

## MISSION STATEMENT

Donate Life Connecticut is dedicated to the purpose of public education and 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 improve donation awareness through events and projects that include:

- African American Donation Awareness Campaign
- Annual Poster Contest
- College Outreach
- Department of Motor Vehicle and AAA Alliance
- Donor Designation Stations at Health Fairs
- Donor Family & Transplant Recipient Speakers Program
- Flags Across Connecticut
- High School Educational Presentations
- National Donate Life Month
- National Donor Sabbath
- Thanks for Asking
- Thanks for Caring
- Toast to Life
- Workplace Partnership for Life

To find out more information about projects, membership, volunteerism, the donor registry, or to make a donation, please visit the Donate Life Connecticut website.



Connecticut

## DONATE LIFE CONNECTICUT

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You have the power  
to Donate Life.



Be an  
organ, eye  
and tissue  
donor.

Roma, kidney recipient



Connecticut

You have the power to change someone's world by being an organ, eye and tissue donor.  
It's about living. It's about Life.

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.

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.



Tyler, bone recipient

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



Christine, kidney recipient

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

## Statistics on Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation

- Last year, more than 8,000 deceased donors made possible more than 22,000 organ transplants. In addition, there were nearly 7,000 transplants from living donors.
- There are also approximately 30,000 tissue donors and 40,000 cornea donors annually, providing more than one million tissue and cornea transplants.
- The need for donated organs, corneas and tissue continues to grow. More than 100,000 men, women and children currently await lifesaving organ transplants. Sadly, an average of 18 people die each day due to a lack of available organs.

## You have the power to Donate Life.

As a donor, you can save and enhance the lives of more than 50 people. Donated organs and tissue may include the following:

### Organs

heart  
intestines  
kidneys  
liver  
lungs  
pancreas

### Tissue

bones  
corneas  
heart valves  
skin  
tendons  
veins

## 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 lifesaving efforts have been made. 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, respect and dignity.

## 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.



Jepahl, kidney recipient

*"After 7 years of dialysis, my kidney transplant restored my hope and allowed me to pursue my dreams."*

# Facts about Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation

**FACT:** People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors.

**FACT:** Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.

**FACT:** 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.

**FACT:** All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as an unselfish act of charity.

**FACT:** Donation should not delay or change funeral arrangements. An open casket funeral is possible.

**FACT:** There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

**FACT:** In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs or tissue for transplantation.

**FACT:** It is possible to donate life to others as a living kidney or partial liver, lung, intestine or pancreas donor.

*For John, a cornea transplant brought a whole new world into view. John lost his sight in a chemical explosion at age 20. For the next 31 years, he lived his life in total darkness. Then, at age 51, John's world changed immeasurably. A cornea transplant allowed him to see his now grown children for the first time. "I approached my children and I couldn't say anything. Not a word. For the first time in my life I was looking at my children." Through tears of joy, he was happy to see that his loving wife Anita had only changed for the better. Everyday things are part of John's life again, too. Thanks to the cornea transplant, he has put away his white folding cane for good.*



John, cornea recipient



Robbie, patient waiting for a double lung transplant

*"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."*

## How you can make a difference

Become one of the 60 million Americans who have registered their decision to be organ, eye and tissue donors!

Every individual has the power to save lives by donating their organs, eyes and tissue. By registering as a donor you will be entered in the Connecticut Donor Registry, which authorizes legal consent for donation.

You can join the registry several ways:

- First, check your driver's license or state ID card. If you have a red heart on the front, you are already registered in the Connecticut Donor Registry and do not need to take further steps.
- Say "yes" to becoming an organ and tissue donor when obtaining or renewing your driver's license at the Department of Motor Vehicles or AAA office.
- Sign-up online at [www.DonateLifeCT.org](http://www.DonateLifeCT.org).

As always, it is important to notify your family of your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor to avoid any confusion or delays.

**For more information about the donor registry, Donate Life Connecticut projects, membership, volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation, please visit [www.ctorganandtissuedonation.org](http://www.ctorganandtissuedonation.org).**