

Transforming Loss into Legacy: A Family's Mission in Organ Donation

Stateline Nurses Conference

John and Joy Beach
John A Beach II Foundation
April 25, 2025



Agenda

John's story

Personal Journey

Donor Awareness Advocacy

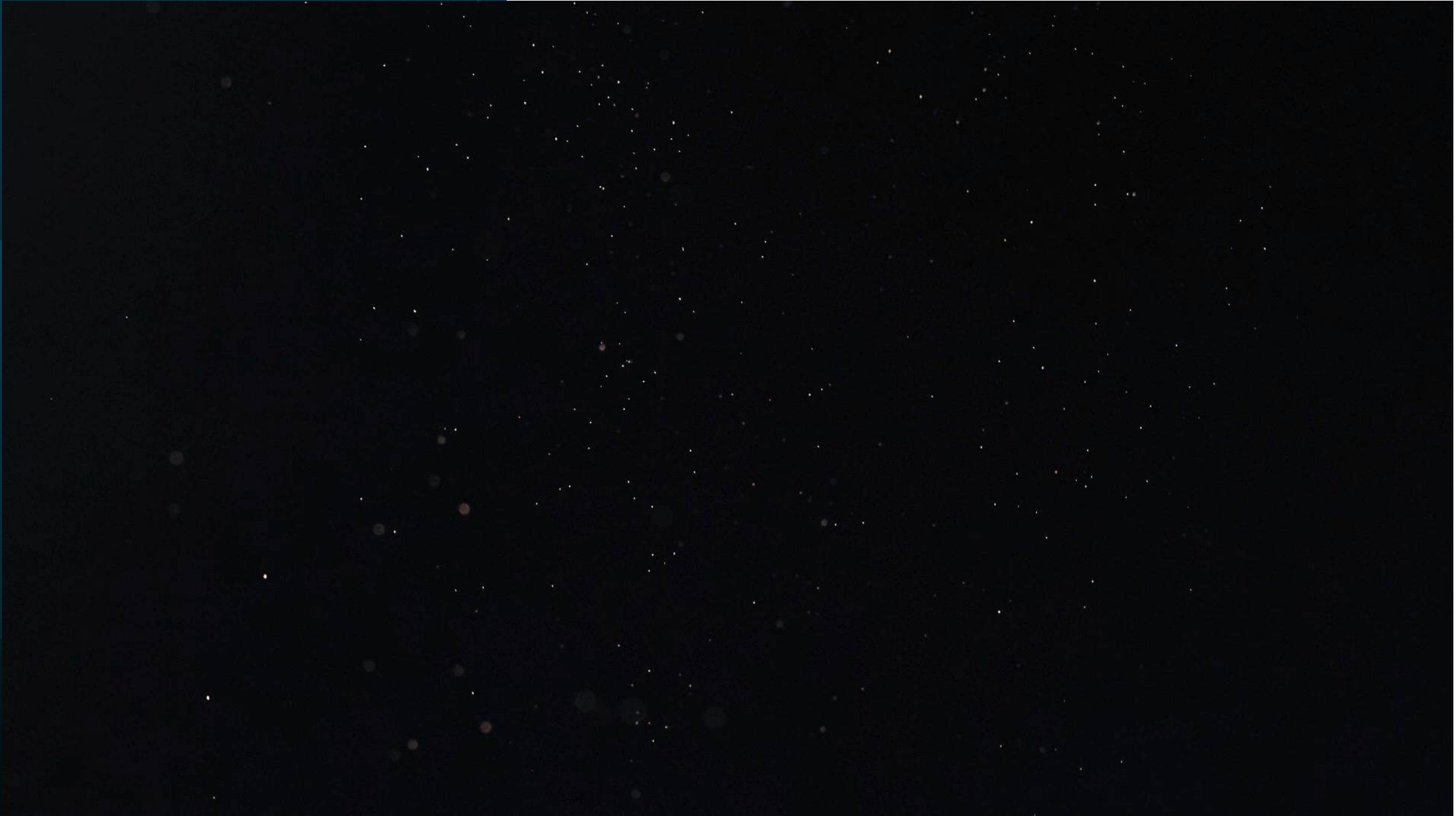
Statistics

Grief / Mental Health Awareness

Transplantation and the Future

A PART OF A PART

John's Story



Personal Journey

Knowledge is power

- “When Death Becomes Life”
– Joshua D. Mezrich, M.D.
- “Gifted” – Robert Horsey

Transcending borders

- Transplant Games San Diego,
July 2022

Advocacy

- Don't say "NO"



Statistics

A man wearing a light-colored jacket and a dark cap is working on a motorcycle in a workshop. The workshop is decorated with checkered bunting and blue pennants that have the 'Barnett' logo. A dark-colored van is parked in the background.

