

Skin Donations Saving the Lives of Haitian Earthquake Victims

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network is partnering with AlloSource to help burn victims from the January 12 earthquake in Haiti. Life changes instantly when a person is severely burned, and words cannot describe the pain and suffering that is endured. That is why, Gift of Hope is committed to doing everything we can to help those in critical need to receive their lifesaving treatments and relief.

On January 26, U.S. Air Force C-130 airplanes landed in Tampa, Florida, with nine severely burned Haitian earthquake survivors who were immediately transferred to Tampa General Hospital. The following morning a message was sent out by AlloSource asking OPOs and medical professionals to help recover as much donated skin as possible to help these victims. All of AlloSource's OPO partners, including Gift of Hope, quickly responded and enough skin was recovered to help Tampa General Hospital treat these patients during weekend surgeries.

"In the midst of a horrible tragedy, the medical community has pulled together to positively help these people who have already lost and suffered so much," said Jerry Anderson, President/CEO of Gift of Hope. "As always, our mission is to save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation. Our efforts here make that mission a reality."

"Donated organs, tissues, skin, eyes and blood are truly gifts of hope made possible by selfless donors and their families who make a lasting difference by responding to an urgent need," said David Bosch, Director of Communications at Gift of Hope. "Today, these earthquake victims are recovering from life-threatening burns thanks to their donors. We urge more people to register to be donors and become a part of our critical mission."

AlloSource is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring the gift of tissue donation by developing, processing and distributing lifesaving and life-enhancing allografts for its communities. It is also one of the largest suppliers of allograft skin for burns in the nation.

To learn more about organ/tissue donation or to register to be a donor, visit www.giftofhope.org.