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Weaving a Life

Cascading colors moving
through time,

The master weaver sets
the rhythm sublime.

Over and under,

Around and through,

Braiding the fabric of
life anew.

Annual Report 2004

Weaving Lives
together



Message from RTI Donor Services



Weaving lives together. This is more than a phrase from our logo. It is the sum of our mission and our values—the reason we are dedicated to serving donor families and donation partners in perpetuating the circle of life.

In 2004, RTI Donor Services—operating in eight states—continued its commitment to deliver the very best services while respecting the gift of donation, serving as responsible stewards of the gift, and taking initiative through innovative thoughts and ideas.

While this commitment will not change, you'll probably notice one thing that has. We have a new logo, which appears on this page. This new logo represents the power of donation, using the donation ribbon symbol that ties into the National Coalition on Donation logo through a similar shape and companion colors. The roses depicted in our former logo will remain as powerful reminders of the power of donation and how it weaves lives together—from a family's generous decision to donate, to the improved lives of those benefiting from the gift.

With an on-going emphasis on quality assurance, our American Association of Tissue Banks-accredited recovery services wove lives together in 2004 by supporting hospitals, funeral homes, coroners and medical examiners in their pledge to provide families with donation options.

The donation message was woven throughout the year's community events, professional gatherings, and donor family memorials. And lives were woven together in a unique way through the Memorial Donor Family Quilt program, which expanded from six to 11 quilts, including the first one honoring Georgia donors.

Tissue donation weaves lives together through the increased strength, mobility and independence it provides to thousands of recipients each year. Thank you for being part of this life-saving and life-enhancing passage.

Roger W. Rose

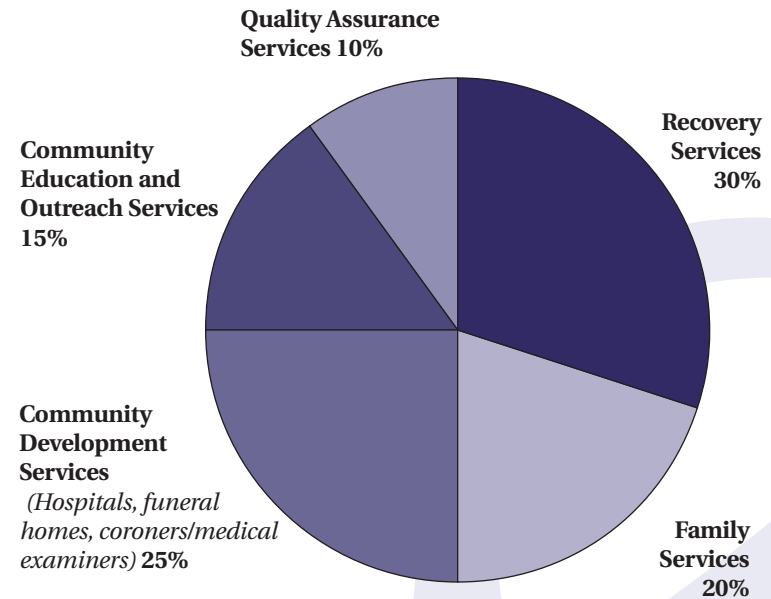
Executive Vice President-Regeneration Technologies, Inc.



RTI Donor Services Mission Statement

To provide human donated tissues for the benefit of others through compassionate support, outreach and education to families and communities.

Allocation of Services



A special computer screensaver with a "Donate Life" tissue donation message may be downloaded through our Web site home page www.rtidonorservices.org. We hope this screensaver is an effective reminder of the power of donation and how it increases strength, mobility and independence. Thank you for your on-going support for donation!

RTI Donor Services

Quality Assurance Services

- Five team members throughout the RTI Donor Services network received the Certified Tissue Bank Specialist (CTBS) designation, bringing the total number of CTBS staff to 33;
- Successful Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspections were conducted at the Allograft Resources, Southeast and Southwest Divisions;
- Successful FDA audit was conducted at the Northeast Division;
- Successful inspections by the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) were completed in the Allograft Resources and Southeast Divisions;
- The Southeast Division received a positive inspection by the Georgia State Department of Health.

Recovery Services

- The option of tissue donation was offered to more than 10,000 families throughout the RTI Donor Services network.

Partnerships

In 2004, RTI Donor Services assured that gifts were used effectively in transplantation, research and education by working with both non-profit and for-profit preparation and distribution partners:

- Regeneration Technologies, Inc. (RTI), Alachua, Fla., and its subsidiary, Alabama Tissue Center—Providers of innovative musculoskeletal and cardiovascular tissue applications.
- LifeCell Corp., Branchburg, N.J.—Preparation facility for donated skin, used in procedures ranging from burn treatment to inner ear surgery to periodontal disease repair.



