

# ***News From The Northland***

Volume 24, Number 1

January - March 2017



[www.holsg.org](http://www.holsg.org)

## **Tuesday, January 10: 7:00 PM: Open Meeting**

Open discussion for issues, topics, questions, or concerns that need to be addressed. Our meetings are set up to have a program every other month, and the next month to be an open meeting. This gives us an opportunity to share, ask questions, or discuss situations, news, or upcoming events.

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Solicitation: If you have suggestions for speaker subjects, or have a speaker available

Please contact [glennpete5@msn.com](mailto:glennpete5@msn.com); or 218-879-5758

***Meeting at Miller-Dwan Medical Center***

***502 E 2nd Street Duluth, MN***

***7:00 to 9:00 P.M.***

***Classroom 2 & 3 - Lobby Level***

Providing a loving, caring , educational network of support for those waiting or having received an organ/tissue transplant and their families. Web Site: [www.holsg.org](http://www.holsg.org)

## “News & Notes”

### Happy Birthday and Best Wishes:

Marlene Anderson	Liver	1/5/2004
David Seim	Kidney	1/8/1996
John Cope	Liver	1/14/2003
Lynn Gressman	Liver	1/15/2003
Eathan Skare	Liver	1/25/1991
Mike Albers	Liver	1/29/1993
Karla Hanson	Kid / Pan	2/2/1997
Dick Huhta	Kidney	2/8/1996
Dennis Trump	Heart	2/22/1990
Beth Bartlett	Heart	2/24/1994
Julianne Vasichak	Liver	2/28/2015
Thomas Peterson	Heart	3/4/1999
Gregg Lind	Islet Cells	3/5/2005
Lois Vidmar	Liver	3/8/2006
Heidi Ash	Heart	3/9/2000
Dick Albert	Heart	3/14/1995
Judy Wateczak	Liver	3/16/2009
Tyler Jersett	Lung	3/18/2013
Glenn Peterson	Hrt/Kid	3/23/2003
James Suchan	Kidney	3/26/2012

### News and Presentations:

#### **Thank You For The Monetary Donations:**

Doug Fifield

#### Presentations:

Upcoming Events: March 11: Women's Expo; DECC  
January 20-21: Arrowhead EMS Conference; DECC

Apple Inc, in collaboration with Donate Life America makes it easy to register for organ, tissue and eye donation. Apple's ios10 operating system has an App called Health whereby all registrations on this site are submitted to the National Life Registry which is managed by Donate life America.

### Cares and Prayers For:

Mary Jacobson— multiple debilitating nerve issues.



Marisa Hoogenakker— Liver Transplant  
January 6th

### Bone Marrow Donation Saves Lives:

People that need bone marrow often have blood disorders or diseases that affect the immune system, such as leukemia, lymphoma, or anemia. These people need the transplant because their bone marrow is not able to make healthy stem cells, or because bone marrow may not be able to regrow following chemotherapy. A bone marrow transplant can help the body make blood cells the body needs to fight infections, anemia, and bleeding. Although the process is called bone marrow transplant, it's actually the blood forming stem cells within bone marrow that benefit the transplant recipient. Bone marrow stem cells can develop into red blood cells that carry oxygen in the body, platelets that help clot, or white blood cells that fight infections. Current research shows that bone marrow donations from people between the ages of 18 and 44 lead to more successful transplants. However, people can donate up to the age of 60. If a donor has children that would make the donor less likely to be chosen to donate. Research has shown that donations from people who have children increase the risk to recipients to have chronic graft versus host disease which results in rejection. The donation process is not simple. Peripheral blood donation (Bone Marrow Donation) requires the donor to take growth factor drugs and collection on an apheresis machine. Once qualified to be a donor, you may be able to donate multiple times. To be considered as a donor visit [bethematch.org](http://bethematch.org) to learn more about the process. There is a small fee to join the registry, but if chosen to be a donor you have the potential to save a person's life.

### Hope For Spinal Injury Patients:

Australian researchers have created a bionic spinal cord which could give paralyzed people the possibility of walking again through the process of thought, without invasive surgery. The system uses a device the size of a paper clip implanted in the brain. The stent-based electrode records the brain activity needed for movement and this would be translated into commands to control wheelchairs, exoskeletons, prosthetic limbs or computers. The research will result in the first human trial to be conducted at The Royal Melbourne Hospital this year, 2017. This step culminates the work done, which shows that the device records high quality signals emitted from the brain motor cortex, transmitted to the device to be controlled, without the need for invasive surgery. Brain-machine interface research is the main area of investigation in paralysis treatment. US Scientists have successfully transferred brain thought through a computer to manipulate the arm of a fully sedated monkey. German researchers have enabled a paralyzed woman to lift a drink to her lips with a thought controlled robotic arm. This process may someday be used to treat epilepsy, depression, and Parkinson's. In essence, this is a bionic spinal cord!

Bells For Life: The Bells For Life Program originated in drivers license bureaus in South Carolina. Each time a customer said “yes” and designated their decision to become a donor and/or gave the \$2 contribution for organ, eye, or tissue donation education, they were given the opportunity to ring a bell. The program in South Carolina increased donor designations by 16% and increased monetary contributions by 62%. St Louis County has been chosen to be the pilot region in Minnesota. Bells are available in Cook, Duluth, Ely, Floodwood, Hibbing, and Virginia drivers license offices. Hopefully the program is successful so it can be expanded to the rest of Minnesota. So, next time you go to the DMV look for the bell!

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