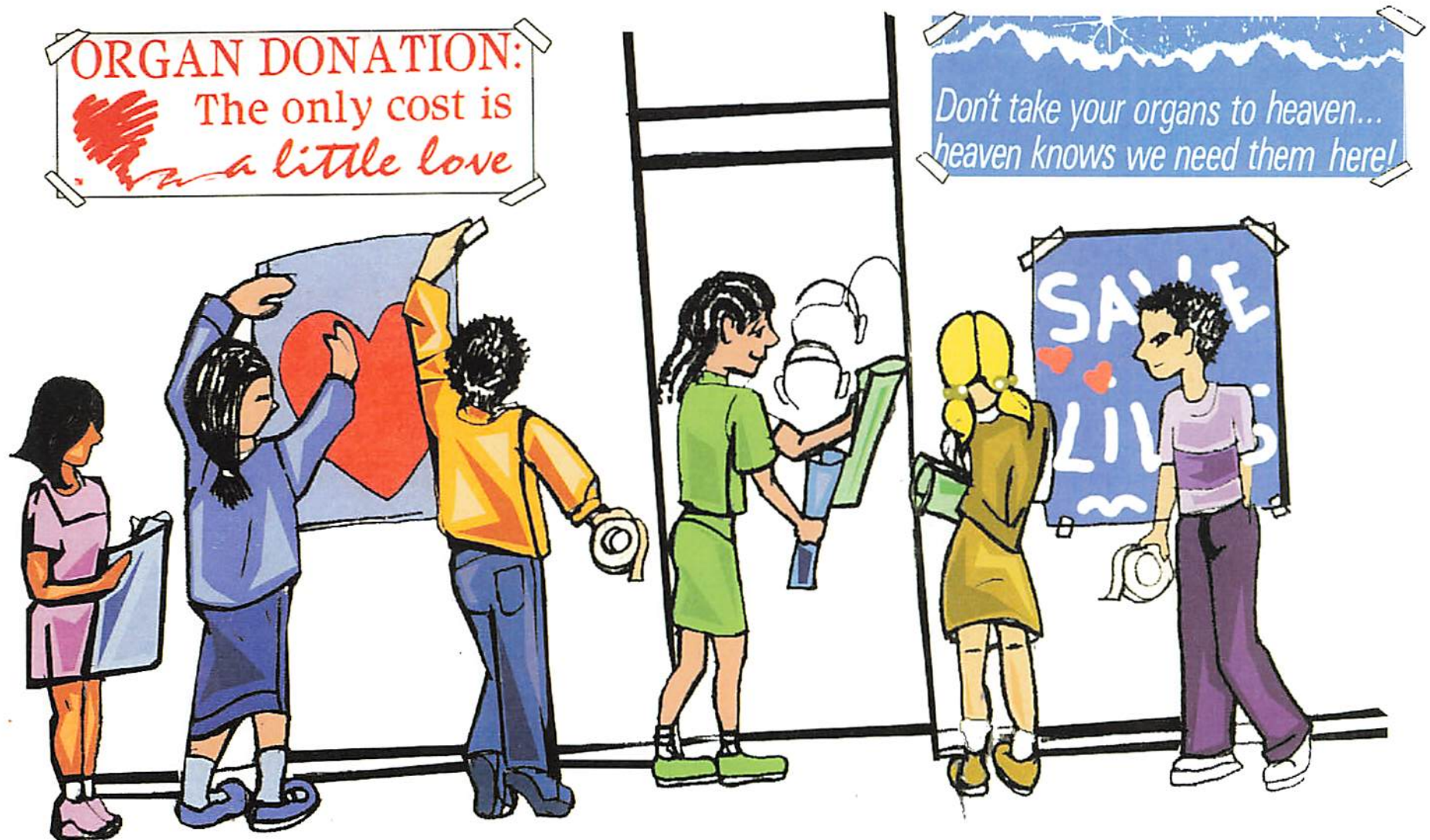


JANE'S CLASS MAKES BIG NEWS

By Lillian Caesar-Sutherland





Foreword

by

Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Surgeon General of the United States of America

It is never too early to teach our children values: values of honesty, of integrity, of helping others.

Organ and tissue donation are acts of kindness and generosity that everyone can participate in. But this will not happen unless there is increased awareness and understanding of these Gifts of Life.

This simple but elegant and heartwarming story outlines the core message of organ and tissue donation, by personalizing the need to a contemporary child. It provides a message of need, of hope, and of selfless generosity.

It is never too early to teach our children values. It is never too early to help them understand that being part of society means helping others. It is never too early to make them aware of what a simple act of kindness can do: ordinary people, accomplishing extraordinary deeds.

Read this book yourselves, share it with your children and with others. Share our life through making the decision to be organ and tissue donors, and share your decision with your loved ones.

Give the Gift of Life. It is the right thing to do.

*To the memory of Landra "Jenny" Hamid, whose fight with kidney failure
inspired me to create an awareness of the severe shortage of organs for
transplantation,*

and

*To the memory of my mother, Frances Ann Caesar, who taught me how to give.
She talked little, but said much!*



Dr. Wishburne Hunte
Nephrologist, Roy L. Schneider Hospital
St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands

ORGAN DONATION - THE GIFT OF LIFE!

(Message to adults assisting children with this book.)

As a Nephrologist, I care for patients with kidney failure. The best treatment for this disease is a kidney transplant. However, most patients must endure a life with dialysis due to a lack of available organs.

It is important that family and friends know that they can all be potential organ donors. Patients who receive a transplanted kidney usually return to a normal lifestyle and are grateful for a new lease on life. Organ donors also have normal lives with only one kidney.

