



2008 Highlights

Families are never prepared to expect the unexpected change in the health of someone they love especially when the change is so traumatic or devastating families must face the worst possible outcome. But despite what anyone would see as a devastating moment, so many Hoosier families work through those terrible feelings of loss and pain to think of others who face a similar fate without a miracle. That miracle is organ and tissue donation a gift that is not without some irony. *"We see loss with the families we work with but we also see hope,"* said Rodney Spangler, RN, Director of Family Services at Indiana Organ Procurement Organization, (IOPO) *"and the irony is there can be a kind of transformation in their feelings, attitude and because they're thinking of other families facing loss and they find hope in knowing their loved one's gifts are creating miracles for others. It's a remarkable kind of humanity."*

In 2008, **IOPO worked with nearly 800 organ and tissue donors** throughout Indiana to create miracles of life, health and healing for hundreds of patients. **138 people offered the gift of life in Indiana resulting in 441 organs being transplanted. 642 patients donated tissues** for a wide variety of surgical procedures including cardiovascular, joint and soft tissue repair, ophthalmic surgery, bone and skin grafts. *"What's amazing to see is the transformation organ and tissue donation can make in people whose organs are failing, or who have been injured, or whose body has been compromised by disease. The science of donation and transplantation continues to offer the best outcome and quality of life for patients with end-stage organ failure, and donated tissues are healing thousands each year,"* said Lynn Driver, President and CEO of IOPO.

In March, more than 20 of Indiana's leading hospitals will join IOPO for a two-day conference to discuss last years' donation outcomes and look to the future to ensure more lives can be saved. *"In recent years we've had attendance of more than 200 healthcare professionals from across Indiana join us to better understand how the organ and tissue donation and transplantation process works and their critical role in its success,"* according to Sam Davis, Director of Professional Services and Public Affairs for IOPO. *"This year we'll offer an emphasis on pediatric donation and how physicians, nurses, chaplains, social workers and IOPO staff can help reduce the chances of a child dying waiting for a transplant" Davis said. "Children aren't just little adults and the clinical care of potential donors and recipients as well as the emotional care needed for families is complex."*