

Cardiac Intensive Care Unit Becomes Wedding Chapel



I was standing beside my father on my wedding day not knowing what the future might hold. This may sound typical except that instead of being married in a chapel, we were gathered around my father's bed in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) at St. Francis Hospital, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Three months later, we received the call we had been praying for. A young man, who had informed his family of his wish to be an organ donor if something should happen to him, gave my father the gift of life. His kindness has touched our lives in ways I cannot fully express.

Feeling compelled to do something to increase awareness of organ and tissue donation, I created The Global Organization for Organ Donation (GOOD) and the *Circle of Life* campaign. GOOD, working in unison with Organ Procurement Organizations, newspapers, and funeral homes, strives to create an awareness campaign to thank and honor those who generously gave or have received the gift of life through organ donation and transplantation.

In the *Circle of Life* campaign, each organ, eye and tissue donor, or recipient, is honored by placing the *Circle of Life* symbol next to their obituary listing in the newspaper. In addition, each participating newspaper can place full color testimonials featuring a photograph and brief story about a donor or recipient.

Thank you for helping continue the *Circle of Life*.

Shelly Brady Koontz
Founder/President