The efforts of MOTTEP and Ms. Lillian Sutherland, Program Coordinator, must be applauded. This book will surely enhance the awareness of organ donation in our children for generations.

I wholeheartedly support our organ and tissue procurement program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wishburne I. Hunte, M.D.".

Wishburne I. Hunte, M.D.

JANE'S CLASS MAKES BIG NEWS

By Lillian Caesar-Sutherland

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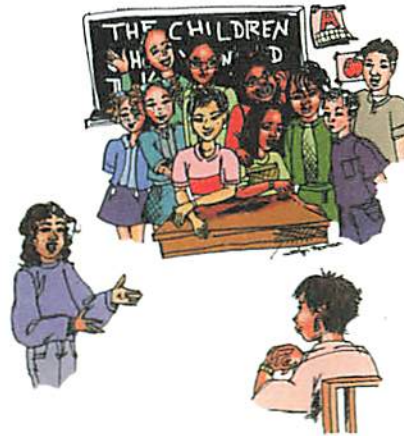
ISBN 0-9723891-1-3

Welcome to Jane's classroom.

If you have not read my first book titled, *The Children Who Wanted to Know*
I suggest you read it now!

**THE CHILDREN
WHO WANTED TO KNOW**

By Lillian Caesar-Sutherland

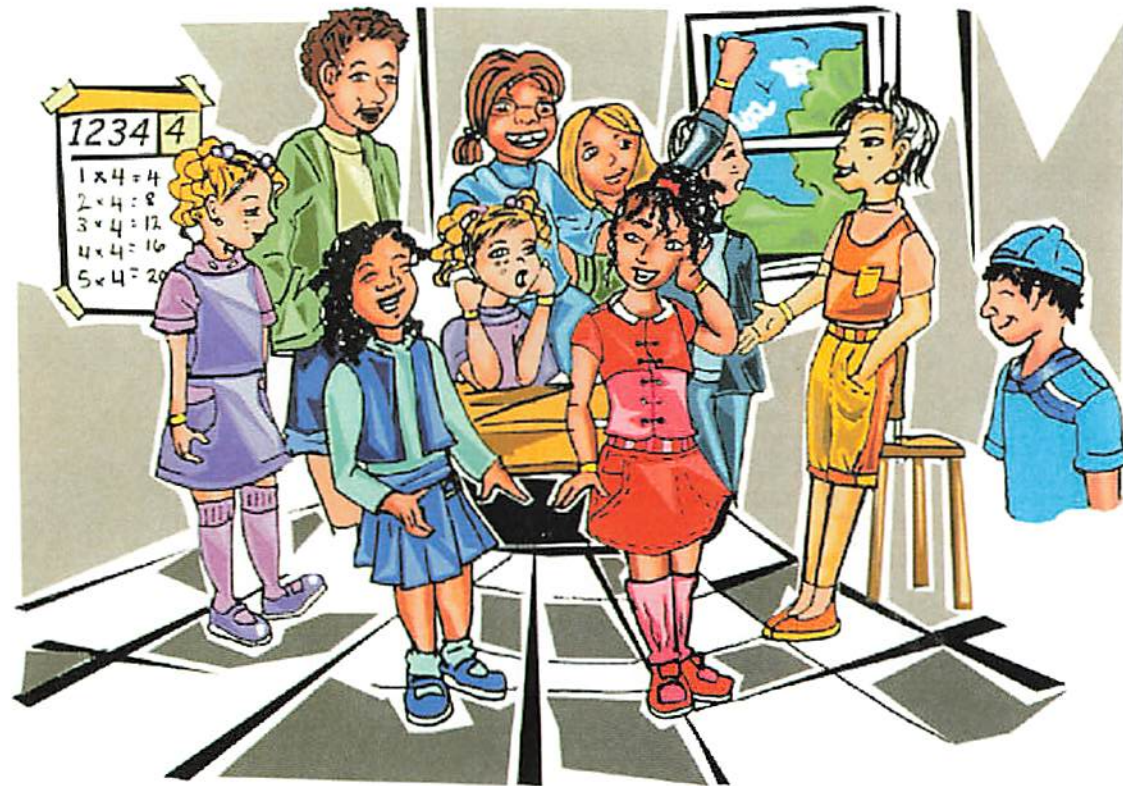


It will allow you to join the excitement in Jane's classroom from the very first day!

The children were all dressed up and eager. As their teacher Miss Reed promised, a newspaper reporter had come to their class to hear Melanie tell about a special boy who had given her a new kidney.

“Good morning children,” Melanie yelled with a big grin on her face.

“Good morning, Melanie,” the children responded without dragging their voices.



Melanie, like most kids, was enjoying being listened to. “Remember I said that my doctor told my parents I would need a new kidney?” The kids nodded. “My doctor also said that my name would have to go on a waiting list.”

“A list? You mean like a shopping list?” Jane questioned.

“Yea,” replied Melanie. “Your name goes on a list with thousands and thousands of others. When my parents heard that a new name is added to the list every thirteen minutes, they wanted to give me one of their kidneys. That way, I would not have to wait for four or five years, like many people. Most people never ever get one.”



“*A*ren’t their kidneys too big for you Melanie?” asked Tim.

Melanie responded, “Maybe, because adults’ kidneys are like, five inches long. That’s big!” The teacher took out her ruler and measured five inches for them to see.

“Well,” said Maria, “Why didn’t you just buy a kidney since we are born with two? Your doctor said we need only one to live!”

