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Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude and excitement that I am writing to you about developments at JRI.

During the last year our two major programs have continued to receive tremendous attention within the transplant community as well as the general public. "Share the Beat" continues to raise awareness and funds even in these economically challenging times. The public relations efforts for our Atlanta event last fall were the largest to date, with millions of audience impressions from print, radio and TV. The Redford AnimAction Project, "It's a RAP!" has been well received at our testing sites and has continued to garner financial backing from supporters. In particular, I'm honored to mention that Actor James Denton (*Desperate Housewives*) is donating his portion of the proceeds from the first CD/DVD from his charity band – "Band from TV" with Hugh Laurie (*House*) and Greg Grunberg (*Heroes*) – to "It's a RAP". The CD, titled "Hoggin' All the Covers", was a recent Amazon bestseller, premiering at #1.

Due to the growth and demands of JRI's work, I began to explore this question more than a year ago: would these programs benefit from being under the umbrella of a larger organization? Thanks to The American Society of Transplantation (AST), the answer is "yes". AST is a dynamic, diverse organization that has been working hard to save lives through transplantation for more than two decades. Transplant Research, education, patient care, donor family services - they do it all and they do it well. AST will host "SHARE THE BEAT" for the public at their 2009 international conference in Boston, and myself and my family will continue support them at future "Share the Beat" events. The Redford AnimAction Project will continue to be a beneficiary of "Share the Beat" proceeds, and the event will continue to support the transplant community's efforts to have families "Donate Life" by registering with their respective state registries. Each public service announcement (PSA) produced through the project is, and will continue to be, tagged with the **Donate Life** logo.

Although JRI will formally dissolve as a nonprofit entity, I am pleased to announce that "Share the Beat" and the Redford Animation Project will continue on with AST under Annie Aft's superb direction. This is an exciting time and we could not have come to this point without your support and friendship over the years. My family and I hope to see you at the "Share the Beat" event in Boston, on May 30, 2009, with John Williams conducting the Boston Pops. More information will soon follow. (www.sharethebeat.org)

I am humbled by your ongoing commitment to giving hope to those who give life and those who receive.

Warmly,

James Redford