



NEWS RELEASE

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5K CELEBRATION OF LIFE ATTENDEES BRAVED THE WEATHER TO SUPPORT NJ SHARING NETWORK'S LIFE-SAVING MISSION

NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ – Despite the rain, about 10,000 participants attended NJ Sharing Network's Annual 5K Celebration of Life Walk and USATF Certified Race on Sunday, June 5 at the organization's headquarters in New Providence, NJ. The organization has raised one million dollars so far and hopes to raise \$1.25 million to increase the number of lives saved through research, donor family support, education and public awareness about the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Among the thousands of participants was Brenda Biscardi, 63, of Morris Plains. Brenda received a life-saving heart transplant on November 19, 2015 and attended her first 5K Sunday, proudly crossing the finish line with her sister, Connie Hagelin, and husband, Mike.

"Sometimes when you think things will never change and then they do, you become thankful for every little thing and then you realize these are not small things at all, they are the biggest things ever," said Ms. Biscardi. "I could not be more grateful for the life I am now living because of my new heart and I will do my best to honor the gift I have been blessed to receive."

NJ Sharing Network's Annual 5K Celebration of Life brings together thousands of walkers, runners and volunteers to honor those who gave the gift of life, pay tribute to those who have received a transplant, offer hope to those waiting for a transplant and remember those who died while waiting for the gift of life.

"Every year we are humbled by the outpouring of support towards our life-saving mission," said NJ Sharing Network President and CEO, Joe Roth. "This year proved it again as the rain couldn't stop our participants, sponsors and volunteers from celebrating the gift of life together. Special thanks to the town of New Providence whose help makes this event possible."

The day started with a USATF Certified 5K Race won by Collin Frost of Randolph and Ali Niles of Montclair, the top male and female finishers respectively. The rest of the day consisted of a speaking program, 5K walk and exciting activities for all ages. Participants could be seen enjoying the food, reading the inspirational stories posted throughout the event site, taking photos with Z100's Greg T and even dancing in the rain.

The 2016 5K Celebration of Life events kicked off on April 24 at Bergen Community College and will conclude with a 5K Walk/Run on Sunday, August 21 at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. Event registration is now available online for this event. Contributions toward all three events can be made as late as the fall.

Today, there are over 122,000 people waiting for a transplant and 22 die each day while waiting for a transplant, but one donor can save eight lives and one tissue donor can enhance the lives of over 50 people. In New Jersey, there are 5,000 people on the waiting list and one person dies every three days waiting.

New Jersey residents can help save lives by registering as organ and tissue donors at www.NJSharingNetwork.org, talking about it with their families and friends and joining NJ Sharing Network at its next 5K Celebration of Life event.

About NJ Sharing Network

NJ Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally designated organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for New Jersey residents in need of life-saving transplants. NJ Sharing Network partners with Donate Life America, a not-for-profit national alliance that drives communities to increase their numbers of registered donors. NJ Sharing Network honors those who gave, pays tribute to those who received, offers hope to those who continue to wait, and remembers the lives lost while waiting for the gift of life.