“You can’t shop for kidneys in the United States of America. Selling them is against the law, Maria, but in 2001 there were more kidneys given by living people than by people who died. The kidney is the only whole organ that can be given by a **living donor**. That’s what people who give while they are alive, are called. Blood and bone marrow are also taken only from living donors,” Miss Reed told her.

Beth had two good questions. “Do people on the list die while waiting? Were you scared?”



five inches
12.7 centimeters

“Of course I was scared! Seventeen of the people waiting die each day,” Melanie continued. “I was scared for me, but most of all, I was like scared for my parents. I am their only child and I knew that they would miss me a lot if something bad were to happen to me. I had to be brave for them.”

Miss Reed was impressed by Melanie’s thoughtfulness.

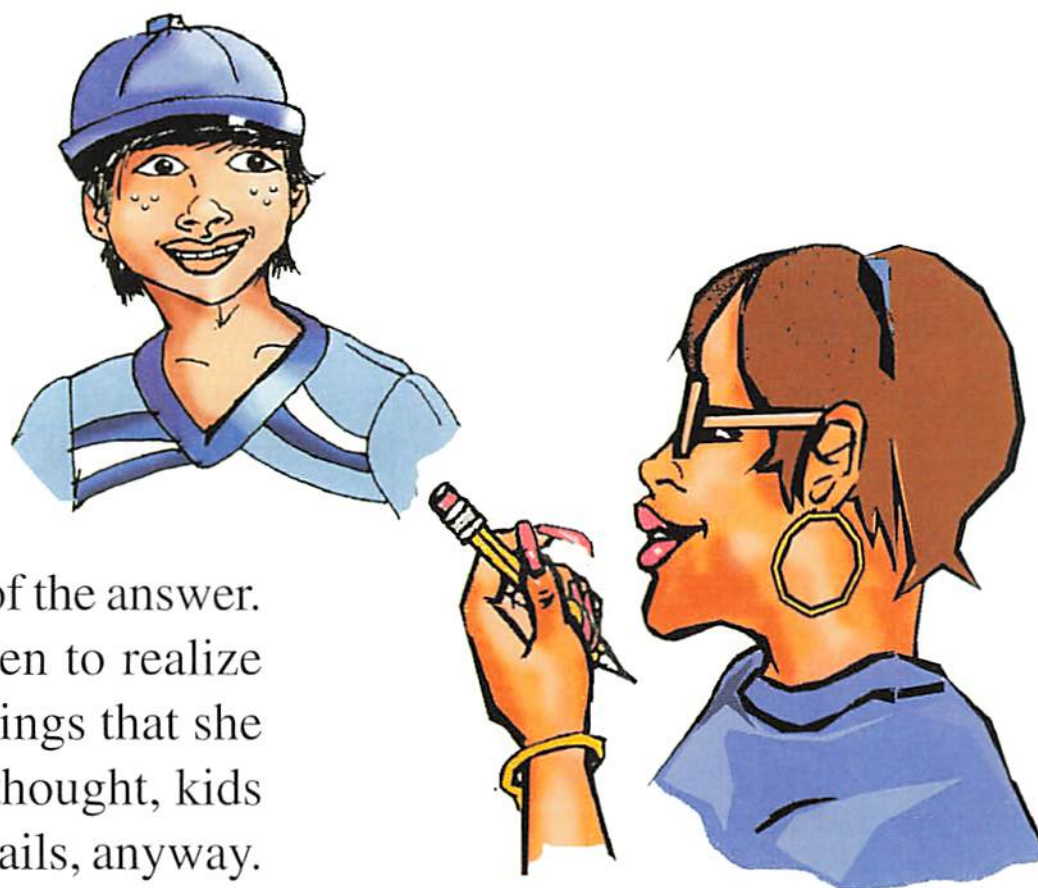
“Twice,” Melanie said, “they called to say there might be a kidney for me. The first time, I had the flu so the doctors could not do the surgery. They never give you an organ while you have the sniffles. The second time, the kidney went to someone who needed it more.”

“That’s not fair! The doctors probably gave it to one of their friends, or they are holding it in case one of their kidneys goes bad.” The outburst came from Carlos, who felt he had just solved a great mystery.

Melanie knew that he was wrong but she did not want to hurt his feelings. She knew that once outside the body, organs are good only for certain periods. She closed her eyes and thought aloud. “Lungs are good for four hours, hearts are good for six, and livers are good for 24 hours. Even kidneys, which last longest, are good only for 72 hours outside the body.” There was no way that anyone had tried the goofy stuff Carlos mentioned.

“Carlos,” Melanie began, “My doctor asked us to trust him. He told us that a computer matches up the kidney with the person who is best suited for it.”

For the first time, the news reporter stopped writing long enough to look up and speak. “No one wants to have surgery and get an organ that is not going to work! Doesn’t the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) handle that, Melanie?”



Melanie was really not sure of the answer. She did not want the children to realize that there were still some things that she did not know; besides, she thought, kids don’t care about all those details, anyway.

“One night,” said Melanie, “I felt Mom shaking me so hard that I thought the house was on fire. She said that the hospital had called again.”

