**Hospital Champions for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation Recognized during Ohio Hospital Association Annual Meeting**

*Grand Lake Health System, Genesis HealthCare System–Bethesda, MetroHealth System and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center honored as Platinum Partners*

Columbus, OH (June 11, 2013) – More than 170 Ohioans died in 2012 when a lifesaving organ could not be found in time for transplant. Tonight, Donate Life Ohio, the Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) and the Ohio Department of Health’s Second Chance Trust Fund recognized 57 Ohio hospitals that are working to decrease that number during 2013 by participating in the 2012-2013 Hospital Champions program, aimed at increasing organ, eye and tissue donor registration. The hospitals were recognized during the 2013 OHA Annual Meeting.

“Currently, more than 114,000 people nationwide – more than 3,400 of them from Ohio – await a lifesaving organ transplant,” said Dr. Theodore Wymyslo, director of the Ohio Department of Health. “Collectively, the 57 Hospital Champions we recognized tonight sponsored more than 750 activities and programs to educate Ohio communities about organ, eye and tissue donation. By registering new donors, these institutions will save lives and help reduce the time critically ill patients must wait for a second chance at life.”

Four hospitals received Platinum Partner status, including Grand Lake Health System of St. Marys, Genesis HealthCare System–Bethesda of Zanesville, MetroHealth System of Cleveland and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center of Columbus. Platinum Partners are lauded for their exceptional donation advocacy.

“Research shows that hospitals are one of the most credible sources for information on donation and donor registration,” said Mike Abrams, OHA president and CEO. “With more than 350,000 people working in Ohio hospitals, we have the potential to significantly increase donor registration and thus save lives. We commend and thank all of this year’s partners, and invite every Ohio hospital and transplant center to join us for the 2013-2014 program, which kicks off today.”

Hospital Champions were recognized in four categories based on their size and advocacy activities:

### 2012-2013 Hospital Champions

**Platinum Partners**
- Grand Lake Health System, Small Hospital
- Genesis HealthCare System–Bethesda, Community/Midsize Hospital
- MetroHealth System, Large Hospital
- The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Transplant Center

**Gold Partners**
- Barnesville Hospital, Small Hospital
- Berger Health System, Small Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic, Transplant Center
- East Ohio Regional Hospital, Small Hospital
- Fairfield Medical Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
- Fayette County Memorial Hospital, Small Hospital
- Grant Medical Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
- Lake Health, Community/Midsize Hospital
Magruder Hospital, Small Hospital
Miami Valley Hospital, Transplant Center
ProMedica Toledo Hospital & Toledo Children’s Hospital, Large Hospital
Riverside Methodist Hospital, Large Hospital
St. Elizabeth Health Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
St. Rita's Medical Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, Large Hospital
The Bellevue Hospital, Small Hospital
University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Transplant Center
University of Toledo Medical Center, Transplant Center
Wilson Memorial Hospital, Small Hospital

Silver Partners
Fulton County Health Center, Small Hospital
ProMedica St. Luke's Hospital, Community/Midsize Hospital
St. Elizabeth Boardman Health Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
St. Joseph Health Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
The Christ Hospital, Transplant Center
Wood County Hospital, Community/Midsize Hospital

Bronze Partners
Belmont Community Hospital, Small Hospital
Community Hospitals & Wellness Centers – Bryan Hospital, Small Hospital
Fisher-Titus Medical Center, Small Hospital
Grady Memorial Hospital, Small Hospital
Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center, Small Hospital

Participating Partners
Adena Health System, Community/Midsize Hospital
Aultman Hospital, Large Hospital
Aultman Orrville Hospital, Small Hospital
Bethesda North Hospital, Community/Midsize Hospital
Bucyrus Community Hospital, Small Hospital
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Transplant Center
Dublin Methodist Hospital, Small Hospital
Galion Community Hospital, Small Hospital
Good Samaritan Hospital, Community/Midsize Hospital
Grandview Medical Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
Marietta Memorial Hospital, Community/Midsize Hospital
Marion General Hospital, Community/Midsize Hospital
Mercy Allen Hospital, Small Hospital
Mercy Medical Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
Mount Carmel East, Community/Midsize Hospital
Mount Carmel New Albany Surgical Hospital, Small Hospital
Mount Carmel St. Ann's, Community/Midsize Hospital
Mount Carmel West, Community/Midsize Hospital
Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Transplant Center
Northside Medical Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
Southern Ohio Medical Center, Small Hospital
Sycamore Medical Center, Community/Midsize Hospital
Union Hospital, Community/Midsize Hospital
ABOUT DONATE LIFE OHIO
Donate Life Ohio is a coalition of the state’s organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies dedicated to educating Ohioans about the need for organ and tissue donation. In this effort to increase donor registrations, they are joined by the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program. For more information, please visit www.DonateLifeOhio.org.

ABOUT SECOND CHANCE TRUST FUND
Through contributions made by individuals at Ohio’s BMVs while receiving or renewing their Ohio driver’s licenses or state identification cards, the Second Chance Trust Fund finances educational and action-oriented campaigns like the Green Chair campaign. A $1 contribution supports donation education in Ohio and gives hope to thousands of Ohioans waiting for a second chance through organ, eye and tissue donation.

ABOUT OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
OHA Boilerplate needed.

OHA was established in 1915 and currently represents 167 hospitals and 19 health systems throughout Ohio. OHA is a membership-driven organization that collaborates with member hospitals and health systems to ensure a healthy Ohio. In 2012 Ohio hospitals contributed $73 billion to Ohio’s economy and provided $3.1 billion in community benefits. For more information, visit OHA’s website.

CONTACT
Fahlgren Mortine, on behalf of Donate Life Ohio and Second Chance Trust Fund
Jennifer Fening
614.383.1623 office / 614.309.4147 cell
jennifer.fening@fahlgren.com

Ohio Hospital Association
John Palmer
614.221.7614 office / 614.314.3822 cell
johnp@ohanet.org

OHIO ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS
LifeCenter Organ Donor Network, Cincinnati
Andi O’Malley, Director of Public Affairs
513.558.5555 office / 513.315.1785 cell

Lifebanc, Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Youngstown
Heather Mekesa, Director of Hospital and Community Services
216.752.5433 office / 216.392.1098 cell

Lifeline of Ohio, Columbus
Marilyn Pongonis, Director of Communications
614.384.7330 office / 614.580.0393 cell

Life Connection of Ohio, Dayton
Cathi Arends, Director of Community Relations
937.223.8223 office / 937.657.5596 cell

Life Connection of Ohio, Toledo
Kara Steele, Director of Community Relations
419.893.1618 office / 419.367.9958 cell