

A photograph of two women, one Black and one white, smiling and hugging each other. They are both wrapped in a large, colorful quilt with various floral and geometric patterns. The background is a lush green garden with trees and bushes.

WRAPPING DONOR FAMILIES **In Love**

LifeCenter Northwest
commemorates the
10-year anniversary of
the Honor Quilt Program.



Santokh Gill
PRESIDENT & CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF LIFECENTER NORTHWEST

MESSAGE FROM OUR
PRESIDENT & CEO

Thanks to all of you for supporting the life-saving work of donation! We continue to see an increase in organ and tissue donation — reminding us of the remarkable generosity within our communities, the critical nature of our collective work and the life-saving impact it has on recipient families.

Thanks to donors, their families and each of you, we facilitated the donation of **1,134 life-saving organs** from a record **437 deceased donors** in 2024. Through innovation, collaboration and the efforts of our staff to maximize each gift, we facilitated the saving of **1,070 lives**.

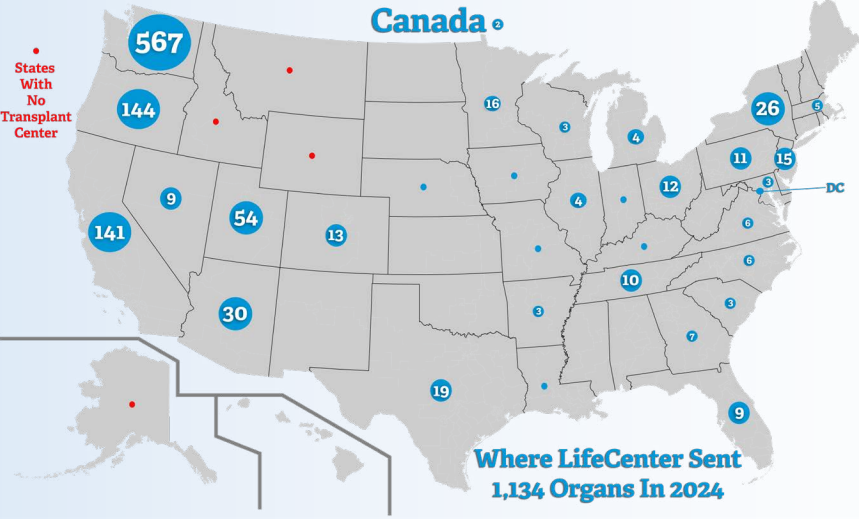
Beyond organ donations, **483 donors contributed tissues** such as bones, heart valves, skin and blood vessels. These vital tissue donations will repair faulty heart valves in children, aid in healing burn victims, provide reconstructive surgery for mastectomy patients and so much more.

Each donor’s gift is a testament to selflessness and compassion. This donor milestone reflects our commitment to honor every opportunity for donation, because no one should die waiting for an organ transplant.

We also support grieving families. Our Donor Family Aftercare team provided bereavement support to **1,119 new families** in 2024 — more than ever before. These families were offered counseling, solace and celebration of the lives of their loved ones through storytelling and remembrance events. Each family has its own grief journey and we both respect and honor that process through individualized support.

As you will read in this Annual Report, the progress that we’ve made throughout our history, and markedly in 2024, inspires and motivates us to do even more for the thousands of people still waiting for an organ transplant.

Our work is far from being done. We remain driven to save more lives, support families and improve services so that the gift of donation can bring hope and healing to even more people.



SERVING ALASKA, MONTANA, NORTH
IDAHO AND WASHINGTON

Mission
Working together to
save lives through organ
and tissue donation

Vision
A future where no one dies on
the organ transplant waiting
list, high-quality tissue grafts
are available to all in need,
every donor and donor family
is honored and all employees
are inspired and empowered to
realize their highest potential
in service of our mission.

Values
Our values guide our behaviors,
practices and interactions with
each other and our stakeholders:

Collaboration
Integrity
Courage
Service

LifeCenter Northwest is one of 55 federally designated and nonprofit organ procurement organizations in the United States. We work together with families, medical professionals, and communities in Alaska, Montana, North Idaho and Washington to save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation.

ON THE COVER:
Donor family Jeannie Allenbach and Victoria Harris pose with the quilt that bears the hand and footprints of their loved one, Mozae Allenbach.
Photo: Renata Steiner

FROM THE COVER:
Labor of Love: 10-year Anniversary of the Honor Quilt Program

The Honor Quilt program has provided comfort and tribute to organ donors and their families for more than a decade. The program began in August 2014, and every organ donor since has received this enduring symbol of generosity and hope.

Each quilt’s journey begins in India, crafted by quilt designer Lalit Rathi. The first versions consisted of two fabric pieces without batting or binding, following traditional Indian quilting practices. Over time, the quilts evolved, always maintaining their heartfelt purpose.

Before reaching donors, volunteers — including transplant recipients and donor families — help iron, tag, and pack each quilt for delivery to hospitals across the region. It’s infused with love and hope from people who really care and understand their special purpose.

Inspired by a comfort care program at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Wash., LifeCenter adopted the Honor Quilt tradition to “wrap donor families in love” and signal



that a sacred act is taking place. It provides a moment of pause and respect for healthcare teams and follows the family throughout the donation process.

Each quilt includes a special space for personalization. Families may add a donor’s handprint or footprint or write messages, making the quilt a deeply personal tribute. Afterward, families take the quilt

home, a tangible reminder of their loved one’s legacy.

For Jeannie Allenbach, the quilts remind her of the light in a dark time. Her 15-year-old daughter, Mozae, gave life to others as an organ and tissue donor in 2022.

“We painted her hands and feet for each quilt. It was a moment where we actually laughed because Mo loved her feet, but she hated arts and crafts,” said Jeannie, smiling.

As the Honor Quilt program reaches its 10-year anniversary, its impact remains at the heart of our mission, offering solace to families while honoring the selfless act of organ donation.

Honoring Life’s Final Moments:
Supporting Donor Families Through Ritual and Remembrance



At LifeCenter Northwest, we recognize that organ donation is not just a medical process — it’s a profound human journey that deserves to be honored with dignity and respect for each family’s unique cultural and spiritual traditions.