RTI team member controls the BioCleanse® tissue sterilization process, which removes bacteria, fungi, spores and viruses.

RTI Donor Services - Northeast Division

Family Services

- “Gentle Comfort” support program offered 104 donor families a choice of commemorative items, including a certificate, donor medal, quarterly newsletter and memorial quilt information;
- A New York donor family was selected to represent RTI at the 2005 Tournament of Roses Parade.



Deborah Quick, left, and Mary Palmer help decorate a Tournament of Roses Parade float.

Partner Services

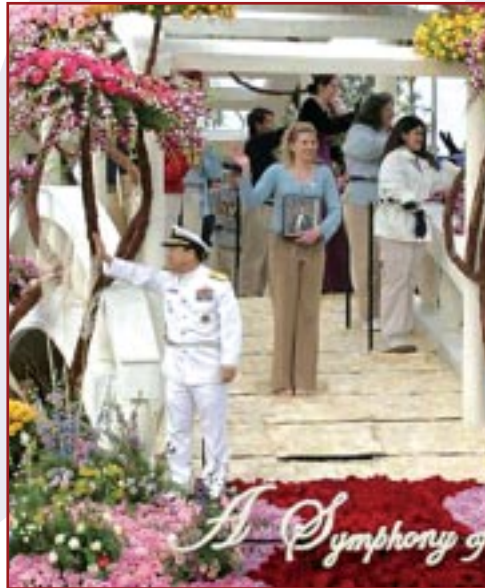
- More than 100 tissue donation information in-services were conducted;
- Conducted an in-service on advanced directives and tissue donation for a local Hospice;
- Several funeral directors participated in educational tours of RTI;
- Monthly poster program was implemented to educate staff and help comply with federal regulations.

RTI Donor Services - Allograft Resources Division

Serving Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana

Family Services

- Brillion, Wis. resident and donor family member Kari Barlament was sponsored as a rider on the 2004 Rose Parade “Donate Life” float in Pasadena, Calif.;
- “Gentle Comfort” support program offered 751 donor families a choice of commemorative items, including a certificate, donor medal, quarterly newsletter and memorial quilt information. More than 340 of these families requested resources. The program received an Award of Excellence in the Public Relations Society of America Madison Chapter 2004 Alchemy Awards competition;
- Celebrate Life donor family memorial events were held in Brookfield, Wis. and Indianapolis, Ind.;
- A “Ripples of Hope” family memorial event was held in Madison, Wis.;
- The newsletter *Weaving Lives Together*, was redesigned and content refocused following a readership survey;
- More than 3,500 “Donate Life” awareness bracelets were distributed to donor family members and donation partners responding to a newsletter offer.



Donor wife Kari Barlament waves to the crowd at the 2004 Tournament of Roses parade.

RTI Donor Services - Allograft Resources Division

Services to Partners

Hospitals:

- More than 60 tissue donation information in-services and requestor training sessions were held;
- Rapid Referral Program assisted more than 10 hospitals in making donation requests;
- Hospital staff members participated in educational tours of Regeneration Technologies Inc., our tissue preparation facility;
- Hospital reviews were conducted to report on tissue donation activity and potential;
- Monthly poster program was implemented to educate staff and help comply with federal regulations.

Coroners and Medical Examiners:

- More than 60 one-on-one education sessions were held to help meet coroner/medical examiner education and training needs;
- Monthly tissue education poster program was implemented;
- Roundtable discussions were held.

Funeral Homes

- Tissue recovery reconstruction was provided;
- Post-recovery follow up was conducted;
- Staff offered the opportunity to hear recorded consents to learn how donor families are informed of donation options;
- Education and training were provided to funeral home staff.



Grant Regional Medical Center ER Coordinator Cella Janisch, RN, admires a memorial quilt that includes donors from Lancaster, Wis.

RTI Donor Services - Southeast Division

Family Services

- A Celebrate Life event was held, bringing together tissue donor families to remember loved ones and share experiences;
- “Gentle Comfort” support program offered donor families a choice of commemorative items, including a certificate, donor medal, quarterly newsletter and memorial quilt information.

Partner Services

- More than 70 in-services were presented to hospitals, funeral homes, coroners and medical examiners;
- Continuing education credit workshops were conducted for funeral directors;
- Training on tissue donor embalming techniques was presented during the Academy of Graduate Embalmers;
- Participated in a Georgia Nursing Association workshop;
- Funeral directors, coroners and pathologists participated in educational tours of RTI;
- Monthly poster program was implemented to educate staff and help comply with federal regulations.



