

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Two Leading Mid-Atlantic Organ Procurement Organizations Announce Merger** *Washington Regional Transplant Community and The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland will serve over 9 million people in Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C.*

Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC), the nonprofit organ procurement organization (OPO) serving Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C. and three counties in suburban Maryland, and The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland (The LLF), the OPO whose service area includes 20 counties in Maryland and the city of Baltimore, recently announced they have signed a definitive agreement to merge the organizations.

Both OPOs entered this process proactively, with each organization in a position of exceptional strength both clinically and financially. As the federal regulatory landscape continues to shift for OPOs, this decision reflects an exceptional opportunity to bring together collective expertise, resources, and offerings, to provide people in Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. with improved donation and transplant services.

"We are thrilled about what this merger will mean for our hospital and community partners, donor families and the transplant recipients we serve," said Lori E. Brigham, WRTC President & Chief Executive Officer. "Our organizations already enjoy an excellent working relationship today, through shared services like our call center for donor referrals and tissue services and joining together is a natural next step."

Daily operations and work will only grow stronger through this merger and dedicated frontline employees at both OPOs will maintain their positions. While current organizational structures may have some changes, this merger will enhance both organizations' ability to fulfill their lifesaving mission.

"Our commitment is stronger than ever in providing hope and healing to the more than 106,000 people waiting for an organ transplant," said Charlie Alexander, The LLF President and Chief Executive Officer. "We remain determined to collaborate with our communities, and healthcare colleagues both locally and nationwide to provide organs and tissues for transplantation, research and education."

A new name for the combined entity will be announced later this year. After the merger closes, Charlie Alexander will assume the role of CEO for the new organization.

The nation's 57 OPOs work in partnership with transplant centers and hospitals to decrease the number of patients waiting for a lifesaving organ. They also provide care to donor families and educate the public about organ, eye and tissue donation to increase the number of registered donors, and ultimately save more lives.

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