CREATING LASTING
MEMORIES

Our Family Support team helps families create tangible connections with their loved ones. The heart motif, central to our memory-making activities, symbolizes both the physical and emotional aspects of donation. Families can create

wooden hearts featuring their loved one’s thumbprint — a portable keepsake that can be displayed or transformed into an ornament. Our “remembering hearts” program provides a heart-within-a-heart token that stays with the donor throughout their hospital stay, representing the enduring bond between donor and family.

Families are encouraged to bring meaningful personal items

from home — whether it’s a child’s backpack, a cherished sports memento, or a special piece of clothing — to incorporate into these activities.

BRIDGING MEDICAL CARE AND PERSONAL
CONNECTION

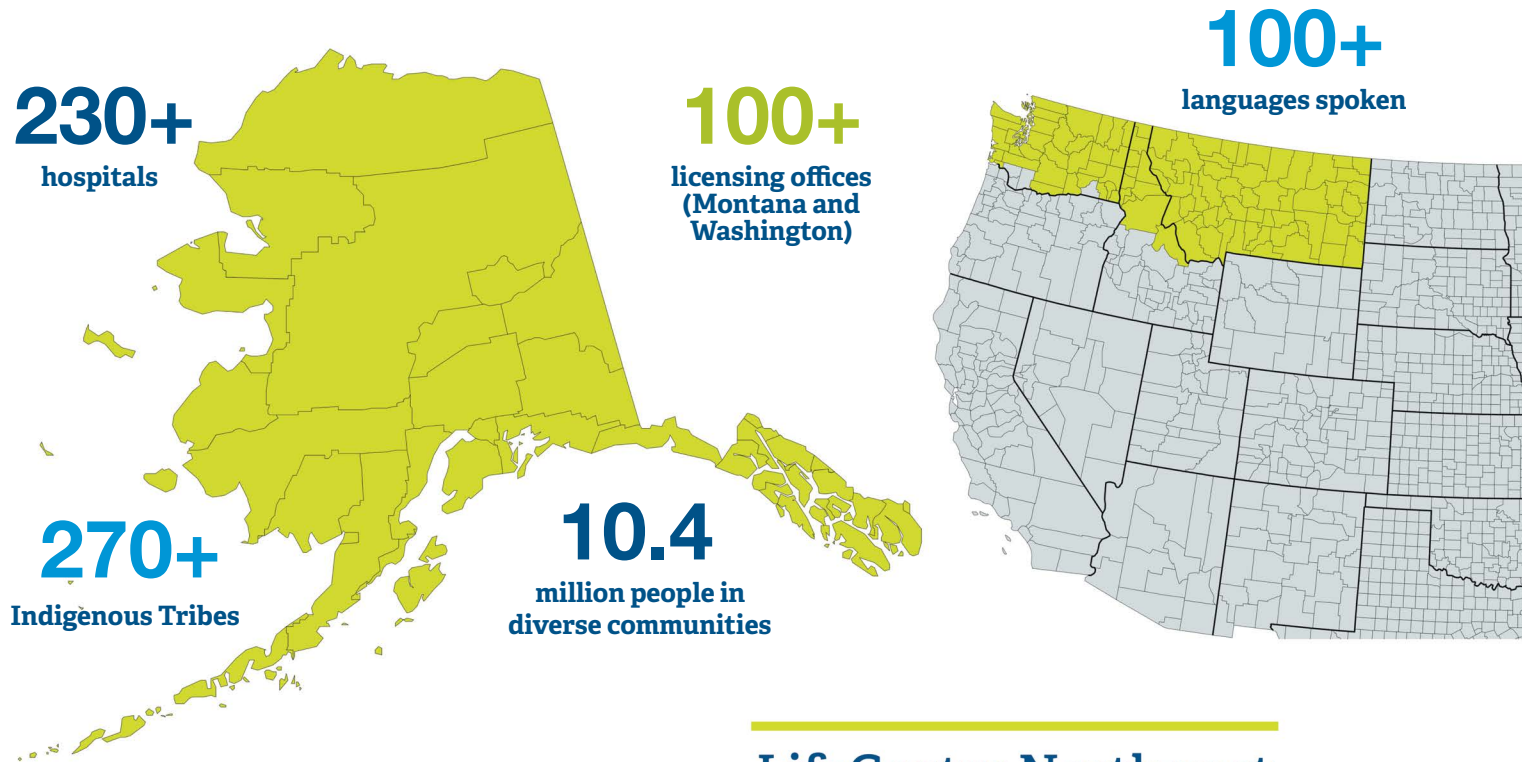
The Moment of Honor program creates a profound connection between donor families and surgical teams. Families share a message that is read before surgery begins, allowing the medical team to carry the donor’s story into the operating room. Our hospital partners also participate in meaningful ceremonies, including Honor Walks and Flag Raising Ceremonies.

EMBRACING CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL
TRADITIONS

Our commitment to honoring diverse cultural and religious practices is fundamental. For Native American families, we coordinate with hospitals to enable traditional practices such as smudging ceremonies. We facilitate various religious observances, including Catholic Last Rites and bedside baptisms, ensuring families have private time for prayer and traditional practices.

Through these forms of support and remembrance, we create space for meaningful goodbyes while honoring the extraordinary gift of donation.

REACHING OUT, FAR AND WIDE, To Serve Our Diverse Community



The massive geographical footprint of LifeCenter Northwest's Donation Service Area — spanning 808,360 square miles, more than 3.5 times larger than the second-largest service area in the U.S. — presents our staff with some unique challenges, but nothing stops us from pursuing our life-saving mission.

Whether we encounter severe weather, difficult terrain, or need to access remote communities to save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation, we get the job done. We also actively maintain a trusted network of partners and deep community connections across our four-state region.

LifeCenter Northwest Donation Service Area (Alaska to scale)



Driving Donation Registration with our Licensing Partners

Most people register as an organ, eye and tissue donor by “checking the box” at their local licensing office.

Another reminder comes to every person who gets a driver's license through the mail. Every year, leaflets go to more than 2 million people in Washington state (in Spanish and English) and to more than 200,000 in Montana. Each leaflet has a QR code to our website, where donation information is translated into more than 130 languages and accessible to people with vision and hearing issues.

In 2024, posters featuring liver recipient Kaden Hollis were posted in all 176 licensing offices in Washington, serving as a reminder to consider a charitable donation when picking up vehicle tabs.



