



**Donor Services  
of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Donor Services of Indiana (DSI) and LifeLegacy Foundation Team up for Whole Body Donation for Medical Research and Education**

Fort Wayne, IN February 15, 2010 –LifeLegacy Foundation and Donor Services of Indiana (DSI) in Fort Wayne, IN entered into an agreement effective February 1, 2010. Under the agreement DSI will become the Midwest Recovery Center for facilitating whole body donation for medical research and education.

**Whole Body Donation**

Anatomical donation for medical research and education is almost always a potential option, even when transplantation is not. Donated organs and tissues are placed with only LifeLegacy Foundation approved and reputable academic, corporate, government research, and education institutions. The organs and tissues are used for many types of disease specific research including: cancer, Alzheimer’s, dementia, diabetes, Parkinson’s, heart and neurological conditions. Areas such as biomechanics research, pharmaceutical testing, surgical implant device development, and surgical education also benefit.

Terri Tibbot, Chief Operating Officer for DSI, commented, “Whole body donation offers another avenue for families to honor the wishes of their loved one.”

**Who Can Donate**

Almost anyone can donate for medical research and education. Age, disease, or state of health does not necessarily eliminate an individual from being a donor, but can affect which tissues may be used. Infectious disease testing is done on every donor to help determine the suitability of tissue. Even those with specific diseases such as cancer,

emphysema, or heart disease can be research tissue donors. The final decision on donation acceptance will be made at the time of death.

#### Family Benefits

The donation process includes:

- Transportation of the donor from anywhere in the states of Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan to our recovery center located in Fort Wayne, IN.
  - Filing of legally-required original death certificate
  - Expedited return of cremated remains to the family for timely closure
  - Family assistance through the aftercare process
  - Summary packet to the family outlining the benefits of their loved one's gift
- No cost** is associated with donation. Donation normally takes place within 24 hours of death. After the donation process has concluded, the remaining tissue is cremated and the cremated remains are available to the family in three to six weeks. The expediency of our program makes possible a timely closure to families.

For more information, please call 1-260-749-9105 or 1-877-749-9105

#### About LifeLegacy

LifeLegacy Foundation is the first and only federally approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit research organ and tissue bank accredited by AATB. Through organ and tissue donation, LifeLegacy Foundation provides an opportunity for every person to contribute and make a difference in the advancement of medical research and education.

#### About DSI

DSI is federally approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit tissue bank accredited by AATB providing human allograft tissues and procurement services to save and enhance patients' lives. DSI provides procurement and distribution of quality tissue grafts serving donor families, physicians, hospitals and our community partners. Strict recovery procedures are used to ensure quality and safe tissue grafts for transplantation and research.

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