John's
Statistics:

Recipients:

- 6 Major Organs
- 1 Cornea
- 166 Tissue recipients
- Second Skin Request

They Reside
In:

- 22 States
- 3 Countries

Illinois/Indiana Average Donor Statistics

8 Lives saved by one donor

75 Lives or more are improved through tissue donation

5,000 Illinois and Indiana residents waiting for an organ donation to save their life

— National Statistics

2024:

- More than 48,000 transplants from 24,000 donors

2023:

- 39,000 Organ Transplants from deceased donors;
- 23,000 Living Donor transplants

2022:

- 14,903 Organ Transplants from deceased donors
- 6,466 Living Donor transplants
- <https://www.hrsa.gov/>

In 2024,

- More than 48,000 transplants from 24,000 donors brought renewed life to patients, their families, and their communities.
- More than 100,000 people are waiting on the national transplant waiting list for lifesaving organ transplants.
- Nearly 60% of patients on the national transplant waiting list are from multicultural communities.
- Another person is added to the national organ transplant waiting list every 8 minutes
- 13 people die each day while waiting for a transplant.
- Over 5,600 people in the U.S die each year while on the transplant waiting list.

170 Million People
Currently Registered
as Organ Donors

3 / 1000 actually become donors

That is expressed as:

.3%

.003

$170,000,000 \times 8$
=1,360,000,000 registered donors

86% of patients on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is 3 to 5 years.

A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list (the living donor's remaining kidney will increase in size, doing the work of two healthy kidneys).

9% of patients waiting are in need of a liver. Living donation of part of the liver can help these patients (the remaining portion of the donor liver will regenerate within 4 months and regain full function).

More than 40% of all deceased donors are age 50 or older; 9% are age 65 or older

More than 2.5 million lifesaving and healing tissue transplants are performed each year, offering patients a new chance at healthy, productive, and normal lives.

A single tissue donor can help more than 75 people.

More than 78,000 corneal transplants helped to restore sight in 2023.