Donor Mom Shows Courage in Sharing Son's Story

Blanca Zepeda, mother of 24-year-old Oscar Farias Zepeda, proudly shared her son's decision to be an organ donor during a Donate Life flag-raising ceremony at Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Wash. — the same hospital where Oscar gave life.

To ensure Blanca could share Oscar's story in her own words, our community relations team provided support in Spanish, working with Kadlec Regional to coordinate a translator. After the ceremony, she participated in her first interview with local Spanish-language news.

Blanca received hundreds of messages of support on social media, strengthening her commitment to keeping Oscar's memory alive. She later shared his story with her Catholic priest in Mexico, who affirmed Oscar's generosity as a blessing.

Oscar's choice created a ripple effect, inspiring his community and reinforcing the power of organ donation.

218,159
leaflets in 2024 distributed to
residents in Montana

2,011,915
leaflets in 2024 distributed to
residents in Washington state

65,960
Washington state driver's ed students
instructed about donation in 2024

New LifeCenter Documentary A Family Says Yes to Donation with 'Antonio's Gift'

Antonio Espinoza, 21, from Wapato, Wash., was known for his love of people and his willingness to listen. He deeply valued his time with family and friends.

Just days after his 21st birthday, Antonio tragically died from a brain aneurysm. Although he was not a registered organ donor, his family — namely his older sister, Ana Espinoza — made the difficult decision to donate his organs, reflecting Antonio's caring nature. His gifts saved four people on the waiting list, including Joyce Baker, who received Antonio's lungs.

Our Community Relations team, in partnership with Hand Crank Films, collaborated with Ana, Antonio's extended family, and his lung recipient, Joyce, to create a documentary-style video about the impact of this donation decision.

The video was filmed in Yakima, Wash., in April of 2024, during a one-day shoot from dawn to dusk. Joyce has a close bond with Ana and was eager to honor Antonio's legacy and celebrate the special connection she now shares with his family.

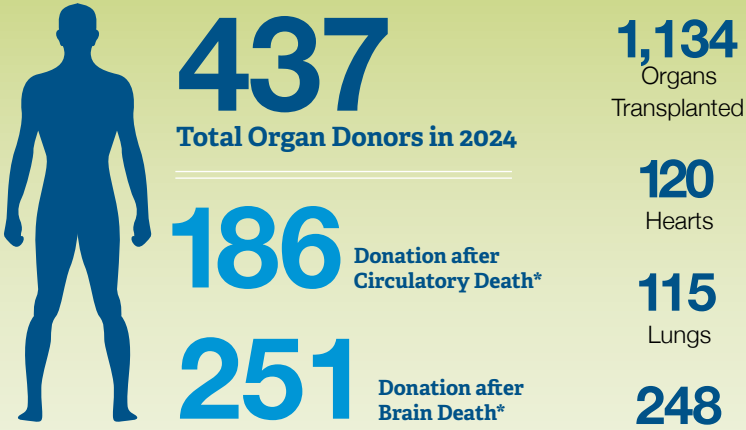


We debuted “Antonio's Gift” with our donation community at the five Donation Celebrations we held over the summer and fall of 2024 in Alaska, Montana and Washington.

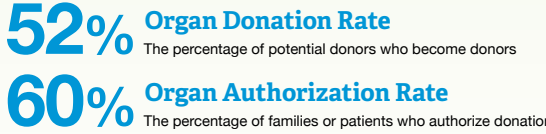
You can watch Antonio's Gift on our YouTube channel at @lifecenternw or scan the QR code here:



2024 Organ and Tissue Donation

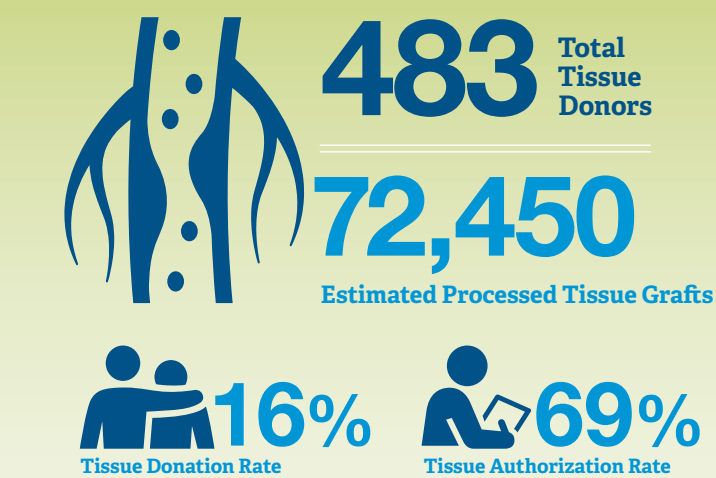
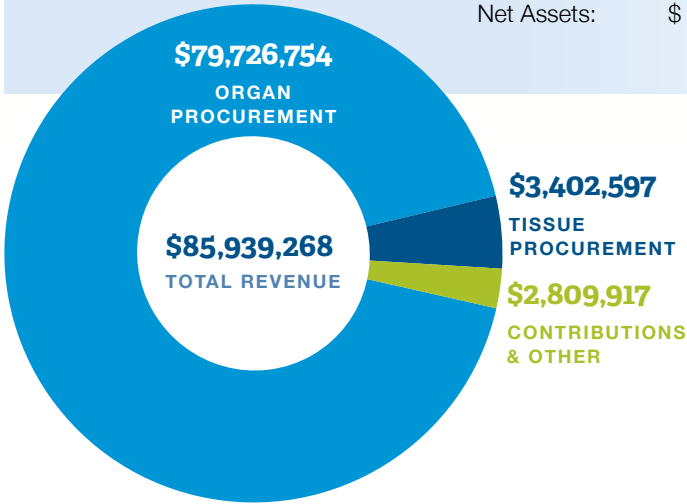


*There are two ways people die: when their heart stops — Donation After Circulatory Death (DCD) — and when their brain dies — Brain Death (BD). Both BD and DCD are formal, legal definitions of death declared by hospital medical professionals and must be declared before donation is possible.



