



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
New Providence, N.J.

For information: Terese Kelly
Rosica Public Relations
terese@rosica.com
P: 201.843.5600
C: 973-722-2482

John Valentine
NJ Sharing Network
JValentine@njsharingnetwork.org

NJ SHARING NETWORK KICKS OFF 5K CELEBRATION OF LIFE IN BERGEN COUNTY

Local non-profit raises awareness of organ and tissue donation and honors organ donors and transplant recipients through annual event

PARAMUS, NJ – For the third consecutive year, the family of organ and tissue donor, Robert "Bob" Ehrentraut, will be participating in NJ Sharing Network's 5K Celebration of Life. Husband, father and dear friend, Bob passed away in 2014 and his legacy lives in those to whom he was able to give the gift of life. His family and friends, hailing from Hawthorne, NJ, better known as "Bob's Brigade," will be joining thousands of others in this year's 5K Celebration of Life to celebrate Bob and honor other New Jersey organ and tissue donors and transplant recipients.

NJ Sharing Network, the non-profit organization responsible for the recovery of organs and tissue for over 4,000 New Jersey residents awaiting life-saving transplants, kicks off its 5K Celebration on Sunday, April 2 at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Rd, Paramus, NJ. Every year, the 5K Celebration of Life brings together thousands of walkers, runners and volunteers in support of NJ Sharing Network's life-saving mission.

“The 5K Celebration of Life is an amazing look into the many families and friends who have been touched by organ and tissue donation,” said NJ Sharing Network President and CEO, Joe Roth. “The support, dedication and hope of our participants, volunteers, transplant recipients, donor families and community partners is inspirational.”

Others, like the Ehrentraut family, have many reasons to honor, remember and give hope by participating in the upcoming 5K Celebration of Life:

- Kathy Phillippi’s husband, Walter “Wally,” gave the gift of tissue donation after passing away in 2014. The Phillippi family participated in NJ Sharing Network’s 5K Celebration of Life for the first time that year to celebrate Wally’s gift. Shortly after, Kathy’s sister, Margaret “Marji” Serra, passed away. However, Marji was given over 20 extra years of life thanks to a kidney transplant she had received.
- Megan Goggin, of Paramus, suffered from E. coli at the age of three, which led to her dealing with kidney issues until she was 19. After visiting multiple nephrologists, she was finally listed for a transplant and received a kidney in 2005.

NJ Sharing Network hopes to raise \$1.25 million this year. The event supports the Foundation’s mission of increasing the number of lives saved through innovative transplant research, family support, education and public awareness about organ and tissue donation. Additional locations for the 5K Celebration of Life include the Great Lawn at the Ocean Promenade in Long Branch, NJ on Sunday, May 7 (5K Walk & USATF Certified Race) and the organization’s headquarters in New Providence, NJ on June 4 (5K Walk & USATF Certified Race).

Celebrating 30 years of saving lives, NJ Sharing Network achieved another record-breaking year by making 613 transplants possible in 2016, a 16 percent increase from 2015. Tissue donation also broke records with a 10 percent increase from the previous year.

Today, there are over 120,000 people waiting for a transplant and 22 die each day, but one donor can save eight lives and one tissue donor can restore health to over 75 others. In New Jersey, one person dies every three days waiting for an organ transplant.

New Jersey residents can help save a life by registering as an organ and tissue donor, having a conversation with family and friends and joining NJ Sharing Network at its upcoming

events. To learn more, sign up for the 5K Celebration of Life and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org.

About NJ Sharing Network

NJ Sharing Network saves lives through organ and tissue donation. Located in New Providence, the organization recovers organs and tissue and belongs to a national network that helps the 120,000 people waiting for a transplant. In 2016, more lives were saved than ever before. Thanks to the selflessness of New Jersey organ donors and their families who said yes to donation, 613 people are alive today. This year, the organization is celebrating 30 years of saving lives.