Living donation is not included in your deceased donor registration

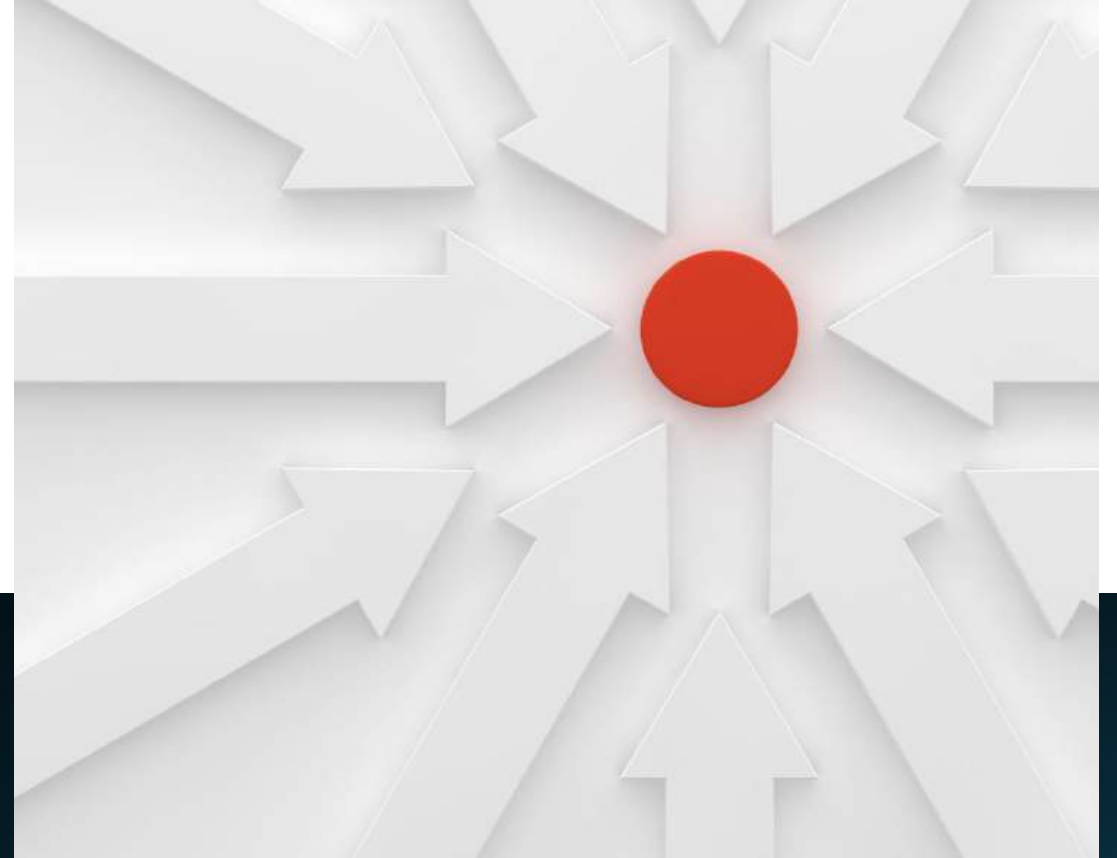
Grief &
Mental
Health
Awareness



A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's feet as they hike on a rocky trail. The person is wearing dark brown hiking shoes with red accents and white socks. The ground is covered in dry, brown grass and small, light-colored rocks. The background shows a blurred, hilly landscape under a bright sky. The text "Go at your own pace" is overlaid in white, centered on the image.

Go at your own pace

Providers Make the Difference



What matters most?

- The level of work and care with which a loved one was treated. That they were treated as an individual, with a name, with care and respect. They are looked after and cared for when their family is unable to be present.



Transplantation and the Future



ORGAN TIMEFRAMES

Each organ has a different timeframe between recovery and recipient transplant.

**4-6
HOURS**

HEART



LUNGS

**4-6
HOURS**

**8-12
HOURS**

LIVER



KIDNEY

**24-36
HOURS**

ADDITIONAL TIMEFRAMES:

CORNEA - 48 HOURS
INTESTINES - 8-16 HOURS
PANCREAS - 12-18 HOURS
TISSUE - STORED UNTIL NEEDED

Time is of the Essence

- Transport
- Treatment
- Intensive care
- Brain Death Declared
- Evaluation
- Authorization
- Matching
- Logistics/Coordination of Recipients
- Surgery



