



For Immediate Release

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EAST HARTFORD PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc, Transplant Recipients Raise Flag at Town Hall

(April 5, 2016) **East Hartford, CT** – Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc was joined by town residents and organ transplant recipients Jane Andrews, Art Parker, and Eric Keegan to raise the Donate Life Flag and kick off a month of awareness about the vital importance of organ donation. East Hartford is participating in the annual Flags Across Connecticut campaign with workplaces, hospitals, and municipalities to show support for donors, recipients, and their families.

“Currently, over one million residents have a red heart on their driver’s license, showing that they are donors,” said Mayor Leclerc. “While 40% of the state’s licensed population is registered, the need is still great. Over 1,400 Connecticut residents are waiting for an organ transplant, and countless others depend on donated tissues for restored health.”

Art Parker suffered from Pulmonary Fibrosis and received a double lung transplant in 2014. He told the audience that, “donating organs is the most precious gift you can give, the gift of life.”

Eric Keegan received a live partial liver donation from his brother, Jeff, last November and said, “I just want to emphasize something that the Mayor said, that a single donor can save numerous lives.” Eric was also the beneficiary of a live donation, a procedure where a living person can give certain organs, such as part of a liver or a kidney, to recipients.

Jane Andrews, who received a kidney and a pancreas, and now volunteers her time helping her community understand the importance of organ and tissue donation, said “my favorite quote is from an unknown author, and it reads: to the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world. And that is what you are when you donate.”

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