



**Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network
Position Paper: Organizational Relationships and Affiliations**

Adopted June 2001

The involvement of for-profit organizations in the recovery, processing or distribution of donated organs and tissues is becoming more commonplace. New concerns about the evolving implications of this reality have compelled Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network to review the role of these organizations within the donation process, specifically because of how that role may be perceived by the public and donor families. Donation is based on public trust. Recognizing such, Gift of Hope acknowledges the need to address the concerns that may exist surrounding its relationships with other organizations so that trust can be maintained.

Position

Gift of Hope encourages and promotes medical excellence in organ and tissue donation and actively supports activities that increase organ and tissue recovery and transplantation. It is also Gift of Hope's intent to honor the gifts given by donors and their families by maintaining relationships with vendors, processors, and others that reflect the deep respect that we believe is appropriate in the face of the selfless act that is donation.

Gift of Hope chooses to affiliate only with those donation- and transplantation-related organizations that allow us to remain true to our mission, vision, and values as a non-profit humanitarian organization. Gift of Hope has relationships with organizations that function in both the for-profit and not-for-profit environments. Gift of Hope supports donor families having pertinent information about these affiliations and the possible uses of their gift when considering their donation options. (See Gift of Hope's Position Paper on Informed Consent)

Gift of Hope strives to improve the quality of human life. Any organization that is directly responsible for the recovery, processing, or distribution of any organ or tissue from a Gift of Hope donor must address this core component within its philosophy/mission. Accordingly, while the clinical use of donated tissues may be difficult to determine at the time of recovery, the use of such tissues must fit within its philosophy/mission. Accordingly, while the clinical use of donated tissues may be difficult to determine at the time of recovery, the use of such tissues must fit within the concept of an accepted or evolving medical therapy with the intent to result in a valued therapy that improves the quality of human life. Gift of Hope chooses not to affiliate with companies that utilize tissues for cosmetic purposes. Gift of Hope expects all partner processors/distributors of donated tissue to utilize recovered tissues based upon true medical need.

Gift of Hope prioritizes relationships with not-for-profit organizations over relationships with for-profit organizations. However, it is sometimes necessary to affiliate with for-profit organizations in order to provide lifesaving and life-enhancing organs and tissues to the broadest spectrum of patients in need. For-profit relationships are also necessary on occasion to meet physician demand for a particular tissue. All affiliations with vendors/processors/distributors of donated organs/tissue, both for-profit and not-for-profit, will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Gift of Hope's mission is to save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation. Any company with which Gift of Hope affiliates must further that mission.
- The company has demonstrated both a commitment to act as steward of the donated organs and tissues and a recognition of the humanitarian and altruistic nature of the gift.
- The company demonstrates commitment to quality performance through participation in respected accreditation processes and by physician demand for the tissue they distribute.
- The company prioritizes distribution of transplantable tissues back to hospitals within Gift of Hope's service area.

Education Strategies

In an effort to educate healthcare professionals and the general public regarding Gift of Hope's position on involvement with for-profit organizations, we will incorporate our position paper message into all professional and public education programs and written materials. A copy of this position paper will be included on Gift of Hope's website.