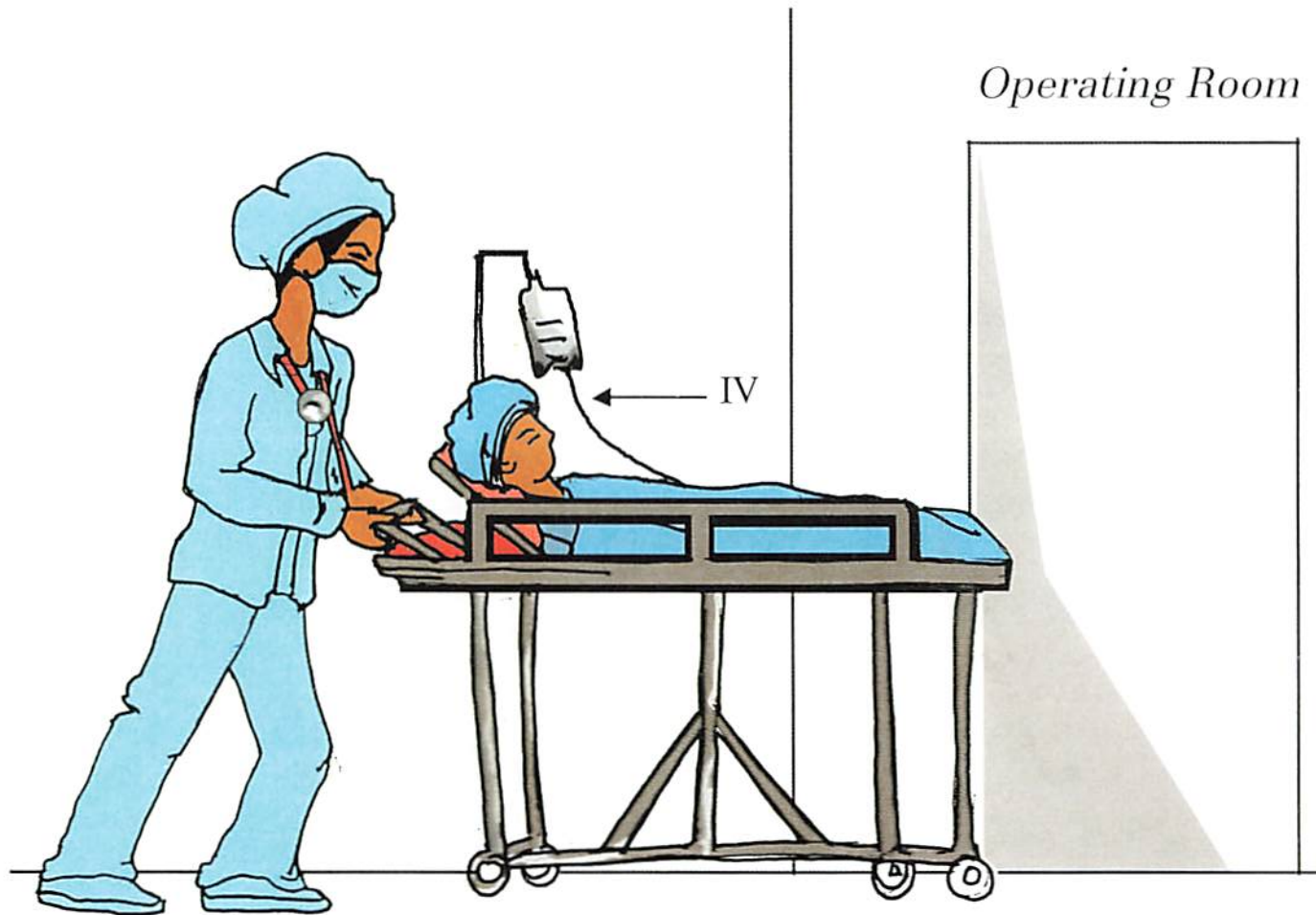
“Dad told us that there must have been an accident and that someone had died. I wondered if the person had been wearing a seat belt. Sometimes when Mom and Dad were not looking, I used to undo my seatbelt, but that night I promised never to do that again!” Melanie told the class.

The children were listening to every one of Melanie’s words. “Dad was crying so loudly that Mom was afraid we might have an accident too. We shared a moment’s silence for the family of the person who died and for our family. Dad said that someone called an *after-care specialist* would work with family members to help them through the grief of losing their loved one.”

Miss Reed and the children were happy to hear that the family who lost a loved-one, would not be left alone at a sad time like this.

“Melanie, tell us what happened at the hospital,” Jill said impatiently.

*M*elanie looked startled. She rolled her eyes back and forth and then said, “Well, when I got there, nurses and doctors seemed to be running all about. There must have been something in the IV they gave me. An IV puts fluids into the body through a needle which they stick into your vein. When I opened my eyes again, they told me that the surgery was over.”



Melanie sensed that the kids were a little disappointed, but she continued.

“When my parents came into my room they had heard on the radio that the family who donated the organs, saved seven lives!” The children clapped loudly, as Juan whistled through his teeth, sticking his two pinkies into his mouth. Miss Reed made him go to the bathroom to wash his hands and that caused every one to burst into laughter.

“Seven lives saved by a cadaver! The body of the dead from which the organs and tissue are taken is called, a *cadaver*.” The teacher liked explaining things.

