

## Organ donors honored at United Hospital Center ceremony



### The real heroes

This quilt represents various organ donors in the area. It belongs to CORE, the Center for Organ Recovery and Education. Staff photo by Erin Beck

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**Organ donors honored at United Hospital Center ceremony by Erin Beck STAFF WRITER | 0 comments**

BRIDGEPORT — About 15 years ago, a high school girl went to prom and never made it home.

Liliane Johnson, a survivor of heart failure and recipient of the young girl's heart, says she owes her life to that girl.

"They said it had low mileage," she said. "I have fixed that."

She writes a letter to the donor's family every year and sends it to the nonprofit Center for Organ Recovery and Education, or CORE, in case the donor's family ever wants to read it.

On Thursday, Johnson joined health care providers and CORE staff at the United Hospital Center for a celebration of "National Donate Life Month."

Every day, at least 18 people die while waiting on an organ transplant, according to CORE.

Advocates of organ donation say those deaths were needless tragedies, so they are spending this month encouraging others to sign up to "donate life."

Johnson said she spoke at the UHC event because she wants to celebrate the courage of those who choose to donate.

"We're just the supporting cast," she said. "The real stars are the donors."

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