2024 Financial Report

Financial Position			
DECEMBER 31, 2024			
Assets:	\$	49,149,180	
Liabilities:	\$	11,956,652	
Net Assets:	\$	37,192,528	

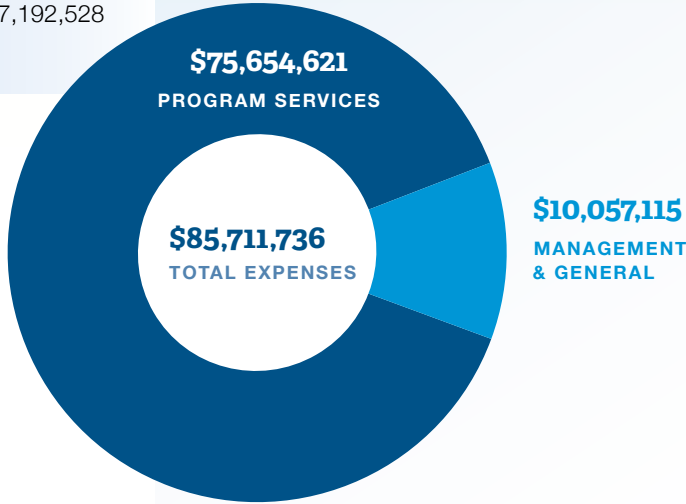


2024 Organ Transplant Partners

Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center
Seattle Children's Hospital
Swedish Medical Center
UW Medicine
Virginia Mason Medical Center

2024 Tissue Processing Partners

Alamo Biologics
Artivion
Axogen
LeMaitre Vascular
MTF Biologics
Solvita



DONOR FAMILY AFTERCARE Caring for and Connecting with Families

Supporting donor families is at the heart of LifeCenter Northwest's mission — both in the hospital during a loved one's donation and afterward as they navigate grief and loss. Our compassionate staff provides guidance, ensuring a donor's final wish is fulfilled with dignity and respect.

Organ, eye and tissue donors leave behind a lifesaving legacy. Many families find comfort in knowing their loved one's gift has provided health and healing to another — perhaps a mother, father, daughter or son. Some express gratitude for the extra time they have in the hospital, holding hands, sharing memories, and saying goodbye.

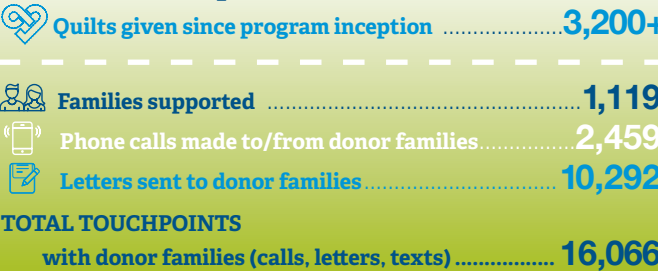


Through ongoing connections, we witness how donation can bring solace, easing the pain of loss over time. Our Aftercare team offers grief support for nearly two years, or longer if needed. Families receive resources, assistance in writing to recipients, and access to a private donor family and recipient Facebook group. Monthly virtual support groups, in-person coffee chats, and remembrance events provide opportunities for connection and healing.

"Donors and their families offer the light of hope to others, even in the darkness of grief and loss," says Donor Family Aftercare Specialist, Kristina Kartikeyan. "I believe we honor donors best by continuing to care for those they loved and keeping the light of their memory burning brightly."

By walking with families through every step of the journey, LifeCenter Northwest ensures that their loved one's heroic act of generosity is honored and remembered.

2024 Aftercare, by the Numbers:



Benjamin "Ben" Hubbard Atwood Anderson

Organ and Cornea Donor, Missoula, Mont.

Eden Atwood describes her son, Ben, as "a comet — a bright, shining star of a kid."

Ben was an athletic child who developed into a talented young man who pushed the physical boundaries of anything on wheels. Ben could touch the sky, landing 360s and backflips, going a million miles a minute.



As a teen, Ben was a junior counselor and coach at a multi-sport complex. He adored kids and was easy to connect with. They were in awe of Ben as he soared over their heads on a professional scooter or used his body to overcome obstacles in parkour, which is a fitting metaphor for how he lived his life — fast and furious!

People were drawn to Ben's energy. His friends often confided in him because he cared about their struggles. He was insightful, kind and accepting. He also knew what it felt like to be lonely or misunderstood. Adopted by white parents at birth, Ben was deeply loved but often felt isolated as a Black person living in Missoula, Mont.

Ben died last May at the age of 20 after being injured in a motorcycle accident doing what he loved most — going as fast as he could. Eden honored his life by choosing organ and cornea donation to save and heal others.

"The fact that he was able to give life is meaningful," said Eden. "It's important to me that he is remembered."

Ben's heart saved a little boy. One of his kidneys went to a special education teacher. The other kidney relieved a man from decades of dialysis. His corneas restored sight to two people. He will always be remembered for his extraordinary kindness in life and beyond.

Honoring Pride in Organ Donation

Anyone can register to be an organ donor, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression. That's the message that LifeCenter Northwest staff members were proud to share at Capitol Hill PrideFest on June 29, 2024.

Our LifeCenter team, including members of our Pride Employee Resource

Group, had great conversations at our booth, helped to dispel common myths about organ donation, and were happy to learn that many of the attendees have a little red heart on their driver's license, indicating they are registered to be organ donors!

Connecting with the Black Community at Juneteenth

LifeCenter Northwest shared information about the lifesaving power of organ, eye and tissue donation and the importance of kidney health at the Juneteenth Freedom Celebration on Saturday, June 15, at Liberty Park in Renton, Wash.

LifeCenter's outreach work in the Black community is essential. Black Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population, but 35% of people with kidney failure. In Washington state in 2024, there were 120 Black patients on the organ transplant waiting list, most of them (114) waiting for a kidney transplant.

"We made multiple connections with community organizers, church leaders, city councilmen and legislative representatives during the event," said Fernan Kelly, a LifeCenter staff member. "In this experience with our local community, we provided visibility, hope and further understanding to families."



The Lifesaving Power of Donation in the Alaska Native Community

LifeCenter Northwest is proud to partner with Alaska Native communities to share about the life-saving benefits of organ donation.

For the second year in a row, LifeCenter was a sponsor of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) convention in Anchorage in 2024. More than 5,000 people from 228 Alaskan tribes gather annually from all over the U.S. to connect on tribal issues. Our staff provided organ, eye and tissue donation education and answered questions from guests about donation.