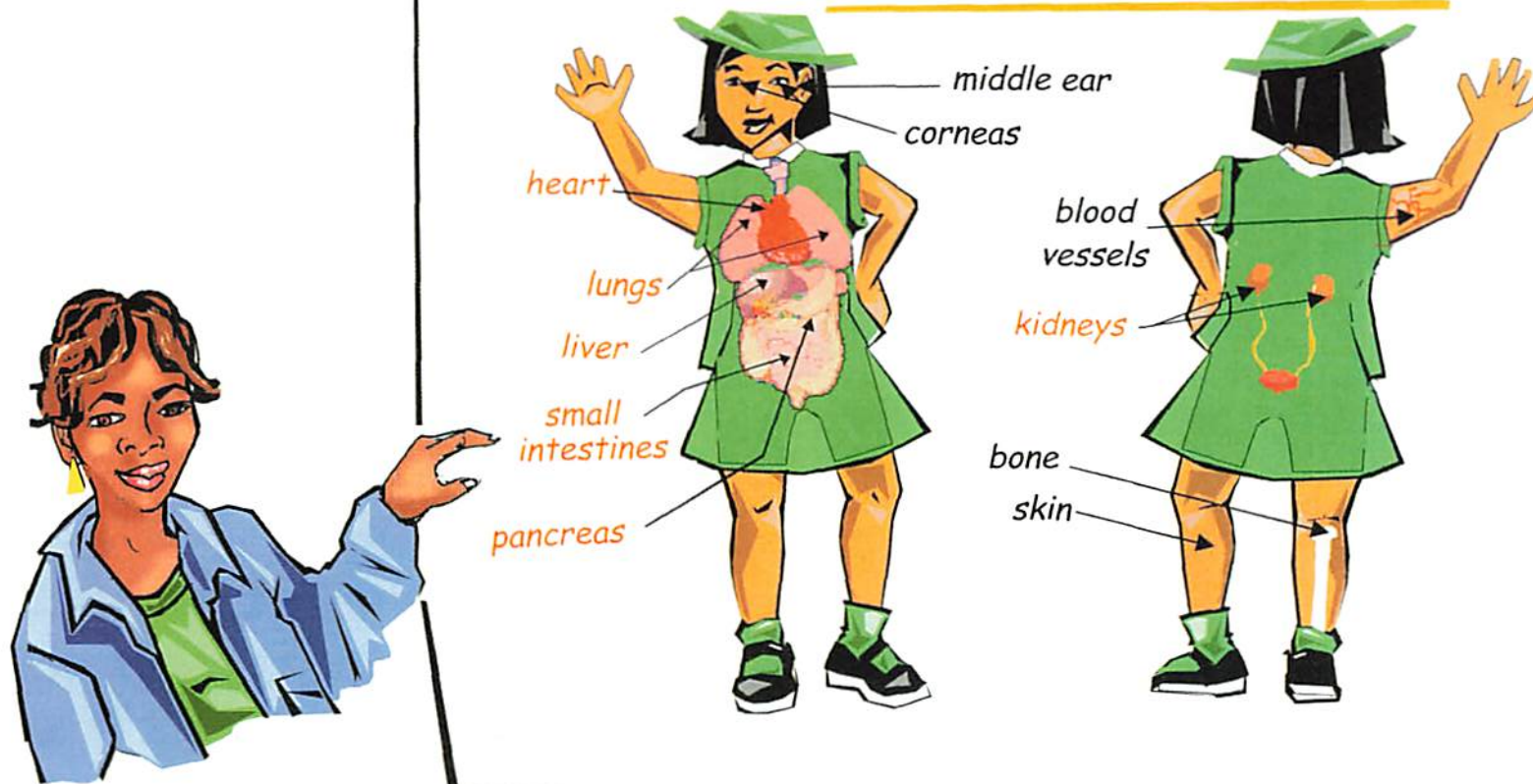
Miss Reed opened her stuffy biology closet and unfolded a large drawing of the human body, as she spoke.

Melanie briskly walked over to the diagram and pointed, copying her teacher. “His parents gave his heart, his lungs, his liver, his kidneys and his ... and his” but she could not remember the name.

“His pancreas!” Miss Reed added with pride. “Some people also donate tissue. They give skin and blood vessels, corneas from the eyes to help others to see, the middle ear to help others hear, ligaments, tendons and muscles. Isn’t that awesome?”

None of the children had asked for a bathroom break as they do during math and other classes - not even Carlos, the class clown.

THE BODY



Portions of this illustration, from free clip art

The **organs** are labelled in **red**. Organs save lives.
Tissues are labelled in **black**. Except for blood and bone marrow, tissues do not usually save lives, but make the lives of those who receive them better.

“*I* bet they can’t take out a cadaver’s belly and give it to someone else!” Carlos grinned. The children roared with laughter, but they were in for a surprise.

“Yes they can,” said the news reporter, playfully poking her false nail into Gale’s belly. “Just the other day, I read that small intestines are now being transplanted too.”



“*W*hat does trans... whatever that big word you just said, mean?” asked Carlos.

Miss Reed liked to speak while writing on the board. “Trans-plan-ta-tion, means taking from one and putting into the other,” she told the class.

Harold folded his arms over his belly and made a face. “Doesn’t it hurt when they take the stuff out to give it to other people?”

“No, Harold.” The teacher replied. “The organs are taken because the person is brain dead.”

Two children echoed, “Brain dead?”

Miss Reed moved to the front of the class. Her face was serious as she told the children, “When the brain dies, it cannot tell the heart to pump blood, or the lungs to breathe. It can no longer send the messages organs need to keep them alive. When your brain dies, you die!”

Mary-Sue let out a big sigh. “That’s what happened to Grandpa when he didn’t want to pay somebody to paint the house. He fell off the ladder! The doctors told us that they put Grandpa on a machine that would pump his blood for him for a while.

When I grow up, I am going to pay a painter to paint my house.” The adults smiled. “Now I understand what they meant when they said that he was *brain dead*,” Mary-Sue said softly.



“*D*id your parents give his organs to help other people live?” Jane asked her.

“No! Mom said that without his organs he might not be able to get into heaven. Grandpa said bad words anyway, so I don’t think that St. Peter will let him in,” Mary-Sue shrugged, as her eyes filled with tears.