Georgia tissue donor Ellen Talley and her dog Moose.

RTI Donor Services - Southwest Division

Family Services

- Celebrate Life events were held in Phoenix and Tucson, bringing together tissue donor families to remember loved ones and share experiences;
- “Gentle Comfort” support program offered donor families a choice of commemorative items, including a certificate, donor medal, quarterly newsletter and memorial quilt information;
- Donor family group was organized to present proclamation designating April as Donate Life Month;
- Donor family volunteer group was formed to assist with donor awareness activities throughout the year.

Partner Services

- More than 100 in-services were conducted with hospital, coroner, medical examiner and funeral home staff;
- Designated requestor training sessions were co-sponsored with the Donor Network of Arizona;
- A two-day seminar, “Approaching the Subject of Donation” that offered continuing education credit, was conducted for funeral home staff;
- A “Working with Families in Crisis” seminar was presented in two locations;
- A monthly poster program was implemented to educate staff and help comply with federal regulations.



Donor family members came together in 2004 to assist with donor awareness projects.

Memorial Quilt Program 2004

- Five new quilts were created, bringing the number to 11 in the Memorial Donor Family Quilt Program;
- Four quilt unveiling events were attended by 250 donor family members, held at Appleton Medical Center, Appleton, Wis.; Swedish American Hospital, Rockford, Ill.; Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, Wis., and Olbrich Gardens, Madison, Wis.;
- A quilt unveiling ceremony was held at a Georgia funeral home;
- Quilts displayed at 127 locations in eight states, traveling more than 52,200 miles. Approximately 124,000 people were exposed to the donation message at these events;
- 24 families borrowed quilts for family reunions, memorial services and community events;
- Squares were collected and production begun on the first memorial quilts in the Southwest and Northeast Divisions;
- A quilting party was hosted to help Georgia families design and create quilt squares in memory of their loved ones.



Community Involvement 2004

Allograft Resources Division

- Exhibits and displays were featured at more than 70 community conferences and health fairs in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana;
- Served as major sponsor of the Sun Prairie, Wis. "Back to School Bash";
- Participated in the annual Madison, Wis. Juneteenth event and Wisconsin Coalition on Donation booth at the Milwaukee Auto Show;
- Membership and participation in: Madison, Wis., Salvation Army Adopt-a-family program, United Way of Dane County, Wisconsin Coalition on Donation, Department of Health and Human Services Workplace Partnership for Life, Kiwanis Club of Downtown Madison, Madison Central Lions Club, Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, Wisconsin Hospital Association, Public Relations Society of America, Life Goes On Committee, Rockford, Ill.; Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association, Funeral Service Association, American Society of Quality, Wisconsin Biotechnology Association, American Association of Tissue Banks.

Northeast Division

- Participated in community conferences and health fairs with exhibits and displays;
- Tabletop displays in two hospitals promoted tissue donation during National Nurses Week;
- Supported the Peter Saldi Memorial Fund-raiser;
- Membership and participation in: American Society of Quality, American Association of Tissue Banks.

Southeast Division

- Participated in nine community conferences and health fairs with exhibits and displays;
- Gave four presentations to community organizations;
- Provided assistance to the "Hands on Atlanta" volunteer project at an Atlanta elementary school;
- Took part in the "Stockings for Love" project, providing personal items to the homeless in honor of donor Amanda Bliss, whose mother helped coordinate the effort;
- Membership and participation in: Donor Day at the Capital, Georgia Organization of Nurse Leaders, Georgia Hospital Association, Cobb Chamber of Commerce, Academy of Graduate Embalmers, Georgia Coroners Association, Georgia Independent Funeral Directors, National Funeral Directors Association, Georgia Association of Funeral Directors, Georgia Independent Funeral Directors Association, Georgia Coalition on Donation, Our Family Foundation, Cremation Association of North America, Alabama Funeral Directors Association, Mississippi Funeral Directors Association, American Association of Tissue Banks.

Southwest Division

- Participated in 15 community conferences and health fairs with exhibits and displays;
- Membership and participation in: Arizona Bereavement Alliance, Stepping Stones of Hope, Camp Paz, Association of Operating Room Nurses, Arizona Funeral Directors Association, American Academy of Bereavement, Arizona Hospital & Health Care Association, Arizona Rural Health Association, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Arizona Coalition for Transplantation, National Coalition on Transplantation, American Association of Tissue Banks.