Native Alaskans have strong connections to care for family, friends and neighbors and donation is becoming another act that supports that calling. In 2024, there were 143 patients in Alaska on the organ transplant waiting list with eight from the Alaska Native community.

Traditionally, members of the Alaska Native community have been hesitant

about organ donation due to beliefs about the body after death. However, this sentiment has shifted among younger generations and donation is now seen as a lifesaving benefit to the community.

Helping us share with guests was Jennie Lawrence of Ketchikan, an Alaska tribal member who is alive today thanks to a heart from Joel Eggert, and Laura and Delores Givens of the Navajo tribe, who are the mother and grandmother of donor Rachel Givens. Laura is also a LifeCenter Advisory Board member. Alaskan lung recipient Ginny

Fagerstrom, who we met at the AFN conference in 2023, joined us at the LifeCenter booth this year.



Donation Celebrations Honor Donors and Donor Families

We believe that it's important to celebrate the lives of donors and the second chances provided to recipients through the gift of life.

Each year, we host Donation Celebrations across our four-state region to honor donors, their families, and all members in the community who have a connection to organ, eye and tissue donation.

These special gatherings — held in Spokane and Bellevue, Wash., in Billings and Missoula, Mont., and in Anchorage, Alaska — provide an opportunity for people to come together to honor donors, share their stories, and see firsthand the widespread impact of organ, eye and tissue donation in our communities.

Our celebrations in 2024 drew more than 750 participants of all ages. Photos of donors are shared, recipients express their gratitude and connections are made.

Grief can be a lonely journey, but Donation Celebrations make space for many of the feelings that can arise when one becomes a donor family or a recipient.

STORY OF HOPE: Ginny Fagerstrom



Ginny Fagerstrom's transplant story began in 2006 when she was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension, and it was damaging her lungs. Over the course of 12 years, her health stabilized with medication and supplemental oxygen, but eventually worsened,

and Ginny was unable to work, take care of her kids, or do anything besides sit on the couch and struggle to breathe.

She was placed on the lung transplant waiting list at UW Medicine and temporarily moved from Alaska to Seattle to be close to the transplant center where she hoped to receive her new lungs. Ginny was prepared for a long stay on the waiting list, so she packed her sewing machine and a suitcase full of yarn.

Ginny received her gift of life only 13 days later, on Dec. 14, 2018. Thanks to her lung donor, her health has improved, but their gift has provided so much more.

"In our Inupiaq culture, there is a strong emphasis on sharing, giving, respecting others, and showing gratitude," said Ginny.

"Receiving the lungs of another person is beyond description, beyond any kind of sharing or giving or gratitude. This gift has given me joyful days, quiet moments of reflection, conversations with my parents, trips home to Nome, silly family group texts, and sewing sleepovers with my friends."

A Legislative Partnership in Gratitude for the Gift of Life

We partner with the governors of Alaska, Montana and Washington to host an annual ceremony for families whose loved ones became organ donors in the year prior. This intimate event

is called the Governor's Gift of Life Award Ceremony, and is led by LifeCenter Northwest leadership, the state's governor or a state legislator, and highlights the rare and remarkable gift of life, made possible through the generosity of donors and their families.

LifeCenter Northwest is the only organ procurement organization in the United States that hosts an event in partnership with each state's government to acknowledge the impact and sanctity of organ donation. These events are held in April during National Donate Life Month and include state proclamations and resolution readings about organ donation, and legislator meetings with donor families and recipients, to showcase the importance of organ donation in our communities.

"As stewards of the gift of life, we witness the power of organ donation every day in the pursuit of our mission," says Santokh Gill, president and CEO of LifeCenter Northwest. "We are grateful for the opportunity to honor donors and their families in a formal ceremony so we may celebrate the second chances they selflessly provided to hundreds of others through organ donation."



Former Washington Gov. Jay Inslee poses with donor family members

WILD LANTERNS AT WOODLAND PARK ZOO:

A Gift for All Seasons Campaign

In December 2024, LifeCenter Northwest sponsored Wild Lanterns, a festive light display at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, as part of the "A Gift for All Seasons" campaign. This first-of-its-kind initiative highlighted the powerful stories of eight organ donors and recipients, raising awareness about the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation.

A dedicated landing page showcased these stories and provided essential information on organ donation, including how to register and key facts and statistics. Throughout the giving season, our team of staff, volunteers, and community ambassadors engaged with visitors night after night, to share these impactful stories and answer questions from the community.

FROM TRAGEDY TO HOPE:

Two Washington Firehouses Receive Visits from Donor Families and Recipients for Heroic Efforts

AL BASS AT REARDAN FIRE HOUSE

Liver recipient Alberto (Al) Bass knocked on the door of the fire house in the small town of Reardan, Wash., in June of 2024 to see if he could visit with Fire Chief Jim Adams and his volunteer team of firefighters. He wanted to thank them, because they provided care to a young motorcycle crash victim who became Al's liver donor, saving his life.

Gregg Sutton was riding his motorcycle outside of town in the summer of 2018 when he lost control and crashed, and the chief and his crew were called to the scene.

They were unable to save Gregg, a 35-year-old musician from Spokane, Wash., but their efforts and a series of small miracles enabled them to get him stabilized and airlifted to a hospital where he could fulfill his wish to be an organ donor.

Al had come to the Reardan fire station from his home in the Yakima Valley on the sixth anniversary of Gregg's passing.

"It's difficult, and it's emotional," Al said. "I lived because someone else died."

At the fire station, Al learned some of the remarkable details about the emergency response to Gregg's accident on that fateful day.

Gregg was headed down Highway 2 to visit with friends in a nearby town after attending a funeral, and a member of the nearby volunteer fire department just happened to be driving behind him in a car. At a certain point, the fireman noticed that the motorcyclist

was no longer in front of him. The setting sun directly ahead had made it hard to see.

The firefighter immediately turned around and found Gregg and his bike crashed in a ditch. He called for help, began CPR and was able to get a heartbeat.

Chief Adams and his crew got there next and called for a helicopter. Usually, it would take 20-30 minutes for the helicopter to arrive, and they didn't think Gregg would last that long.

