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## Donor Report

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## Organ Donors Save Lives

(Harrison) – North Arkansas Regional Medical Center and ARORA (Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency) partner together to save lives everyday. ARORA is a non-profit, independent organ procurement agency headquartered in Little Rock, AR.

In 2009 NARMC had one organ referral, one tissue donor which enhanced almost 100 lives and one eye donor which restored sight to two Arkansans. NARMC's tissue consent rate is 39% and the eye donation consent rate is at 60%, both of which are well above the national average.

Despite widespread support for organ donation, a severe shortage in the number of organs donated exists. Around 100,000 Americans are on a waiting list for kidney, heart, liver, or other vital organs, and another person is added to that list every 16 minutes. Statistics reveal that 12-15 of those individuals will die each day while waiting for an available organ.

Estimates indicate that more than 25,000 American die each year under circumstances that would allow them to become organ donors, but an average of only about 5,000 a year actually donate. The biggest reason for not donating is lack of education about the subject. A single, multi-organ donor can provide as many as seven organs – heart, liver, two kidneys, two lungs, and a pancreas, for transplantation – as well as tissue, including corneas, heart valves, skin and bone.

If you wish to become an organ donor, indicate your wish when renewing your driver's license. Most importantly, share your decision with family members so they can assist recovery staff. For more information on organ donation call ARORA at 1-866-660-5433, or write ARORA at 1701 Aldersgate Road, Suite 4, Little Rock, AR 72205.