– CORE Encourages Individuals to Give the Gift of Life by Registering to Become an Organ, Tissue and Cornea Donor –

Madison, April 13, 2012 – More than 113,000 people across the country are awaiting an organ transplant, and at least eighteen will die without receiving one. The Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE), a federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organization (OPO) serving Pennsylvania, West Virginia and parts of New York, is joining the organ donation community once again this Month by commemorating National Organ Donor Awareness Month. Throughout the month of April, CORE is encouraging individuals to register to become organ, tissue and cornea donors.

"The number of people in need of transplants far exceeds the number of organs, tissues and corneas that are donated, and at CORE, one of our primary goals is to educate people on the need to make a pledge for life and become an organ, tissue and cornea donor," said Susan Stuart, president and CEO of CORE.
"In conjunction with OPOs across the nation, we are aiming to meet our goal of registering 20 million people across the country to become donors. It's part of Donate Life America's '20 Million in 2012' campaign."

Individuals are encouraged to talk with family members and friends about making the pledge to become an organ, tissue and cornea donor. Each person that signs up to become a donor can help up to 50 people in need of a transplant.

Boone Memorial Hospital in Madison, WV is planning several activities on April 20th to commemorate National Organ Donor Awareness Month. Between 11am-1pm employees and the community can stop by the main lobby for cake and punch and also get information about CORE and how to become a donor. The hospital is also asking all employees and other local businesses and organizations to participate in “Flaunt Your Colors” day on April 20th. This national day encourages people to wear green and blue. Participating organizations like Boone Memorial are asked to post a photo of their *“green & blue look”* to the Center for Organ Recovery & Education’s Facebook page to have the chance at winning a $100 gift card!

Some important additional facts about organ, tissue and cornea donation:

• More than 8,000 patients are awaiting life-saving organ transplants in Pennsylvania, along with more than 800 patients in West Virginia. Thousands of others could benefit from life-enhancing tissue transplants.

• With at least 60,000 people waiting nationally, kidneys are the organ in greatest demand, followed by liver, heart and lungs.

• Because conditions such as diabetes and hypertension are often more prevalent in the minority community, minorities make up more than 50 percent of the people on the national organ transplant list.

For more information about organ, tissue and cornea donation, visit CORE’s web site at www.core.org or call 1-800-DONORS-7. For information about Boone Memorial Hospital services and CORE events scheduled for April 20th at the hospital please call 304-369-1230 or visit www.bmh.org.

About CORE

The Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) is one of 58 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the United States. CORE works closely with donor families and designated health care professionals to coordinate the surgical recovery of organs, tissues and corneas for transplantation. CORE also facilitates the computerized matching of donated organs and placement of corneas. With headquarters in Pittsburgh and an office in Charleston, West Virginia, CORE oversees a region that encompasses 155 hospitals and almost six million people throughout western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Chemung County, NY. For more information, visit www.core.org or call 1-800-DONORS-7.

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