But, "The helicopter had been canceled from another call and was right overhead,"

the chief said. They got Gregg transported to a hospital in Spokane and placed on ventilated support.

The efforts of the first responders, and Gregg's decision to be an organ donor, saved four lives and healed countless others through tissue donation.

Al is forever grateful to the Reardan staff and crew for their role in saving his life. "You are angels here," he told them.

The chief also shared that since Gregg's death, he has become friends with some of Gregg's friends. One friend inherited Gregg's guitar and was a member of the church where Gregg was a musician and worship leader.

Two years ago, the chief joined the church, too.

"I played Gregg's guitar just this morning in the men's group" he said.

"Without the organ donor, there is no story, no hope, no transplant. But when there is an organ donor, life springs from death, sorrow turns to hope, and terrible loss becomes a gift."



Al Bass (far right) with Fire Chief Jim Adams (second from left) and other members of the fire crew in Reardan, Wash.

DONOR'S FIANCÉE VISITS LACEY FIREHOUSE

Janna Herrera visited the firefighters from Lacey Fire District Three in Lacey, Wash., in August 2024 to thank them for being first on the scene when her fiancé Victor Chavez was found unresponsive. The first responders worked tirelessly to restore Victor's heartbeat before paramedics arrived, but sadly, Victor could not survive his injuries. However, it was this effort that ultimately made life possible for three other people through organ donation.

Janna's visit made an impact. She was accompanied by Victor's heart recipient, Lisa, and Lisa's husband Dave, who also had the opportunity to thank the first responders for their swift action that changed the course of their lives that day.

The Lacey firehouse later shared photos from the gathering along with Victor's story in a touching Facebook post with this quote:



Victor Chavez saved three lives through organ donation.

A Chance Connection Sparks Friendship and Healing

After losing her 27-year-old son, Jacob Clayton, Shauna Smith was looking for ways to channel her grief into something meaningful. She wanted to share her experience with loss — and the hope that came from organ donation. Through this journey, we connected Shauna with a journalist at the Daily Inter Lake in Kalispell, Mont., to share Jacob's story, highlighting what it means to their family to know that he saved three people through organ donation.

"The best decision we made for him was to help somebody because he was always a helpful person," Shauna shared in the article.

Marie Clark, a two-time kidney recipient and mother, read the article and felt compelled to reach out to Shauna. Though Marie had never connected with her donors' families and Shauna had not yet heard from Jacob's recipients, the two women quickly became friends. They found healing in sharing their unique perspectives — Marie learning how the Smiths found light in Jacob's gift, and Shauna seeing firsthand the second chances that organ donation provides.

As their friendship grew, Marie, who had battled illness her entire life, revealed in the summer of 2024 that her kidney was failing. At 67, she had decided not to pursue another transplant. She had lived a full life and had even written her own obituary, updating it over the years as she made new memories. In her final words, Marie left a powerful request:

"Those interested in donating in my memory, please donate something more profound than money. Check the donor box on your driver's license and talk to family and friends about giving the gift of life. Selfless strangers made a huge difference in my life."

Her connection with Shauna, Jacob's story, and the Smith family added deep meaning to her final years. In her passing, Marie left Shauna an unexpected financial gift from her estate.

The Smiths had not yet placed a headstone at Jacob's grave, and Marie's generosity made that possible. What began as a chance encounter became a friendship of healing, gratitude and closure. Perhaps, in the end, it wasn't chance at all.

2024 LifeSaver Award Winners

At LifeCenter Northwest, collaborating with local healthcare professionals is an essential part of fulfilling our mission.

Our monthly LifeSaver Award honors and recognizes those who best exemplify the spirit of going above and beyond to save lives — honoring our shared values to improve donation culture and outcomes.

JANUARY: **Scott Connelly**
Overlake Medical Center & Clinics | Bellevue, Wash.

FEBRUARY: **Howard Holtz**
Providence Alaska Medical Center | Anchorage, Alaska

MARCH: **Sevda Raghbi**
St. Peter's Health | Helena, Mont.

APRIL: **Laura Webster**
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health | Seattle, Wash.

MAY: **Katie Waterman**
MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital | Tacoma, Wash.

JUNE: **Rich Sanders**
Billings Clinic | Billings, Mont.

JULY: **Deanna Lowden**
Providence Alaska Medical Center | Anchorage, Alaska

AUGUST: **Lauryn Grossman**
Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center | Spokane, Wash.

SEPTEMBER: **Jessica Waters**
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health St. Joseph Medical Center | Tacoma, Wash.

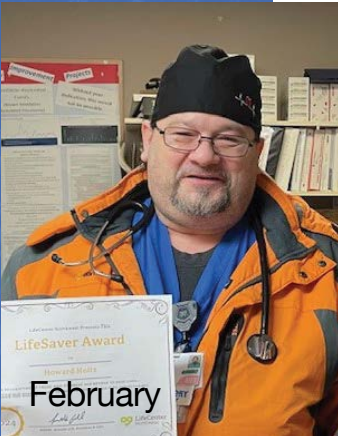
OCTOBER: **Billings Clinic OR Team**
Billings, Mont.

NOVEMBER: **Katrin Junghanns-Royack**
Olympic Medical Center | Port Angeles, Wash.

DECEMBER: **Sam Avery**
Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center | Spokane, Wash.



January



February



August



December



October

Every year, LifeCenter Northwest celebrates our hospital and community partners by recognizing outstanding efforts that contributed to successful donation programs in the previous calendar year.

The Outstanding Hospital Achievement Award

Kootenai Health
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

The Outstanding Hospital Achievement Award is presented to one hospital that demonstrated impressive outcomes, strong and effective processes and unwavering dedication to honoring donor decisions, supporting donor families and improving the lives of transplant recipients.

Kootenai Health has experienced tremendous growth in their donation program — going from having four organ donors in 2022 to 14 organ donors in 2024. While this kind of increase often comes with some growing pains, the Kootenai team has worked diligently to make sure their referrals stay timely, their early extubation rates stay low and they honor all donor decisions.

In addition, Kootenai's collaborative spirit goes beyond just having a high collaborative request rate — they demonstrate consistent and active collaboration at all levels of the organization. In April of 2024, Kootenai hosted their first-ever "Donation Day," which brought leaders and staff from LifeCenter and the hospital together in-person to discuss donation and develop best practices.

