

Voyage for Life Sets Sail to Encourage Organ Donation

MINNEAPOLIS, MN and SAN DIEGO, CA /Send2Press Newswire/ – Organ Donation for Life, Inc. (www.organ-donation-for-life.com) today announced that Voyage for Life 2005 will embark from San Diego, California in April of this year. Captain Ardell Lien, a heart/kidney transplant recipient, will solo circumnavigate his small sailing vessel around the world to increase awareness about the urgent need for organ donation.

“Voyage for Life is designed to demonstrate that recovery from transplant surgery can be complete and hopefully to encourage more folks to become donors,” says Lien. “We believe that nothing inspires people to become a donor like talking with someone who was on their deathbed, and is now a healthy and productive person thanks to transplant surgery.”

“This is a medical crisis that doesn’t require millions of dollars in research and development to address. The technology, facilities and trained medical personal are ready and waiting, but only an increase in available organs will save the lives of the thousands on the waiting list.”

The “Gift of Life” will embark on the Voyage for Life 2005 from San Diego bound for the Torres Strait. Subsequent destinations include the Cape of Good Hope, and the Panama Canal. The trip is expected to last 11-15 months. Visitors to the Organ Donation for Life website will be able to follow the Voyage for Life through daily ship’s log updates. Future plans include touring the Gift of Life to boat shows to spread the word about the need for organ donation.

Capt Lien, who will be 70 when he sets sail in April, has a long and accomplished background in boating and sailing. He has operated commercial tuna boats, charter boats, and lived aboard the Coast Guard’s S/V Moonshadow for six years. He was diagnosed with congestive heart failure in 1998, and received a heart and a kidney transplant in 2003. Since then, he has been enjoying a full recovery and spreading the word from his ship The Gift of Life about the importance of organ donation.

Organ Donation for Life, Inc. is a Minnesota based non-profit corporation comprised of organ transplant recipients who have had successful organ transplants. Organ Donation for Life works on a local and a national level to increase awareness of the need for organ donation.

For more information please visit:
www.organ-donation-for-life.com

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