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**LifeCenter Northwest tissue donors help New Zealand volcano burn victims**

In response to the Dec. 9 eruption of a volcano on White Island, a popular tourist destination, New Zealand reached out to the United States for help in providing 186,000 square inches of skin grafts to aid burn victims. **LifeCenter Northwest tissue processing partner, Community Tissue Services (CTS), reported that 41 grafts recovered by LifeCenter Northwest throughout Washington and Montana were flown to New Zealand to help treat the victims.**

This is personal for LifeCenter Northwest Training Coordinator Erin Dwyer, who is from New Zealand. In response to this news from CTS, she wrote: “It’s incredibly powerful to know that LifeCenter provides life-saving tissue to people in countries like New Zealand. It’s been a hard year to be away from home with the Christchurch shootings and now the White Island eruption, so it feels overwhelmingly wonderful that I’m able to contribute to a mission that ultimately helps even my own people. I appreciate everything you do to contribute to the incredible world of tissue recovery. Thank you!”

As of mid-December, 28 victims of the eruption were in intensive care burn units throughout New Zealand – 23 of whom were in critical condition and required airway support. We are honored to know that our work is helping patients in need around the world.

We would like to thank all of our tissue partner hospitals for helping us make a difference globally through the gift of tissue donation.

LifeCenter Northwest partners with more than 200 hospitals and five transplant centers across their service area of Alaska, Montana, North Idaho and Washington. Though there have been great accomplishments in donation and transplantation in recent years, the need is still great. Currently, there are more than 113,000 people on the transplant waiting list nationwide, including nearly 2,500 in our service area. Talk to your loved ones about donation and help end the wait by joining the donor registry at [www.lcnw.org](http://www.lcnw.org).

LifeCenter Northwest is a nonprofit federally designated organ procurement organization and is dedicated to saving lives through organ and tissue donation.

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