Kootenai's donation culture is also thriving — thanks to the dedication of longtime Site Champion Jennifer James, an active and robust Donation Council and powerful honor walks to honor donors as they are transported to the OR.

We are deeply grateful for the welcoming, collaborative and supportive spirit of the Kootenai team, and their commitment to donation is truly outstanding.



Donation Champion Award

Eric Morzelewski
UW MEDICAL CENTER – MONTLAKE | SEATTLE, WASH.

The Donation Champion Award recognizes one individual in our region who is tirelessly devoted to creating and maintaining a strong donation program at their hospital through the End The Wait Campaign.



Eric Morzelewski, a Nurse Manager in the Medical Oncology ICU at UW Medical Center – Montlake, exemplifies the unwavering dedication and innovative spirit that define our commitment to donation.

In his role as the End The Wait Campaign Site Champion at his hospital, Eric has made remarkable strides in enhancing UW Montlake's donation program, notably through the successful implementation of the Epic referral project. This initiative empowers staff by providing clear criteria for identifying patients who meet clinical triggers for referral. After this system was in place, in 2024, UW Montlake had their highest timely referral rate in five years.

Eric's relentless focus on patient care and operational efficiency has also significantly reduced the occurrences of early extubations and missed referrals, facilitating crucial conversations with families during challenging times. Eric's leadership is marked by his commitment to open communication and accessibility, which has cultivated an inclusive and supportive environment for both UW Montlake and LifeCenter Northwest staff.

Eric's pursuit of innovative solutions and his ability to build strong relationships not only elevates the standard of care within his hospital, but also enhances the vital work of organ donation and transplantation in our community.

LifeSaver of the Year Award

Sarah Skeel
PROVIDENCE ALASKA MEDICAL CENTER | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

The LifeSaver of the Year Award honors and recognizes one individual who best exemplifies the spirit of going above and beyond to save lives — honoring our shared values to improve donation culture and outcomes.

During a recent donation case, the leadership and commitment of Sarah Skeel, Chief Administrative Officer at Providence Alaska Medical Center (PAMC), played a crucial role in ensuring life-saving donation was possible at Alaska's largest hospital.

During this case, a potential donor at another hospital in the Anchorage area encountered an unexpected and significant delay in organ recovery. With the liver recovery team's plane already in Anchorage and the thoracic organ recovery team en route to Alaska, the situation was critical.

When Sarah was notified of this situation, she encouraged her team to do everything possible to assist with the recovery.

This was an extremely challenging situation and an extraordinary request of PAMC — both accepting a donor from another hospital and reassigning staff at the last minute to rapidly accommodate an operating room for recovery.

Under Sarah's leadership and unwavering support, PAMC demonstrated exceptional collaboration, swiftly coordinating details

and ensuring their readiness to support the patient's immediate arrival. This donor went on to save three lives. Sarah and the PAMC team's quick action, leadership and collaboration were nothing short of extraordinary.



Excellence in Community Partnership Award

King County Medical Examiner's Office
SEATTLE, WASH.

The Excellence in Community Partnership Award is presented to organizations in our service area that have demonstrated unwavering dedication to collaborating with LifeCenter Northwest to improve the lives of those in our community.



In 2024, the King County Medical Examiner's Office (KCMEO) took a strong stance in support of organ and tissue donation. In line with the National Association of Medical Examiners' policy on always supporting donation, KCMEO's Chief Medical Examiner — Dr. Matthew Lacy — created a new policy that makes the decision to allow organ donation on all medical examiner's cases automatic, the first of its kind in our donation service area.

Only when homicide is suspected will KCMEO review the release of tissue donation. This policy makes it easier for everyone at KCMEO to feel comfortable with releasing for donation.

KCMEO has always supported donation, as their office has an impressive 15+ year history of never denying an organ case to move forward. Solidifying this support via a policy just further demonstrates their commitment to donors, donor families and recipients of the gift of life across our local communities.

LifeSaver Unit of the Year Award

MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital Critical Care Teams

PUYALLUP, WASH.

The LifeSaver Unit of the Year Award is presented annually to one hospital unit across our four-state donation service area that has demonstrated a commitment to improving donation outcomes and a positive donation culture on their unit through their actions, time and energy.



After a successful 2023, the Critical Care teams at Good Samaritan committed to — and achieved — their goal of maintaining a high-quality donation program.

Good Samaritan saw a 40% increase in potential donors from 2023 to 2024. They were able to achieve a 5% increase in timely referral rate and honor the donation decisions of all registered donors. Close collaboration between Good Samaritan's nurses, respiratory therapists and doctors has helped the hospital maintain a low early extubation rate and boosted their collaborative request rate from 75% to 97%.

All of this added up to a record-setting year for saving lives at Good Samaritan: 12 organ donors and 30 lives saved.

Despite how busy the Critical Care staff at Good Samaritan are, they still prioritize donation awareness and promote a positive donation culture. Unit leaders throw their support and resources behind the annual LifeCenter Northwest Donation Training Workshop, which is voluntary and always well attended.

Across the board, Good Samaritan's Critical Care teams are fully invested in ensuring the highest quality experience possible for all those touched by donation. They are a shining example of excellent patient care and compassion in the hours and days leading up to donation.

Donation Innovation Award

Benefis Health System

GREAT FALLS, MONT.

The Donation Innovation Award is presented to one hospital that has demonstrated a commitment to careful evaluation of their organ donation processes and has taken specific steps to improve outcomes through innovative quality improvement initiatives.

In 2024, Benefis Health System eagerly took on the task of supporting Normothermic Regional Perfusion (NRP) for their donation cases. NRP is an organ preservation technique that restores oxygenated blood to targeted organs using mechanical organ support, thereby reversing warm ischemia and enabling the utilization of organs that were previously considered unsuitable for transplantation.

In the fall of 2024, Benefis became the first hospital in LifeCenter's Donation Service Area to be ready to support both abdominal and thoraco-abdominal NRP (and, in early 2025, Benefis had their first-ever NRP donor). Their rollout of NRP support was so thorough and detailed that LifeCenter is now using Benefis as an example for other hospitals in our region looking to implement NRP support.

