

# The need is still great for African American organ donors



Thomas Massey, who received a liver two years, and wife Sheila Massey are enjoying life together.

By Jeri Young  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Every day three African Americans die while waiting for organ transplants.

Aug. 1 marks the beginning of a massive drive to save these lives.

Lifeshare of the Carolinas, which helps procure organs

for those in need of transplants, is hoping to educate the African American community about the facts regarding organ donation.

"African Americans do donate organs proportionally in terms of the population," says Lifeshare's Debbie Gibbs. "But the need is greater. Thirty-five percent of the peo-

ple on the waiting list for kidneys are African American."

Thomas Massey and his wife Sylvia have shared much over the past 30 years.

Sweethearts since the age of 13, the Masseys have raised two children together and shared a lifetime of good

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## Trash station under community fire

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Waste Systems of N.C., which was based in Smyrna, Ga.

The county had sought alternative proposals to the landfill, which is bitterly opposed by southeast Charlotte residents, joined by other landfill neighbors in Union County and northern South Carolina.

By the time residents of the north Charlotte area found out about the proposed transfer station, it was well on the way to development.

The station will include a prefabricated metal building covering two truck loading bays, scales to weigh the trucks and garbage and a system for handling wastewater to prevent contamination of nearby groundwater supplies.

Residents opposed the threatened increase in heavy truck traffic through their neighborhoods and the increase in the number of rats and other vermin possible if the transfer station does not operate properly.

As late as May 31, county officials were expressing concerns about the transfer station.

In a letter to OZA Environmental Inc., USA Waste's engineering consultant, county zoning administrator Robert L. Brandon wrote: "However, this office is concerned that under Code Section 12.702 (Fumes and Odors), the operation of this site will not suit fumes, gases, or odors in concentrations or amounts that would cause or create a nuisance to any person of ordinary sensitivities on another property."

A public hearing was held Wednesday night, though one is not required by the permit process that's likely to give USA Waste Services the okay to operate the station.

"The county's Department of Environmental Protection staff would like to hear from you as part of considering a permit application to operate a trash transfer station in Charlotte," reads the meeting notice, dated July 17.

USA Waste Services agreed to the meeting and made a presentation of its plans at Wednesday's hearing.

Willard said the state was already working on a permit for the transfer station when county officials got involved. Ultimately, responsibility for environmental protection rest with the state's Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

County oversight is through its air pollution control ordinance.

Opponents can still submit written comments directly to the Department of Environmental Protection by writing to director John Barry at 700 N. Tryon Street, Suite 205, Charlotte, N.C., 28202.

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## Former Hornet's giving called into question

By Jeri Young  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Former Charlotte Hornet Larry Johnson is gone, but where some of his money goes is in dispute.

Mecklenburg County Department of Parks and Recreation officials claim that Camp Green Park, which is slated to open in the early fall, was originally to be called Larry Johnson Park after Johnson pledged \$100,000 for maintenance and upkeep.

According to Johnson's agent, George Bass, there has never been any such grant. Johnson agreed to give a portion of the proceeds from his "Starry Starry Night" all-star basketball game to Parks and Recreation after the Hornets approached Johnson about the deal.

According to Bass, a portion of the proceeds from the game were already slated to go to the United Way. Johnson and Bass then agreed to donate the other half to the park.

"Park and Rec approached the Hornets and the Hornets approached me for Larry," Bass said. "They asked that at least half be given to Park and Rec."

"Larry's commitment was to supply a portion of the funds from the celebrity basketball game. They knew ahead of time that it would not be held this year due to the Olympics," Bass said.

According to Bass, half of the proceeds would go to the United Way and half to the park. The \$100,000 figure was never set in stone, as proceeds from the game would vary from year to year.

Last year's game was cancelled because of a player lockout instituted by the National Basketball Association.

According to Bass, Johnson owes the Department of Parks and Recreation nothing.

Tom McDermott, Parks and Recreation's fund development officer, said the original deal was a verbal commitment with Bass. "Mr. Bass stated he would hold an all-star game in July of 1995 and that it would be an annual thing," he said.

According to McDermott, Park and Recreation was not clear on there being no contribution if the game wasn't held.

"The park was originally to be called Camp Green Park, and it would feature the Larry Johnson Basketball Center," he said.

The center has 11 courts and a covered facility.

Parks and Recreation officials knew "we can't guarantee a game every year," Bass said. "They knew we could not conflict with the Olympics. There is no doubt about that."

Bass also answered charges that Johnson has reneged on his commitment to United Way.

"We have already paid \$190,000," Bass said. "How about we give you (an additional) \$100,000? They agreed to put the payments back a year (in exchange for a larger contribution)."

According to Bass, Johnson will pay \$30,000 in September and \$60,000 in July, bringing his total United Way contribution to \$280,000, \$100,000 above the original commitment made in 1991 when he was the Hornets' top draft pick.

Hornets spokesmen claim to have no knowledge of the deal with Parks and Recreation.

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