



Connections

Volume 9 Issue 1 Spring 2006

Welcome to Connections News and notes for donor families

Spotlight on the DFN Trustees – Eddy & Karen Crouth



Eddy is 50 years old; he has worked at Rugeley Power Station in the maintenance department since leaving school.

Karen is 46 years old and is currently a Logistics Manager for a local company that produces Rubber components mainly for the automotive industry.

They have been married for 22 years and have a daughter called Kimberlee, some of you who have attended the Service of Thanksgiving may remember Kimberlee for playing “Somewhere over the Rainbow” on her saxophone.

Eddy & Karen lost their son Edmund on 1st December 1999, he was 14 ½ year old. Edmund became a multi-organ donor following a brain haemorrhage.

Eddy & Karen were introduced to David Nix at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, they were there to share their experience on a training day that had been organised by Susan Richards the Transplant co-ordinator that had guided them through the donation process.

Over the following months Karen, Eddy & Kimberlee became more involved in the Donor Family Network.

We would like to say that we have made many friends and have received a great deal of help, support and comfort from our association with the DFN. In the words of one of our son’s favourite songs it has helped us to “Always look on the bright side of Life” It is a tribute to Edmund that we will continue to do what we do.

AGM

This year’s AGM will take place after the Precious Gift Service on 9th July. We will meet for about an hour after the refreshments (please see venue on flyer). The agenda is attached to the newsletter and all current officers are willing to stand for re-election. Please let us know if you have any nominations for officers by 24th June.

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Patron Lady Heather Mills McCartney

Quilt

The Quilt will be on display during the Transplant Torch Relay (check dates attached). We continue to receive squares to make up the second panel, so please check the template attached to the newsletter and let us know if you need any help.

Children's quilt

The first children's quilt is about to be made up. If any of your children attended the Gathering last year and made a square we would like them to write a story about the square. Please ask them to write about 100 words on what the square means to them and send it or e-mail it to The Network

Transplant Games 2006

The organising committee for this year's Games want donor families to be more involved. The Games open on Thursday 17th August in the evening at Bath. There is a parade of athletes through the streets, each hospital team carrying a banner. This year there will be a banner for donor families and we will be provided with Games t-shirts. The committee also want donor families to present medals during the 3 days of the Games and at the sports stadium on 20th August. If you think you would like to be part of any of these events please ring us on 0121 3577271 to let us know. The Games finish on the Sunday night with a Gala dinner and we would be pleased to see donor families join us for this event. Please contact us if you are interested.

Website

The Donor Family Network website is up and running with new pages being added each week. Please take a look at www.donorfamilynetwork.co.uk Let us have any suggestions for additional pages and any comments you may have. This website has been funded by a Section 64 grant there will be resources available such as bereavement leaflets, recipient stories, professional pages, information and eventually we will have a butterfly farm where you can pick a butterfly and add your loved ones name as a permanent memorial.

Cluster leaders

After our last newsletter we had 7 families interested in being cluster leaders. We are offering them training 'supporting bereaved families'. This will take place on 12th May in Birmingham. If you would like to consider being a cluster leader in your area please let us know.

Every Click.com

We are signed up to receive money from a new search engine, <http://www.everyclick.com/uk/donorfamilynetwork> Please make this your home page and every time you search you will be making money for DFN. If you make a purchase from this link then a percentage of the costs also go to DFN.

Human Tissue Act

The new amendments to the Human Tissue Act become law in the next few months. One worrying element of the Act is the removal of bodies for tissue donation to a dedicated centre at Liverpool. This would mean that families would be separated from their loved ones for at least a 24-hour period at a most traumatic time. Alongside other donor organizations, Donor Family Network has voiced strong opposition to this practice.

Resources for donor families

We are producing bereavement booklets for new donor families from the Section 64 funding we have for 3 years. These will be in the form of a glossy folder with several booklet inserts containing information on things such as brain stem death, what can be donated, who to contact after the death, funerals and religious practices. We have consulted with local co-ordinators and we will present the booklets to donor co-ordinators nation wide. They can give them out to families before they leave the hospital. We will also be putting the booklets on the website. We would like some families to look at the booklets to see if it would have met your need for information at the time of donation. Please let us know if you would like to see them before we have them printed.

Transplant Torch Relay

This year's relay starts in Leicester and runs for 12 days finishing at the Transplant Games at Bath. The relay route is attached and more details about the times and venues will appear in the next newsletter. Please let us know if you are able to help sign people onto the donor register on any of these dates.

Tributes

Kevin Owen
16.11.66–07.01.



Steven Masefield
15.02.1983–27.01.92



Precious Gift Services

We have 2 services this year at either end of National Transplant week, 9th July in Birmingham and the 15th July in Bolton. There are flyers for the services with contact details at the end of the newsletter. Please join us for these moving tributes to donor families.

