

WVSU dance event to encourage, educate about organ donation

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By [Lori Kersey](#)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- If you're interested in organ donation and dance, an event at West Virginia State University on Monday has what you're looking for.

The West Virginia Taskforce for the Center for Organ Recovery and Education is teaming up with West Virginia State University to bring in Step Afrika!, an internationally known dance troupe.

As a part of the event, members of the local group will present a short video about organ donation and give people an opportunity to sign up to become a donor.

"I had a kidney transplant in August of 2007," said Yvonne Moore, chairwoman of the CORE task force. "It's why I'm alive today."

Moore said her group aims to dispel some of the myths surrounding organ donation -- myths such as, if doctors know you're an organ donor they won't try to save you, and if you donate your organs your family cannot have an open-casket funeral for you.

Neither is true, she said.

"Many people think, 'I'm too old, I'm too old,'" Moore said. "That's not true, but you do have to be over 18."

People younger than 18 must have permission from a parent, she said.

The task force also aims to persuade more people to become organ donors. Around 120,000 people in the United States are waiting for organs or tissues.

The group especially wants to encourage ethnic minorities to become donors, she said. That's because, nationally, more people in ethnic communities receive organs than give them, she said.

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