Carlos figured it out and told them, “I think you would sooner get into heaven because you helped other people by giving them the organs you don’t even need anymore, than by not sharing. Your organs won’t work in heaven anyway; heaven knows we need them here!”

“How come it’s okay to bury or burn organs, or throw them into the sea and it’s not okay to donate them? Doesn’t Miss Reed teach us about recycling stuff? Do people have to pay to donate organs or something?” Jill wanted to know.

Miss Reed was showing off again! “I have a bumper sticker marked, *Organ Donation: the only cost is a little love!* It is going to be the first bumper sticker to go on my car. I really think that it is neat to leave your organs here, when you go!” She laughed one of her special laughs that made the others do the same.

Melanie was just thinking about returning to her seat when someone asked, “Does the person giving the organs have to be the same race as those getting them?”

“Darling, you mean the same ethnicity, not race!” said the teacher. “Even adults talk about different races when they want to point out our differences, but that is not correct because there is only one race - the human race.” The children realized that *ethnicity* is a word they had all heard before and finally understood its meaning.

Melanie was back at it. “The doctors said that when organs are from people of the same ethnicity, chances are the organs will work better. On the other hand, my dad says that the Maker of human parts makes them all the same to show us that we are all equal. What eveeer!” Melanie’s head did a little dance as she dragged her voice, held up one hand and fluttered her eyelids.

Miss Reed dug into her over-sized bag and pulled out a card which read, “*In the event of my death I wish to donate my organs.*” “Children, this is called a *donor card*. It is very important that family members be told of the wishes of the donor signing the card, so the donor’s wishes can be honored. Before organs or tissues are taken from anyone under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must sign to give consent.”



Jane noticed that her teacher's card was not signed. "Why haven't you signed your donor card, Miss Reed?"

The children started chanting, "Sign Miss Reed, sign. Sign Miss Reed, sign."

Miss Reed, with a big embarrassed smile on her face, signed the donor card. She handed another to the news-reporter who signed too. That made the children very happy.

Carlos yelled to get everyone's attention.

“*M*y dad is a policeman. We can put up a sign at the station asking drivers to say *yes* to organ *donnanation* on their licenses,” he said.

“That’s *organ donation* Carlos, and it is a very good idea,” said the teacher.

Jane sounded excited. “We don’t need to stop there. Why don’t we write a book about organ donation?”

Miss Reed and the reporter promised to help the kids. There was a number on the donor cards that the adults had just signed. It was 1-800-393-2839. The reporter promised to call it to get some more information for the children’s book.

The children could not wait to tell their parents how they were going to ask people to give organs and save lives. Many parents wanted to help with the book, and all of them signed donor cards.

That night, all of the children had difficulty sleeping. To their delight, when morning finally came, a picture of their class was on the front page of the newspaper.

Hundreds of people, proud of what the kids were doing, signed donor cards; even television and radio stations carried their story.

Families were talking about organ donation and doing crossword and word search puzzles. Other children, not wanting to be left out, were encouraging their schools to hang organ donation signs. Schools held poster, poetry and essay contests. Telling others about organ donation was lots of fun; in fact, the children were invited to speak at Rotary, Lions and other clubs, that they had only heard of before.



What happened to the children's idea of writing a book? Not only did they write a book; they also made a CD. They felt that blind people and people who cannot read have a right to learn about organ/tissue donation too.

Harold said that for once there is a CD that both children and parents can enjoy listening to. He believes that the book and the CD make great gifts and made a list of the names of persons to whom he wants to give them.

Do I think that anyone would really read a book about organ donation? Why not? You just did! Now you can tell people what is meant by,

“GIVING ORGANS TO SAVE LIVES!”

Send me an email at sutherland@vitelcom.net, or call (340)719-7892 and tell me how you are doing. Perhaps someday, you will write a book too! Little people can do BIC things!

Reading is a really fun way to learn and being smart is even more fun! Look for book number three. It is titled,

“YES, TOGETHER WE CAN!”

The end.

MOTTEP YOUTH



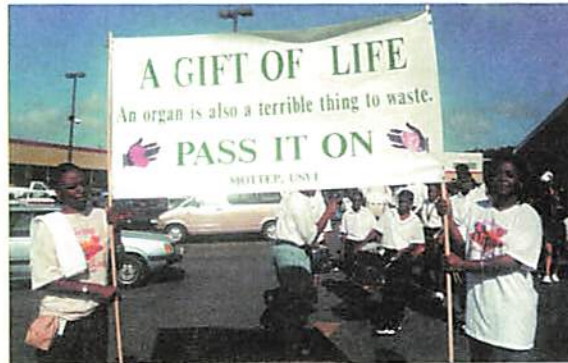
St. Thomas Carnival Parade



Vocational/Technical Honor Society promoting organ/tissue donation at Mall



Keenan and Ngozi with Chi Chi Heywood on WSTX Radio's Night Line



St. Croix Educational Complex Medical Explorers at Martin Luther King Parade



Religious Parade



finding culturally-correct activities to promote organ/tissue donation

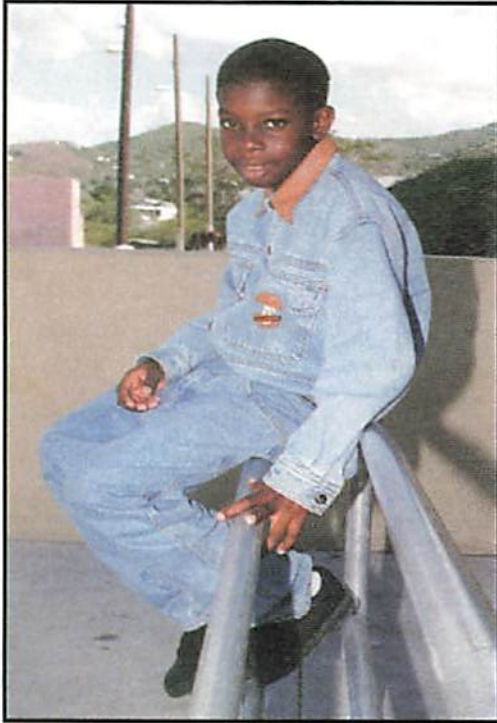


District Science Fair, 2002



Son witnessing mother and Principal of St. Croix Vocational School, Cassandra Evans, signing donor card at NV-THS beach picnic