E-mail addresses

Please let us know if you have an e-mail address. This makes it so much easier for us to keep in contact with you and for you to let us know about any concerns or queries you may have. Also please let us know if you change your e-mail address.

Route of the Donor Bus for the TRANSPLANT TORCH RELAY 2006

Wednesday 9 th August	LEICESTER
Thursday 10 th August	COVENTRY
Friday 11 th August	WALSALL
Saturday 12 th August	WOLVERHAMPTON
Sunday 13 th August	WORCHESTER
Monday 14 th August	GLOUCESTER
Tuesday 15 th August	CARDIFF
Wednesday 16 th August	BRISTOL
Thursday 17 th August	BATH <i>OPENING OF THE BATH GAMES</i>
Friday 18 th August	SWINDON
Saturday 19 th August	BRISTOL
Sunday 20 th August	BATH <i>UNIVERSITY OF BATH GAMES</i>

Exact locations to follow soon.



THE DONOR FAMILY NETWORK INVITES YOU TO MAKE PATCHES OF LOVE

The Donor Family quilt is a tribute to those who have given the Gift of Life through organ and tissue donation. Each square is unique and is designed by a donor family to recognise and remember their loved ones as a visual display of love and living.

THE BRITISH DONOR FAMILY QUILT

We would like to invite donor families to submit a square to the British Quilt. Each patch must be 7 inches (18.5cms) square with an additional border of 2 inches (5.6cms) to sew into the quilt (making a total of 9 inches or 23.5cms). You may use any colour or fabric but do not finish the patch with quilting or backing. The material could be a piece of fabric from a favourite garment e.g. shirt, jeans etc. Any medium can be used to create the patch including crayons, paints, threads, glitter or you can have a photograph put onto the material. You may wish to do a collage of lots of bits of treasured materials. Please feel free to include the name of your loved one and the dates of birth and death, if you wish. The squares do not need to be fancy, just special to the person designing it.

To accompany the square please write a story of about 100 words sharing your quilt square design, it's meaning and how participation in the quilt project has helped you. These stories are being collected for a book, 'Stories From the Quilt'. There is no timescale for your patch, as the first 25 squares are made up into the first panel so the next will be started. Each panel will be left unfinished to remember all the donors, still to come, who will give the 'Gift of Life'.

When finished the Quilt will be used to spread the message of organ

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Registered Charity Number 1098781



Symbol of hope and new life

Donor Family Network



THE PRECIOUS GIFT 2006

A SERVICE OF HOPE AND THANKSGIVING TO MARK
THE START OF NATIONAL TRANSPLANT WEEK

FOR DONOR AND RECIPIENT FAMILIES, PROFESSIONALS AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

SUNDAY 9th JULY 2006 2PM

ST MARGARETS CHURCH
CHAPEL LANE GREAT BARR BIRMINGHAM

FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, CHAPEL LANE

JUNCTION 7 M6 – A34 TOWARDS WALSALL. FIRST INTERSECTION ON THE RIGHT (CHAPEL LANE) PAST THE FORTE POSTHOUSE – CHURCH 400 YARDS ON THE RIGHT (PARKING ON THE ROAD OR BEHIND THE CHURCH)

Telephone: 0121 357 7271 www.donorfamilynetwork.co.uk

Email: donorfamilynetwork@btinternet.com

Donor Family Network



The Gift of Life Multi-faith Service

The multi-faith service extends a welcome to all. Representatives from Christian, Muslim, Hindu & Jewish faiths will be present. Guest speakers from organ donor families, recipients together with hospital staff.

Sunday 16th July 2006 at 2pm

St. Stephen, Kearsley Moor, Bolton

Refreshments will be served after the service.

The Church is easily found on the A666 Manchester Road just 800 yards from the Kearsley Roundabout junction. Parking will be available in St. Stephen School. Exact details can be obtained from www.streetmap.co.uk

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The Donor Family Network Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.30pm on Sunday 9th July 2005 at the Memorial Hall, Chapel Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham

AGENDA

1 Welcome and Apologies for absence

2 Previous AGM minutes

3 Matters arising:

- Interest on bank account

Donor Bus

4 *Chairman's annual report*

5 Treasurer's report

6 Election of officers

7 Section 64 grants

Cluster leaders

9 Website

10 Funding opportunities

11 Any Other Business:

12 Close of meeting

Nominations for officers and Trustees are welcome by June 24th Currently, the officers are:

Chairman	David Nix	Treasurer	Karen Crouth
Vice-Chairman	Eddy Crouth	Secretary	Jane Nix
Trustee	Pauline Weaver	Trustee	Kath Lewis



Snowdrops

The snowdrops bloom - and yet I know,
That born of wind and rain,
These flowers - so like the driven snow
Are part of joy and pain.

For joy and pain have each a part,
Within our lives to play,
And smiles and tears come to the heart,
Most every passing day.

And, if perchance the pain should be,
Almost too much to bear,
May some sad heart, within my life,
Find snowdrops grow there.

Marilyn Buckley