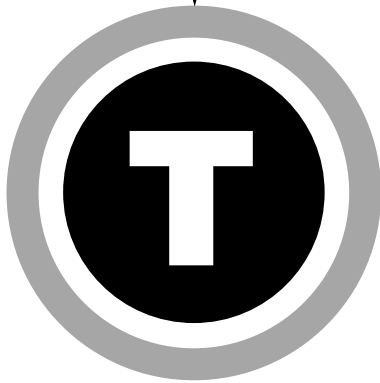
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The Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank is a nonprofit organ and tissue donation agency that serves the Finger Lakes, Central and Northern New York Regions as well as North Central Pennsylvania.

We hope you enjoy your issue of **Issues**. If you wish your name removed from the mailing list, please call the agency office, (585)272-7890, 1-800-568-4321, e-mail info@rehpb.org

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Executive Director Linda K. Fraser Editor Karen L. Guarino Design K2 Communications



ROCHESTER EYE & TISSUE BANK I S S U E S

Operating as Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank in Central and Northern New York

Giving others a brighter tomorrow...



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2003 "Donate Life" Poster Contest Winners Announced

Jennifer Rosario, a 10th-grade student at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester, NY, is the winner of the second annual "Donate Life" poster contest.

A panel of four judges selected the grand prizewinner and four honorable mention winners from 113 entries received from schools in the Finger Lakes, Central and Northern New York regions. Jennifer was awarded with a check for \$100; each honorable mention winner received a check for \$25. All posters selected will be used to promote awareness of organ and tissue donation throughout the year.

The four honorable mention winners are: Kelly Halsch and Brittany McDonald

both from Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester, NY, and Aubrey Schelah and Heather Merchant both from DeRuyter Central School, DeRuyter, NY.

This year's panel of judges consisted of Karen Gledhill, kidney recipient, president of Transplant Awareness Organization of Rochester; Doug Sprague and Sue Sprague, kidney-pancreas recipient, co-presidents of Transplant Awareness Group of Central NY; and Ellen Karnisky, RN, donor mother.

The poster contest is co-sponsored each year by the Rochester/Finger Lakes Eye & Tissue Bank, along with the Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network. Students or teachers interested in the 2004 "Donate Life" Poster Contest, please contact Karen Guarino at 1-800-568-4321.



2003 January through May Eye and Tissue Donations

The RETB/FLETB is grateful to the healthcare professionals in the hospitals and facilities listed below who provide support and comfort to many families by offering them the choice of donation. We thank our donor families for continuing to give others the Gift of Life and Sight.

Hospital/Facility	2003 Eye Donors	2003 Transplant Eyes	2003 Tissue Donors	Hospital/Facility	2003 Eye Donors	2003 Transplant Eyes	2003 Tissue Donors
Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca	3	6	2	Robert Packer Hospital	7	7	*
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital	1	2	*	Samaritan Medical Center	3	1	*
Claxton Hepburn Medical Center	0	0	0	Schuyler Hospital	2	1	1
Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic	5	0	2	Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital	2	2	0
Corning Hospital	4	5	2	St. James Mercy Health System	1	0	0
E.J. Noble Hospital, Gouverneur	1	2	0	St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center	11	8	*
F.F. Thompson Health System	3	4	3	Strong Memorial Hospital	31	26	12
Geneva General Hospital	5	6	3	Troy Community Hospital	1	0	*
Highland Hospital of Rochester	7	2	1	Unity Health, Genesee St. Campus	1	2	0
Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital	3	1	0	Unity Health, Park Ridge Hospital	18	10	4
Lakeside Memorial Hospital	6	4	2	Via Health of Wayne, Newark	6	4	0
Lewis County General Hospital	0	0	0	ViaHealth, Rochester General Hospital	31	16	6
Monroe Community Hospital	1	0	0	Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office	0	0	0
Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital	5	5	2	Other (non-acute facilities)	12	3	3
				TOTAL	170	117	43

* eye donors only

NOTE: The *transplant eyes* column indicates how many eyes were used for transplant procedures.

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FYI

**From the Executive Director
Linda K. Fraser**



Perhaps you have seen, heard or read recent reports in the media regarding a perceived lack of oversight for the tissue banking industry. Hertz would say, "Not exactly." We say, "Not even close!" Over the past two months our agency has been inspected by the New

York State Department of Health, the Eye Bank Association of America and the United States Food & Drug Administration. I can assure you that we are held to very stringent standards and regulations. And we, as well as other eye and tissue banks, are pleased and proud to be able to provide safe tissue of the quality that improves hundreds of thousands of lives each year. If you have any questions or concerns in this area, please don't hesitate to give me a call. I would be happy to discuss these or any other issues with you.

Attention Trained Designated Requestors

All Designated Requestors must recertify requesting skills status for 2003 by completing the agency's "Recertification Study Guide for the Tissue Designated Requestor." This CE activity has been approved by NYSNA's Council on Continuing Education for 1.4 Contact hours. Call Jennie Towne, director of professional services, for further information or questions, 1-800-568-4321.



The agency is grateful to these individuals and organizations that have so generously contributed to the agency's programs. This list includes financial contributions to the agency between December 1, 2002 and May 31, 2003. Should there be an omission or error, please call the office so it can be corrected.

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BioEthics Symposium Scheduled

A community-wide BioEthics Grand Rounds "End of Life Decisions" symposium will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Inn on the Lake, Canandaigua, NY. CEUs will be available for healthcare professionals. For information contact Charlotte Wytias, RN, MS, at 315-462-0390.

RETB Receives Golden Quill Award

The agency recently was recognized by the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (MTF), one of our partner tissue banks, and presented with the 2002 Golden Quill Award.

Bob Cornish, CTBS, manager of tissue bank operations, accepted the award at MTF's Technical Symposium in Florham Park, NJ. The award is given for excellence in documentation. "We appreciate this recognition," says Linda Fraser, executive director. "Our staff works very hard to keep up with increasingly complex regulations and paperwork."



Standing L to R: Karen Guarino, communications director; Linda Fraser, executive director; Tammi Sharpe, regional coordinator; Rev. Thomas Samuels; (seated L to R) Paula McKay, kidney recipient and board member of Transplant Awareness Organization of Rochester and Gloria Samuels, donor mother, MDD Squad member (Mothers of Organ Donors)

On April 1, agency staff and volunteers joined other NY State organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies during 2003 Legislative Education Day in Albany, NY.

The agenda for this day included passage of the New York Gift of Life Trust Fund bill, maintaining state funding for the enhancement of public education on organ and tissue donation, and passage of legislation creating the NYS Organ and Tissue Donor Registry in statute.