



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **KALEIDA HEALTH TRANSPLANT PROGRAM INCREASES ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION GOALS SET BY FEDERAL AGENCY**

*The Center will be recognized at national conference as best practice*

**Buffalo, New York—October 20, 2008** – The Kaleida Health Multi-Organ Transplant Center at Buffalo General Hospital has increased organ transplants by 20 percent in 2008 and will be recognized at the Fourth National Learning Congress in Nashville, Tennessee, October 23-24, 2008.

“Last year, the Kaleida Multi-Organ Transplant Center not only increased the number of kidney transplantations, but also recorded one of the best one-year patient and graft outcomes in the nation,” said Mark R Laftavi, MD, FACS, chief of transplant services, Kaleida Health. “These outstanding achievements could not happen without the hard work and dedication of our transplant team and the support of our Kaleida Health and University at Buffalo family. I am very proud to work with and be a member of such an outstanding transplant team.”

In 2007 the Center was asked to participate in the Transplant Growth and Management Collaborative, a program sponsored by The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Division of Transplantation.

The objective was to work with donor hospitals nationwide and Upstate New York Transplant Services to dramatically increase the number of organs transplanted. Successful implementation is projected to save or enhance thousands of lives each year by sharing best practice methods with the nation’s transplant hospitals in order to reach an annual goal of 35,000 organs transplanted.

“Your efforts are much appreciated, not only by the collaborative leaders but also by the patients who have benefited from this increase,” said Shannon M.A. Dowell, RN, MSN, CCTN, Transplant Growth and Management Collaborative Leadership Team. “By increasing your number of transplants, you and your team have saved many lives, and the transplant world is indebted to you.”

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The Center was required to submit quarterly senior reports to collaborative coordinators that defined volume goals and the initiatives it was taking to increase evaluations and transplantation. In addition, The Center also made a commitment to attend the National Learning Congress Collaborative conferences to share ideas and best practice with other organizations around the country.

“By taking the initiative to participate in this collaborative effort, the Kaleida Health Multi-Organ Transplant Center has dedicated itself to ensuring that the right transplant services are available in the right place at the right time,” said Sanjay Chadha, MBA, vice president, business operations and administrative lead of transplant services, Buffalo General Hospital. “Lives often depend on the expertise and commitment of our transplant team, and they never forget that fact.”

“The commitment of our transplant team in providing access to comprehensive, quality care for patients has made the Kaleida Multi-Organ Transplant Center a leader in transplantation for Western New York,” said Larry Zielinski, president, Buffalo General Hospital. “We are proud of their efforts and pleased by this national recognition because it clearly demonstrates the outstanding caliber of our transplant surgeons, nephrologists, nurses, social workers, nutritionists, transplant pharmacists and coordinators.”

For more information, call 716-859-1345 or visit the web at [www.kaleidahealth.org](http://www.kaleidahealth.org).

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**About Kaleida Health ([www.kaleidahealth.org](http://www.kaleidahealth.org))**

Kaleida Health is the largest health system in Western New York and includes: Buffalo General Hospital, DeGraff Memorial Hospital, Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital and Women & Children’s Hospital of Buffalo, as well as four long-term care facilities, 96 health clinics and the VNA of WNY, Inc.

**About Buffalo General Hospital**

Buffalo General Hospital ([bgh.kaleidahealth.org](http://bgh.kaleidahealth.org)) is located on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in downtown Buffalo, NY. A major teaching affiliate of the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Buffalo General is the flagship hospital for Kaleida Health and home to a number of outstanding services: the only nationally accredited Chest Pain Center in Western New York, the nationally renowned Kaleida Multi-Organ Transplant Center and more.

**About HRSA (<http://www.hrsa.gov>)**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.

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