Donor Family Conversation with Hospital Staff Brings Value Through Support and Inspiration

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Gift of Life Donor Program

Chad Cope, RN
Operations Manager, ICU
Geisinger Community Med Ctr

Susan Seidel
Mother of Brian
Bethlehem, PA
- Not-for-profit, full-service hospital
- Located in Scranton, PA
- Level II Trauma Center
- Serves 7-county region
- 297 beds; 18 bed ICU
- Affiliation with Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
Recognizing and Responding to ICU Staff’s Needs

- Increased exposure to sad scenarios
- Identifying the need for support
- Brainstorming support ideas
- Decision to ask donor family member to meet with the staff

Results:
- Understanding that care extends beyond the ICU
- Reassurance that family members will be “ok”
- Inspiration to care for future patients
Forums Where Donor Families Can Have an Impact

• Physician Forums
  • 1st Presentation: Pediatric Grand Rounds
• Hospital Staff in-services and gatherings
  • ICU, OR, Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, Advanced Practitioners
• Nursing students
• National Donate Life Month presentations
• Award presentations (HAP Award)
• Donor recognition events
• High schools & middle schools
Thank you!

Questions?