



**For Immediate Release**

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## **MTF Honors 50,000 Tissue Donors**

September 9, 2005 (Edison, NJ)—As the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (MTF) reaches the milestone of receiving tissue from 50,000 tissue donors this fall, it also celebrates the restoration of health given to over 1.5 million people who have received tissue transplants through MTF since 1987.

MTF will mark the occasion by honoring families who went beyond their own loss to donate their family members' tissues after death. Donated tissue includes bone, tendons, ligaments, cartilage, skin, heart valves and corneas. MTF has provided over 2,000,000 tissue grafts for patients who are now able to see or walk again, have recovered from debilitating and painful spinal conditions, or are able to use limbs which previously might have been subjected to amputation.

“No other tissue bank in the country has achieved this level of success. The recovery of 50,000 tissue donors is an achievement made possible by the efforts of donor families, MTF employees, our partner recovery organizations and associates, whose collective strengths have contributed to our ability to fulfill our mission,” said MTF President and CEO Bruce Stroever.

MTF will mark this landmark event with ceremonies held at several MTF facilities. The ceremonies will include guest speakers from the donation and transplant community, as well as donor families and tissue recipients who will speak about their experiences.

Featured speaker at the Edison, New Jersey ceremony will be Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Surgeon General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In his official capacity, Admiral Moritsugu has been a dedicated advocate for organ and tissue donation and transplantation, as well as being a donor father and husband.

In the ceremony held in Jessup, Pennsylvania where MTF's major processing facility is located, Reg Green will tell the story of his seven year-old son, Nicholas, who was killed in Italy in 1994 while on vacation. Green and his wife donated Nicholas' organs and corneas to help others in need. Eleven years later, all seven of Nicholas's recipients are living productive lives.

Their family's donation led to a worldwide increase in donation, known as "The Nicholas Effect." The Greens are active crusaders for organ and tissue transplant education, and have produced documentary videos, a book and a television movie, "Nicholas' Gift," with Jamie Lee Curtis and Alan Bates, to draw public attention to the need for organ and tissue donation.

MTF, the country's largest tissue bank, was formed in 1987 as a nonprofit foundation by a group of leading orthopaedic surgeons who recognized the need for high quality allograft tissue to improve surgical outcomes. Its mission is to provide quality tissue through a commitment to excellence in education, research, recovery and care for recipients, donors and their families.

"Our increased ability to help patients of all types and ages during these years is by far the most gratifying result and it appears we are poised on the threshold of incredible new advances in transplantation science in the future," said William Enneking, M.D., Chairman of the Board of Directors for MTF.

The 50,000 Donor Celebration for MTF Corporate Headquarter's staff will be held September 15 at 8:30 am at the Woodbridge Sheraton Hotel in Woodbridge, NJ. MTF's Pennsylvania facility will host its ceremony on September 22 at 8:00 a.m. at the Victoriana Hotel in Scranton, PA.

To learn more about MTF, visit [www.mtf.org](http://www.mtf.org). For information about donation, go to [www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net). For information about the Nicholas Green Foundation, see [www.nicholasgreen.org](http://www.nicholasgreen.org).

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