Upwards Trend in Success Rates

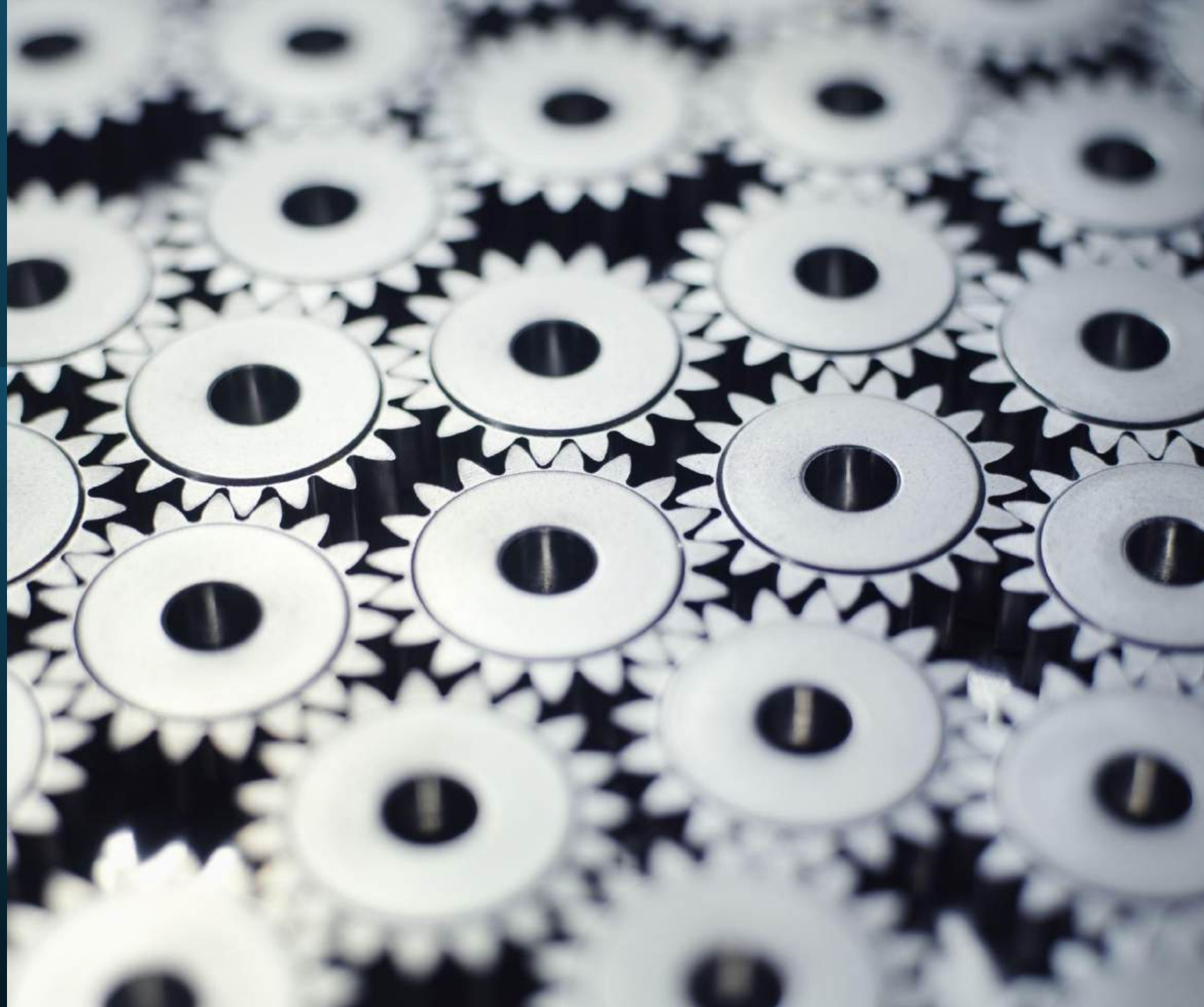
The future is bright

Areas of Improvement

- Technology
- Storage
- Logistics
- Matching
- Communication
- Transportation
- Legislation
- Training and Education
 - Providers, Care Givers, Technicians



A Part of a Part





Donate LifeSM is the national symbol for the cause of organ, eye and tissue donation.

National Donate Life Month is celebrated every April. It features local and national activities to educate and encourage Americans to register as donors and consider living donation, as well as to celebrate those who have saved and healed lives through the gift of donation.

 **BLUE & GREEN DAY is April 11!**

The public is encouraged to wear blue and green to help share the Donate Life message.

Did You Know?

60% of organ, eye and tissue donors are authorized by donor registration.

National Pediatric Transplant Week



The final week of April focuses on the powerful message of ending the pediatric transplant waiting list.

More than **2,100** children under the age of 18 are on the national transplant waiting list.

More than **1,900** children were saved by the generosity of donors & donor families in 2024.

The Need is Great

More than **100,000** people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants.



More than **48,000** organ transplants from 24,000 donors brought new life to patients and their families in 2024.

More than **78,000** corneal transplants helped to restore sight in 2023.



More than **2.5 million** tissue transplants heal lives each year.

More than **170 million** people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.



Register your decision anytime at RegisterMe.org.

Thank you to all donors, donor families, registered donors and champions of the Donate Life cause!

Deceased Donation



1 Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor

Saves
up to
8
lives

Restores
sight to
2
people

Heals the lives
of more than
75
people

Living Donation



86% of patients waiting are in need of a kidney.



Living donors can provide a kidney or a portion of their liver to a waiting patient.*

*Living donation is not included in your donor registration.

Did You Know?

The liver is the only organ that grows back! The donated part of the liver regrows in 4 months.

Learn more at [DonateLife.net](https://www.donatelife.net)



Top Frequently Asked Questions

Does registering as a donor change my patient care?

No, your life always comes first. Doctors work hard to save every patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

Does donation affect funeral plans?

Funeral arrangements of your choice are possible, including a viewing. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care and respect. Following donation, funeral arrangements can continue as planned.

Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ if I ever need one?

No. A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the list. Race, gender, income, celebrity and social status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression does NOT prevent someone from registering as an organ donor.

What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation?

1

Register your decision to be a donor at [RegisterMe.org](https://www.RegisterMe.org).

2

Tell your family and community about your decision to *Donate Life*.

3

Visit [DonateLife.net](https://www.DonateLife.net) to discover ways you can be a champion of the cause.

4

Ask others to visit [DonateLife.net](https://www.DonateLife.net) to learn more and register.



Questions

Data sources:

- OPTN data as of Jan. 9, 2025. 2023 Annual Data Report. Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients;
- https://srtr.transplant.hrsa.gov/annual_reports/Default.aspx. Accessed March 2025<https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>
- <https://www.hrsa.gov/>
- <https://www.organdonor.gov/>
- [giftofhope.org](https://www.giftofhope.org)
- [donatelife.net](https://www.donatelife.net)