Gift of Life Institute: Increasing Organ and Tissue Donations Worldwide through Training and Continuing Education!

Gift of Life - Overview

Gift of Life Institute is an international training center for donation professionals offering comprehensive, interdisciplinary resources for skills-based learning, continuing education, collaborative research, and consulting services. Gift of Life Institute is a non-profit education and research arm of the Transplant Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization supporting the objectives of Gift of Life Donor Program. Since their inception in 2004, Gift of Life Institute has trained well over 7,500 donation professionals within the United States and Canada and also from countries such as Australia, Brazil, and Japan, to name but a few.

Expanding Outreach through Technology

In 2009, Gift of Life Institute made the decision to share their knowledge and expertise with a much broader audience base. They had come to realize that many Organ Procurement Organizations no longer wanted to send their staff out for extended periods of time for training. To successfully engage a broader audience, Gift of Life Institute set out to:

- Reduce the overall amount of time that donation professionals spent in classroom training sessions.
- Ensure that classroom participants had similar levels of base knowledge prior to attending classroom training sessions.

Gift of Life Institute would have to expand their training modalities beyond the traditional classroom to include eLearning and virtual training opportunities in order to achieve their goals. The decision was made to implement a learning management system (LMS). Through a simple Internet search, Gift of Life Institute came across ePath Learning’s ASAP LMS.
First Impressions...First Steps

From the onset of their first discussions, the team at Gift of Life Institute felt a synergistic connection to ePath Learning. Gift of Life Institute knew that their needs would be small at first; and therefore, they were looking for an LMS provider of similar size that could scale and grow with them. ePath Learning also offered a variety of affordable pricing models, thus providing flexible options for Gift of Life’s cost requirements. Moreover, ePath Learning’s client service and support exceeded Gift of Life Institute’s expectations, even before they became a client. Given the size of their organization, a strong support team was a highly desirable requirement.

After choosing ASAP to deliver their online training initiatives, Gift of Life experienced an easy implementation and onboarding process. ePath Learning’s client service staff provided one-on-one support that included establishing a customized learner login screen, assisting with uploading content and launching remote hosted courses and ePath learning hosted courses that were created in Articulate.

How Far They’ve Come!

Gift of Life Institute is proud to be acknowledged as one of the few training organizations that provides Organ Procurement Organizations an alternative to traditional training. To complement and shorten classroom training sessions, Gift of Life Institute offers eLearning modules in advance of their live training sessions. The eLearning modules need to be completed prior to attending the classroom. Participant progress is monitored using ASAP and reminder notifications are sent to ensure module completion.

Gift of Life Institute also offers a virtual training program that combines live webinars, eLearning, online study groups and online assessments. Since the virtual training program was launched, the program has received great response and it’s now being offered four times per year.

Gift of Life Institute’s venture into eLearning is an evolving process; and with the help of ePath Learning, they expect to continue growing their eLearning offerings, in support of advancing organ and tissue donation outcomes.

Thanks to organ donation, many people with life threatening illnesses can look forward to a future and a second chance at life. Many others can experience a better quality of life through donated tissues. In fact, just one donor can save up to eight lives. If you’d like to register to be an organ, eye or tissue donor please visit: http://donatelife.net/register-now.