In addition, by creating and implementing a new blood tracking workflow in Epic, Benefis was able to ensure each unit of blood used for organ donation cases, including NRP and Organ Care System cases, was accurately tracked.

Not only is this tracking valuable for validation and ensuring backtracking is possible for any adverse events, but it also allows the hospital to demonstrate the blood was used in life-saving procedures. Providing this information to blood banks helps the hospital ensure their access to equitable amounts of blood is not impacted by the donation process.



2024 Hospital Achievement Awards

Organ Donation Process Excellence Award

Earned by hospitals with a process error rate of 5% or less.

- Advanced Care Hospital of Montana
- Alaska Native Medical Center
- Alaska Regional Hospital
- Benefis Health System
- Billings Clinic
- Community Medical Center
- EvergreenHealth Medical Center
- Glendive Medical Center
- Gritman Medical Center
- Harborview Medical Center
- Kootenai Health
- MultiCare Deaconess Hospital
- MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital
- MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital
- MultiCare Valley Hospital
- Overlake Medical Center & Clinics
- PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center
- Providence Alaska Medical Center
- Providence Holy Family Hospital
- Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital
- St. James Healthcare
- St. Peter's Health
- St. Vincent Regional Hospital
- Swedish Medical Center – Cherry Hill
- Swedish Medical Center – First Hill
- Swedish Medical Center – Issaquah
- Valley Medical Center
- St. Anthony Hospital, Gig Harbor
- St. Clare Hospital, Lakewood
- St. Joseph Medical Center, Tacoma

Tissue Donation Referral Achievement Award

Earned by hospitals with a timely tissue referral rate of 95% or greater.

- Billings Clinic
- Gritman Medical Center
- Kadlec Regional Medical Center
- Kootenai Health
- MultiCare Auburn Medical Center
- MultiCare Capital Medical Center
- PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center
- Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital
- Providence St. Patrick Hospital
- St. Luke Community Hospital
- St. Peter's Health
- Swedish Medical Center – Cherry Hill
- Swedish Medical Center – Issaquah
- UW Medical Center – Montlake
- St. Anthony Hospital, Gig Harbor

End The Wait Organ Donation Rate Award

Gold: Earned by hospitals with a donation rate of 75% or greater.

- Bartlett Regional Hospital
- Billings Clinic
- Central Peninsula Hospital
- Gritman Medical Center
- Olympic Medical Center
- Providence St. Patrick Hospital
- St. James Healthcare
- St. Peter's Health

Silver: Earned by hospitals with a donation rate between 65% and 74%.

- EvergreenHealth Medical Center
- Kootenai Health
- MultiCare Auburn Medical Center
- Providence Holy Family Hospital

Collaborative Family Support Award

Earned by hospitals with a collaborative request rate of 100%.

- Alaska Native Medical Center
- Billings Clinic
- Bozeman Health Deaconess Regional Medical Center
- Central Peninsula Hospital
- Glendive Medical Center
- Gritman Medical Center
- Harbor Regional Health Community Hospital
- Kadlec Regional Medical Center
- MultiCare Valley Hospital
- Olympic Medical Center
- Overlake Medical Center & Clinics
- Providence Holy Family Hospital
- St. James Healthcare
- St. Joseph Regional Medical Center
- Swedish Medical Center – Edmonds
- Swedish Medical Center – Issaquah
- UW Medical Center – Montlake
- VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Honoring Donor Decisions Award

Earned by hospitals honoring 100% of registered donation decisions of medically suitable organ donors.

- Alaska Native Medical Center
- Alaska Regional Hospital
- Bartlett Regional Hospital
- Billings Clinic
- Bonner General Health
- Bozeman Health Deaconess Regional Medical Center
- Central Peninsula Hospital
- Confluence Health Hospital
- EvergreenHealth Medical Center
- Glendive Medical Center

- Gritman Medical Center
- Harbor Regional Health Community Hospital
- Kootenai Health
- Logan Health
- MultiCare Auburn Medical Center
- MultiCare Deaconess Hospital
- MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital
- MultiCare Tacoma General Hospital
- MultiCare Valley Hospital
- MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital
- Olympic Medical Center
- Overlake Medical Center & Clinics
- Providence Centralia Hospital
- Providence Regional Medical Center, Everett
- Providence Holy Family Hospital
- Providence Mount Carmel Hospital
- Skagit Valley Hospital
- St. James Healthcare
- St. Joseph Regional Medical Center
- St. Peter's Health
- St. Vincent Regional Hospital
- Swedish Medical Center – Cherry Hill
- Swedish Medical Center – Edmonds
- Swedish Medical Center – First Hill
- Swedish Medical Center – Issaquah
- Trios Health Southridge Hospital
- UW Medical Center – Montlake
- UW Medical Center – Northwest
- Valley Medical Center
- Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle
- St. Anne Hospital, Burien
- St. Anthony Hospital, Gig Harbor
- St. Clare Hospital, Lakewood
- St. Francis Hospital, Federal Way
- St. Michael Medical Center, Silverdale

Excellence in Improvement Award

Organ: Discretionary selection from a list of the top five hospitals with the highest cumulative gains in donation rate and collaborative request rate — as well as the biggest decrease in process error rate — in the previous year.

2024 Winner:
Billings Clinic

Tissue: Discretionary selection from a list of the top five hospitals that had the highest cumulative gains in timely tissue referral rate and donation rate.

2024 Winner:
Swedish Medical Center – First Hill

End The Wait Award

Earned by hospitals who meet or exceed all End The Wait objectives: a donation rate of 75% or greater, a process error rate of 5% or less, and honoring 100% of registered donation decisions.

- Billings Clinic
- Gritman Medical Center
- St. James Healthcare
- St. Peter's Health

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Hazel Homan

ORGAN DONOR Shelton, Wash.

Hazel's free spirit was nourished by her extended family, who introduced her to music, applauded her dance parties, and spent endless hours playing at the park or in the sand at the beach.

When Hazel died at the age of 3, her family made the heroic decision to donate her organs and save three other children. Her bright, bubbly spirit still lives on in

her recipients and in the hearts and minds of her loving grandparents, aunt and uncle, and cousins who adored her.

"This decision made me hold onto my faith, motivated me to do what I needed to do to honor Hazel," said her aunt, Ashlee. "She gave three families a Christmas miracle."