Face of a Donor



November 7, 1983
to
October 22, 1998

His name was Eumorris Emmanuel George, Jr. The 8th grader was a happy, loving 14 year old, full of life, when an unexpected and unprovoked blow to his head, left him brain dead.

Even in their sorrow, Eumorris' family members thought about helping others. When asked by "Lifelink" (an organization that recovers organs after death) if they would give his organs to save lives, the family unselfishly said, "YES!"

According to Junior's dad, Eumorris, Sr., "Junior has done his part, now it is time for us to do ours. By loving our neighbors unconditionally, we can conquer all!"

Eumorris' mom, Ruth, said in the eulogy, that Junior would live on through the organs which were donated to save the lives of four persons who were awaiting a second chance.

USVI MOTTEP has mounted a permanent display of the image of Eumorris Emmanuel George, Jr. He is now a folk hero!

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.

Faces of Recipients



Tamara Avila
transplanted March 2002,
21-year-old mother of two

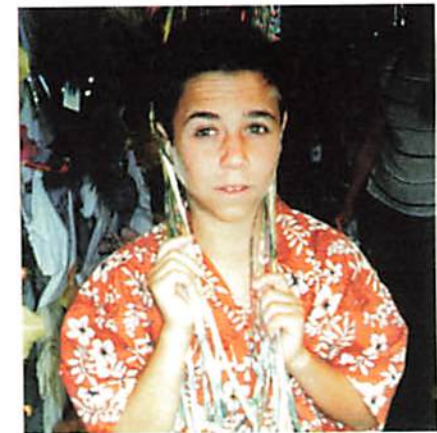


Frederick Pankey
cornea recipient, 1991
Avionics Station Supervisor,
Long Beach, California



received liver transplant
October 2001 at age of two

None of these recipients received an organ
from Eumorris Emmanuel George, Jr.



Justin Aronstein
transplanted at age 2,
now age 15.
Tennis Gold Medalist,
2000 & 2002
US Transplant Games



Maria Rodriquez
kidney recipient,
February, 2002

National MOTTEP

In 1978, Dr. Clive Callender was asked to find out why minorities, in particular African Americans, had such a high rate of organ failure, but were not donating organs for transplantation. At the time, although 50% - 70% of the people on dialysis were African Americans, the donation rate was less than 5%.

Dr. Callender found:-

- (a) the communities of color were unaware of the severe need
- (b) distrust of medical professionals
- (c) people of color feared their donated organs would go only to help whites
- (d) fear that they cannot get into heaven if not buried with their organs
- (e) fear that by signing a donor card, medical personnel would not work as hard to save the life of the potential donor.



Dr. Clive Callender

Photograph by Jeffrey John Fearing

In 1991, Dr. Callender began a grass-roots effort called, 'The Minority Organ/Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP)', to address the concerns of minorities and win their trust.

Today, organ donation among people of color, particularly African Americans and Hispanics, is steadily growing.

USVI MOTTEP

This volunteer group enjoys educating through fun projects which impact large sectors of the population. USVI MOTTEP is a familiar presence in festive, religious, or cultural parades, health fairs and similar activities.

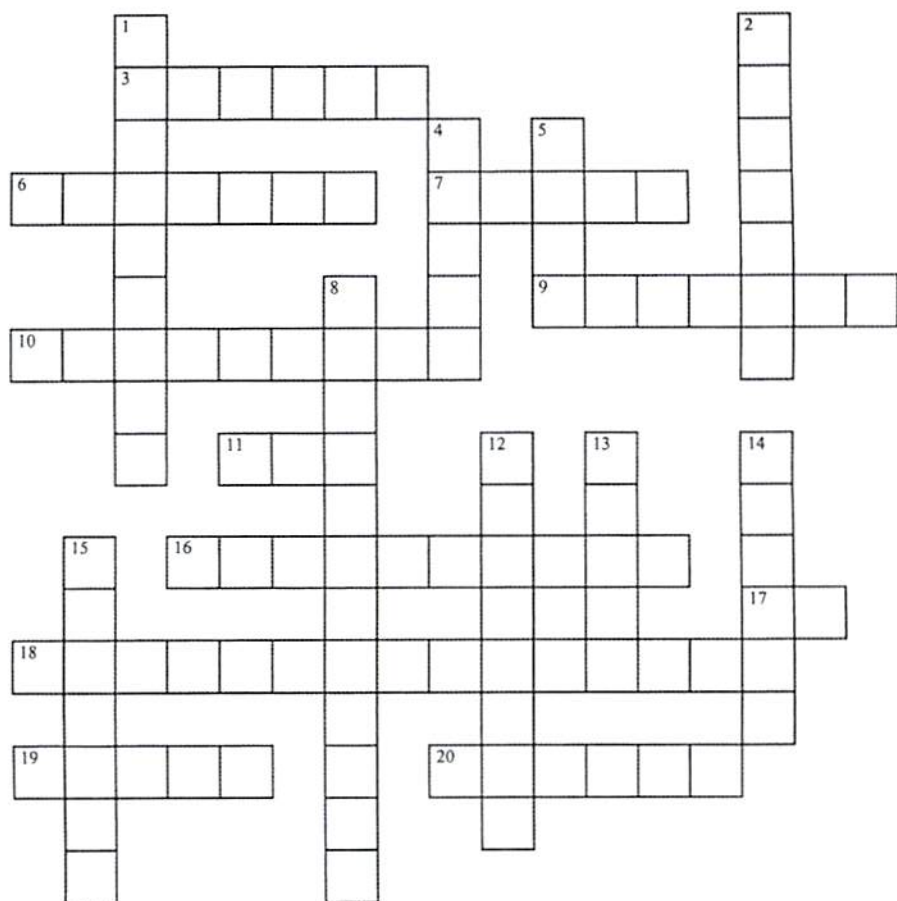
It boasts a calypso composed and sung by Samuel Ferdinand, The Mighty Pat, several times crowned St. Croix's Calypso King. The song is titled, "MOTTEP in the Virgin Isles," and has been distributed to radio stations throughout the territory.

