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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cottage Hospital Celebrates Donate Life Flags Across New Hampshire

Although April is National Donate Life Month, Cottage Hospital will join with other hospitals in New Hampshire to get an early jump on the celebration with the *Donate Life Flags Across New Hampshire* project beginning in January.

The project will feature the flying of the same Donate Life flag successively at each of New Hampshire's acute care hospitals to culminate with a flag raising at the state Capitol in April. In addition, a Senior Leader from each hospital will sign the flag with the name of their hospital as it tours through the state.

"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 Dr. Maria Ryan, newly appointed CEO for Cottage Hospital.

"Raising awareness of donation in the communities of New Hampshire can save and enhance lives. A single organ donor can save up to seven lives and a tissue donor can enhance the lives of over 75 patients. Getting the word out about donation can have incredibly positive results, said New England Organ Bank Hospital Relations Specialist Berta Grunbeck.

In addition to honoring the hundreds of thousands of donors and recipients whose lives have been affected by organ and tissue donation, the project invites the community to register as organ and tissue donors at www.DonateLifeNewEngland.org. Donate Life Flags Across New Hampshire Flags is a companion project of the national Flags Across America that is designed to demonstrate how people in the country have been touched by organ and tissue donation. The national project seeks to have hospitals; organ and tissue recovery organizations, recipients and many others involved in the donation process fly a Donate Life flag at their place of business or home.

There are currently over 105,000 Americans awaiting a life saving organ transplant. On average, 18 patients die every day in the US waiting for a donated organ. More information about donation and an opportunity to register as a donor is available at www.DonateLifeNewEngland.org.

Cottage Hospital would like to invite our community to join us on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 9:00am for the flag signing and raising as we kick off this historical, 4-month long event. There will be a coffee reception afterwards. Please call Maryanne Aldrich if you have any questions, 603-747-9189.

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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