

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DONATE LIFE.

Mission Statement

Donate Life Connecticut is dedicated to the purpose of public education and public awareness for all Connecticut residents concerning the lifesaving benefits of organ and tissue donation.

Community Collaborations and Partnerships

Donate Life Connecticut continues to build relationships with other agencies and organizations in the community to share resources, collaborate, and spread the word through events and projects that include:

- Annual Poster Contest
- Health Fairs
- Public Presentations
- Distribution of Print Material
- Donor Awareness Week
- National Donor Sabbath
- Volunteer Program
- Special Projects



Donate Life Connecticut

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Roma, kidney recipient

Be an organ, eye and tissue donor.



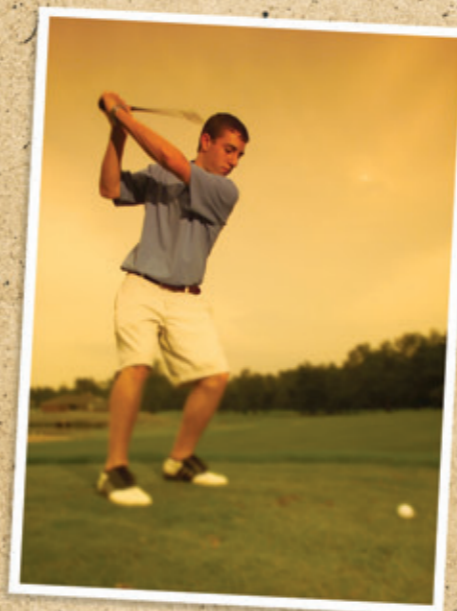
America

You have the power to give someone the most precious gift in the world—Life.



"I got my life back. I'm a father and a husband again."

Derrick, kidney recipient



"I'm a normal teenager again. Nobody would even know I had a bone transplant if I didn't show them the scar."

Tyler, bone recipient

"I can do what I want now. I'm back in life, not on the sidelines."

Christine, kidney recipient



Organ, eye and tissue transplants offer patients a new chance at healthy, productive, and normal lives and return them to their families, friends and communities. You have the power to change someone's world by being a donor. It's about living. It's about Life.

Transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. It provides hope to thousands of people with organ failure. In addition, transplanted tissue offers hundreds of thousands of people active and renewed lives. But transplantation requires the commitment of organ, eye and tissue donors. Unfortunately, the need for donors is much greater than the number of people who actually donate.

YOU HAVE THE POWER

FACTS ABOUT ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION

- People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.
- Donated organs, including the heart, pancreas, kidneys, liver, lungs, and intestines, restore life.
- Tissue is needed to replace bone, tendons and ligaments lost to trauma, cancer and other diseases in order to improve strength, mobility, and independence. Corneas are needed to restore sight. Skin grafts help burn patients heal and often mean the difference between life and death. Heart valves repair cardiac defects and damage.
- All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as an unselfish act of charity.
- There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and for funeral expenses.
- It is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation in the United States.
- It is possible to donate life to others as a living kidney or partial liver, lung, or pancreas donor. Visit www.donatelife.net for more information.

How the donation process works

Your commitment to donation will **not** interfere with your medical care. Organ, eye and tissue donation becomes an option only after all life-saving efforts have been made and death has been declared.

Consent for donation is confirmed, and your family is asked to participate in the process by providing your medical history.

Surgical procedures are used to recover donated organs, eyes and tissue. The body is always treated with great care and respect.

Donation should not delay or change funeral arrangements. An open casket service is possible.

Who receives donated organs and tissue

Organs are distributed based upon medical information like blood type, body size, and tissue type matching through a national computer network operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). It is illegal to distribute organs based on non-medical information such as wealth, citizenship, or celebrity status.

Tissue is distributed based upon patient need, availability, and medical criteria.

STATISTICS ON ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION

- Last year more than 7,500 deceased donors made possible more than 21,000 organ transplants. In addition, there were nearly 7,000 transplants from living donors.
- There are also 25,000 tissue donors and 40,000 cornea donors annually, providing more than one million tissue and corneal transplants.
- The need for donated organs, eye and tissue continues to grow. More than 93,000 men, women, and children currently await life-saving organ transplants. Sadly, an average of 18 people die each day due to a lack of available organs.
- Every donor can save and enhance the lives of up to 50 people.



"I just want to be a regular mom: to be there for my daughter as she grows up, goes to the prom, gets married, has kids of her own. I want to live to be there for her."

Robbie, patient waiting for a double lung transplant

To ensure that your family understands your wishes, it is important that you share your decision to donate.

Complete and give to your next of kin.



FAMILY NOTIFICATION CARD

Dear Family,

I want you to know about my decision to become an organ, eye and tissue donor. Upon my death, if I am a candidate for donation, I ask that you honor my wishes. It is important to me that others are given the opportunity to live full and productive lives.

I wish to donate the following:

- any needed organs and tissue
- only the following organs and tissue:

Thank you for honoring my commitment to donate Life through organ, eye and tissue donation.

Donor Name _____

Donor Signature _____

Date _____



Blind for 31 years, a cornea transplant let John see his daughters for the first time ever.

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

— Anonymous

To learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation, please visit www.donatelife.net.