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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Cottage Hospital Flies High for
National Donate Life Month.**

Woodsville, NH – Cottage Hospital was selected to kick off National Donate Life Month for New Hampshire, by being the first hospital in the state to fly the Donate Life flag. The flag ceremony was held on the front lawn of the hospital and joining the staff for this momentous occasion was Representative Rick Ladd, District 5.

Flags Across America, a Donate Life America and New England Organ Bank initiative, honors and celebrates the hundreds of thousands of donors and recipients whose lives have been affected by organ, eye and tissue donation. It rallies every donor hospital and transplant center, as well as all recovery agencies, to collectively fly the Donate Life flag during April 2009 -- National Donate Life Month.

“We are pleased to join together with the New England Organ Bank and Donate Life America to spread the Donate Life message and honor organ and tissue donors. We hope this flag display will make people stop, take notice and take action to sign up to be an organ, eye and tissue donor,” says Reginald Lavoie, CEO of Cottage Hospital.

What began as an idea by donation and transplant professionals in separate parts of the country quickly became a coordinated, national effort. The concept is to make a very visible and unified statement about the importance of donation and thus reflect the dire need for donors. This initiative is meant to encourage the public to designate donation decisions by registering their wishes in their state donor registries.

“Cottage Hospital and New England Organ Bank have a strong partnership and both organizations value the gift of life. My husband and I are both donor recipients, it is truly an amazing gift.” Stated Maria Ryan, CNO/COO for Cottage Hospital.

Across the nation thousands of Donate Life flags will be flown and displayed across the nation throughout the month of April.

The state of New Hampshire has just gone live with their Donor Registry Program. To learn how to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor, visit www.neob.org.

Cottage Hospital is a 25 bed, critical access hospital serving the beautiful Upper Connecticut River Valley. For additional information regarding Cottage Hospital and any of our services visit us on the web at www.cottagehospital.org.

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