



# THE CARDINAL MESSENGER



THE CORY J GARWACKI FOUNDATION

We started the year surrounded by friends and family at our first annual fundraiser at “Painting with a Twist”, in East Longmeadow. Thanks to everyone who came out to support, and Painting with a Twist for their generous contribution to The Foundation. We had a great time and are looking forward to doing it again in January 2017!



Our monthly restaurant series has been a wonderful way to connect with the community while having a delicious meal! A big thank you to our friends at The Country Club of Wilbraham and Bertucci’s Italian Restaurant in Longmeadow for hosting us!

March is the time of year filled with excitement for a new season with a lot to look forward to.

We began the month supporting Cory’s favorite annual fundraiser and are proud to have made our first official donation as a foundation. The 94.7 WMAS Radiothon for Baystate Children’s Hospital has raised over 3 million dollars to date as they celebrated their 15<sup>th</sup> year. Cory was there each and every year smiling and offering his help. Phones lines lit up after the Kellogg Krew interviewed the Foundation’s President, Cory’s Mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Garwacki.



## “LIVE TO GIVE” INSPIRING QUOTE

“Cory’s life was full, his heart was big, and we all learned how to be better people by knowing him. I know I did”.

JOANNA GUINDON

**Our “Live to Give”, mantra embraces how Cory lived his life. His kind, compassionate and generous spirit was infectious, he had an amazing power to project his positive outlook to the world. Cory’s willingness to believe in miracles is what fueled his unmatched optimism.**

## WHAT DOES “LIVE TO GIVE” MEAN TO YOU?

(March – April 2016) (Edition 2)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**  
 “Live to Give”  
 Gala  
 6p.m. - 12a.m.  
 The Log Cabin  
 Holyoke, MA

**September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
 Cory J. Garwacki  
 Golf Tournament  
 11:30a.m.  
 Registration  
 Chicopee Country  
 Club  
 Chicopee, MA

**Visit our website  
 for more  
 information,  
 updates, and  
 flyers/coupons for  
 our Monthly Night  
 out Restaurant  
 Series.**

**APRIL IS NATIONAL ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS MONTH**



Give thanks. Give life.

"You have the power to change someone's world by being an organ, eye, and tissue donor. It's about living. It's about life".

With the remarkable successes in transplantation, patients are provided with hope and now have a second chance at life. Unfortunately, statistics show that the need for donors is greater than the number of people who actually donate.

As a recipient himself, Cory lived his life as a passionate advocate for organ donation awareness.

During his time at Westfield State University, Cory contributed to the Westfield Voice and published the following article titled,

**"THE TIME TO HAVE THE CONVERSATION IS NOW"**

While most of us think of April as the nearing of the close of yet another semester of classes, we should also be reminded of how precious life can be, especially since April is recognized as National Organ Donor Awareness Month.

There is no greater gift that one person can give to another (or several

people) than the gift of life, even after theirs has ended. As tough a conversation as it may be, even for us as college students, it is one that is so important to have.

As we all know, it takes just minutes to renew your license and at the same time have it marked that an individual is registered as an organ donor. But, actually there is a common misconception here. Even though you may have indicated your wishes on your license, when the time comes for this decision to be made, it is ultimately up to your family to make the final call, not simply an indication on your license.

According to Donate Life New England ([www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org)), a non-profit organization comprised of three federally designated organ procurement organizations that serve New England, New England Organ Bank, LifeChoice Donor Services, and The Center for Donation and Transplant and the Connecticut Eye Bank, there are currently "more than 110,000 men, women, and children in the United States waiting for a life-saving transplant."

As if that statistic isn't staggering enough, consider the equally eye-opening fact that each day, an average of 18

people die while waiting for this second chance at life.

Virtually any organ or tissue from our bodies can be considered for transplantation, including but not limited to kidney, heart, liver, lung, intestine, eye, pancreas, and bone marrow. While the majority of organ transplants come from deceased individuals, it is becoming increasingly more commonplace for living-donor operations to occur, provide both parties are matches for blood type and other matters. The most common living donor transplants are kidneys.

Each state in our nation has its own organ donor registry, which is how you are entered if you declare to become one on your license, however as stated earlier, if you do not make clear your wishes to your family members, they can override what your license says in the event that tragedy strikes.

According to [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov), "Even if you are a registered donor, it is essential that your family know your wishes. Your family may be asked to sign a consent form in order for your donation to occur."

If for no other reason than to ensure that you do one final noble deed before you leave this Earth, please have this vital conversation with your family now, for if you wait, you may never get that chance.



**Cory J. Garwacki**  
**1987-2014**



**CORY J GARWACKI FOUNDATION**  
— LIVE TO GIVE —

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Team Cory is a group of volunteers dedicated to representing the Cory J Garwacki Foundation during all phases of our fundraising events. They truly exhibit the "Live to Give" mantra that this foundation is built on. For information on how to become involved with Team Cory please contact us!

**Join our online Mailing list for updates!**