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****Organ Donation Seminar

DALLAS---April 13 is a day Kathy Glieber will never forget. It's the day her world was shattered by a phone call.

Her husband Frank, a popular national sportscaster, had apparently had a heart attack while jogging at the Dallas Aerobics Center and had been rushed to a nearby hospital. Frank received immediate care, but efforts to revive him failed.

Later Kathy realized that there had been another failure: Both the Gliebers had wanted to be organ donors, and she hadn't remembered in time.

Ironically, Kathy is a member of the Golden Charity Guild, Inc., a local organization that raises money for transplant research, education and patient care at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas and Parkland Memorial Hospital, its major teaching hospital. Research aimed at improved skin transplant techniques to save the life of burn victims is a major part of the research program. In addition, 400-500 patients in the Parkland Burn Center receive human skin transplants, says Dr. Charles R. Baxter, UTHSCD professor of surgery and research director of the regional burn center.

Besides skin, the UTHSCD "bankable" organs program last year supplied 292 corneas for transplantation and 66 eyes for research. This program also plays an important role in supplying bone tissue used to relieve pain and prevent crippling for many orthopedic patients through various types of bone replacement. UTHSCD tissue bankers also coordinate with the Southwest Organ Bank for the donation of vital organs, such as hearts, kidneys and livers.

Kathy and Frank knew all this and wanted to be part of a "living gift" program.

"I can't believe I didn't remember at the time," Kathy says today. "But I was in shock. You don't think about it then.

"If someone had just mentioned it to me, I would have remembered---or if a nurse had explained about the necessity of making donations quickly. I feel that in a way we were robbed of an opportunity; it would have been Frank's last gift."

Kathy says she believes nurses can be the ideal persons to talk with families at the hospital about donation: "Nurses may hesitate to intrude in this way," Kathy says. "But they may be offering the family an opportunity they might not have otherwise."

This is why the young widow volunteered to be part of a program on organ donation for nurses and other health personnel at The University of Texas Health Science Center on October 23. Called the "Will A Miracle" seminar, the meeting will be held in Room D1.600 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Also on the program will be the Rev. Ms. Elizabeth Ramsey, a hospital organ donor coordinator from San Diego, California, and Baxter, who will provide a national overview of transplant issues by Baxter. A panel of four physicians will address the role of the medical examiner and the needs for and usage of transplant tissues. Participating in this discussion will be Dr. John Hunt, associate professor of surgery at UTHSCD and director of the Parkland Burn Center; Dr. James P. McCulley, professor and chairman of ophthalmology at UTHSCD; Dr. Ralph F. Rashbaum, a Dallas orthopedic surgeon; and Dr. Bo Husberg, a Baylor Medical Center transplant surgeon. Another panel, which will include Ramsey, nurses, UT transplant personnel and Mike Baxter from the Southwestern Organ Bank, will discuss donation.

The seminar is sponsored by the Nurses Advisory Council to the UT program. The group, which currently has 25 representatives from area hospitals, was formed in April 1985, to educate health care professionals in the need for organ and tissue donation.

Health professionals interested in attending the meeting should call (214) 688-2609.

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