

Message from Dr. Boessmann

Many thanks for coming to our website.

I am a veterinarian and along with Eugene C. Epstein, co-project developer of Project Organ Donor (formerly known as Project Donor).

The core tenet of the Project, using the gift of a life insurance policy to both stimulate organ donations *and* say thank you to people who sign donor cards is solely Gene's idea. Gene's brother was a heart transplant recipient. I seem to remember Gene telling me he woke up in the middle of the night with this idea (which would be just like him) and he has been actively promoting the idea ever since. He gave birth to this Project and without him Project Organ Donor would not exist. I often jokingly remark that the *only* thing wrong with his idea is that I didn't think of it myself. Thank you.

As you will see, the Project's report was completed in June 1998 and as such the charts, statistics, and resulting numerical conclusions are applicable to that date. However, from the perspective of the current numbers, the organ donation shortage is even more dire and the need to act is more urgent. The concepts elucidated in the report are just as valid now as then. Richard M. DeVos is a heart transplant recipient and is also actively involved in promoting Project Organ Donor. Please click on the link for his position paper and proposal which also have more current statistics.

The goal of this website is two-fold. The first is to bring Project Organ Donor to the attention of the citizens of the United States, both to those who are connected in some way with organ transplantation and to those who are not. I would particularly implore those individuals and family members who are on the waiting list for an organ, those who have had a transplant, and the family members who have been involved with what is truly the gift of life - donation - to carefully read all of the documents herein and consider all of the dramatic benefits.

The second goal is to initially gather 100,000 email signatures from the people of this nation who care about the shortage of organs for transplantation. We will bring them to the United States Congress and the President, asking for the passage of legislation institutionalizing the tenets of the Project.

Implementation of Project Organ Donor will save billions of dollars, with the most obvious and important benefit, saving the lives of those who are currently dying while waiting for an organ. I know . . . I am a liver transplant recipient.