HEART VALVES DONATION / TRANSPLANTATION

Tissue Donation Facts:
- Every death referred to OneLegacy is evaluated as a potential tissue donor.
- One tissue donor can enhance and save over 50 people.
- Over 1,000,000 people are helped annually with tissue transplantation.
- Heart valves are one of the tissues recovered for transplantation and over 100,000 heart valve procedures occur each year to repair or replace diseased or defective heart valves.
- An open casket funeral is possible after tissue donation.

Diseases / Conditions Requiring Heart Valve Replacement:
- Calcific valve stenosis, atherosclerotic valve stenosis/insufficiency, rheumatic heart disease, endocarditis, failure of prosthetic/bioprosthetic/allograft valve, infection of prosthetic/bioprosthetic valve, congenital abnormalities, such as tetralogy of fallot, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, etc.
- 95% of valve replacements are performed for mitral or aortic valves.

Heart Valve Recovery Criteria:
- Newborn (6lbs) - 60 years.
- Heart valves must be recovered within 15 hrs if the body is not refrigerated or within 24 hrs if the body is refrigerated within 12 hours of death.
- Heart valves are removed after death and require careful aseptic dissection by the removal of the right and left ventricular outflow tracts from the donor heart.
- After removal the heart valves are inspected carefully for calcification, atheroma, leaflet fenestration, leaflet thickening/thinning, hemoglobin staining and collagen changes.

Heart Valve Processing and Storage:
- Heart valves are packaged in aseptic allograft packaging.
- Processed and packaged heart valves must be stored at -100ºC or colder and have an expiration date of 5 years.

Benefit of Human Heart Valve Replacement:
- Along with skin transplant, heart valve replacement is considered a life-saving transplant.
- No need for long-term anticoagulation therapy (particularly beneficial in pediatrics and pregnant women).
- Can provide excellent hemodynamic performance due to a more natural function of the surrounding structures.

Risk of Heart Valve Replacement:
- Standard risks of open-heart surgery for infection, bleeding, stroke, heart attack.
- The surgery of a heart valve replacement is extremely complex and therefore riskier than standard open heart surgery.

24-Hour Referral of all Imminent Brain Death and Cardiac Deaths should be made to
1-800-338-6112