The national office based at Howard University Hospital, named Lillian Caesar-Sutherland, Territorial Program Coordinator in 1998. One of Sutherland's biggest efforts at educating people of color, comes by way of this series of educational children's books.

You and your family can have fun doing this crossword puzzle we designed just for you! Please make a copy of pages 25 and 26 so others can share them.

Please make a copy of this page so others can enjoy this puzzle.

FAMILY



ACROSS

- 3 When donated, gives others second chance at life
- 6 Study of living things
- 7 Helps us breathe
- 9 Operation
- 10 No brain activity
- 11 Acronym for organ procurement organization
- 16 Not hemodialysis
- 17 Short for intravenous
- 18 Taking from one and putting into the other
- 19 Intestines
- 20 Minority Organ/Tissue Transplant Education Program

DOWN

- 1 Filled by those who want to donate
- 2 Donated to enhance life
- 4 Red fluid flowing through the body
- 5 Monitors organ sharing
- 8 Helps patients whose kidneys failed
- 12 Another name for the gift of life
- 13 Pumps blood
- 14 Poisons
- 15 Donated to help others see

Crossword Puzzle

Answer Key

blood/red fluid flowing through body
 brain dead/no brain activity
 comas/donated to help others see
 donation/another name for the gift of life
 transplantation/taking from one and putting into the other
 donor card/filled out by those who want to donate
 organs/when donated, give others second chance at life
 hemodialysis/helps patients whose kidneys failed
 peritoneal/not hemodialysis
 IV/short for intravenous
 OPT/OP/ acronym for organ procurement organization
 MOTTEP/Minority Organ/Tissue Transplant Education Program
 surgery/operation
 tissues/donated to enhance life
 UNOS/monitors organ sharing
 lungs/help us breathe
 belly/intestines
 heart/pumps blood
 toxins/poisons
 biology/study of living things



Organ/Tissue Donor Pledge



I want to Share my Life!

I wish to donate my organs and tissues and have shared my decision with my family. I wish to give:

☐

any needed organs and tissues

☐

only the following organs and tissues:

Donor Signature _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Witness _____

(Hang this in a special area at home to remind your family of your wishes)

After your family discussion, both parties can receive a Family Discussion Certificate by calling 800-393-2839 or 202-865-4888

usvimottep@viaccess.com

www.nationalmottep.org

Please make a copy of this page.

About the Author



Lillian Caesar-Sutherland is an activist, whose work has not gone unnoticed.

As early as 1992, the National Volunteer Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, acknowledged her outstanding contribution to the fight against the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

In 1999, the International Service Committee of Rotary Club of St. Croix West, honored her for her unwavering efforts to promote world understanding and enhance the community, through many years of dedicated service.

In 2001, the author received the National Minority Organ/Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) Founder's Award for setting up USVI MOTTEP without official funding.

Caesar-Sutherland convenes local volunteers including youth, and has gained the support of organizations, institutions and the media to increase the awareness of the critical need for minority organs.

About the Illustrator



Jerlyn M. Thomas is from the Nature Island of the Caribbean, Dominica. She attends the St. Croix Educational Complex where she is currently a senior in the Science-Math Magnet Program. She was accepted to the Junior Statesman Summer Program, 2002 for Yale University where she studied Advance Placement American Government and Speech Communications. She's a part of activities such as the National Honor Society, 4-H and the Shining Stars Tutoring Program. Aspiring to become a Graphic or Commercial Artist, Jerlyn's free time is spent developing websites and programming which she constructs on jadersworld.com.

To the Parents

As a surgeon and mother, I see so many children in need of a second chance at life. Many of them have no fear of death, and faithfully believe that they will be much better some day.

Those who are fortunate to receive new organs are “born again” and begin to live their lives to the fullest measure, going back to school and playing sports.

This book, “Jane’s Class Makes Big News” will help both parents and children, not only to understand, but to discuss and share the facts about organ donation and transplantation. As a result, I hope that you will agree to support organ donation by signing your donor card. I also hope that the information you learn from this book will prompt you and your family to discuss your decisions, so that everyone knows the wishes of each family member.

We never know who will be the next one in need!!

God has blessed us in so many ways. Pass this blessing on by giving the gift of life to others.

Dr. Velma Scantlebury-White, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor of Surgery,
Chief, Division of Transplantation
University of South Alabama Medical Center
Adjunct Associate Professor of Surgery
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center



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