

## 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:

National Donate Life Month

National Donor Sabbath

Health Fairs

Educational Presentations

Annual Poster Contest

College Campaign

Town Proclamations

Department of Motor Vehicle Alliance

Donor Family & Transplant Recipient Speakers Program



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# You have the power to Donate Life.



Helen, kidney recipient

Be an  
organ, eye  
and tissue  
donor.



# 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.

In fact, Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) are more likely to need organ transplants due to high incidences of hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes and hepatitis. Thousands of Asians currently wait for a kidney or liver transplant and expect to wait several years, yet Asians consistently have the lowest donation rates in the United States.

### Donation in the API Community

Last year, nearly 700 organ transplants were made possible thanks to API deceased and living donors.

The need for donated organs, eye and tissue continues to grow. Nearly 10,000 men, women and children in the API community currently await lifesaving organ transplants. Sadly, an average of 18 people die each day due to a lack of available organs.

"My donor's gift of life is allowing me to help other donor families and transplant recipients."



Glenn, heart recipient



Janine, tissue recipient

For Janine, playing sports has been her world since she was eight years old. Basketball, volleyball — you name it. Her world was turned upside down when, at age 14, a collision on the basketball court tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). Only a knee operation — and the gift of donated tissue to replace her ligament — would restore her mobility. Thanks to a generous tissue donor, Janine returned to the court to win two volleyball championships, helped her basketball team top their division, and began a new love affair with golf. Thanks to her tissue donor, Janine is a happy and active teenager again — and a champion.

"I am so fortunate to be able to live a normal life again; spend time with my wife, watch my kids grow. I owe all of this to my organ donor."



Kenny, liver recipient

**You have the power to Donate Life.**

As a donor, you can save up to 8 lives and enhance the lives of more than 75 people. Donated organs and tissue may include the following:

Organs	Tissue
heart	bones
intestines	corneas
kidneys	heart valves
liver	skin
lungs	tendons
pancreas	veins

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.

You can also donate life to others as a living donor. Kidneys are the most common organ donated by living donors. The remaining kidney will enlarge, doing the work of two healthy kidneys. People may also donate part of their liver, which will grow back and regain full function.



Liberato, liver recipient

Liberato waited a decade for a transplant. As his condition worsened, the thing that bothered him the most was not being able to take his son on vacation. The world is now within Liberato's reach, but mostly he is thankful for the people in his life. "I am so fortunate to be with my family, friends and church."

# 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:** Your commitment to donation will NOT interfere with your medical care. If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life.
- FACT:** All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as a final act of love and generosity towards others.
- FACT:** Donation should not delay or change funeral arrangements. An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.
- FACT:** There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. Medical expenses before death and funeral expenses remain the family's responsibility.
- FACT:** In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation.
- FACT:** 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).

Since she was a newborn, Isa lived with cystic fibrosis, which gradually caused her lungs to fail. Her identical twin sister Ana joined her in enduring lung infections and grueling treatments throughout their childhood and teens. Isa doubted they would live to see the 21st century. At age 32, Isa joined Ana as the recipient of a lung transplant. Now she travels extensively and is more active than ever. "My donor's gift of healthy lungs allows me to swim, hike and play taiko like I never thought I could," says Isa. "I thank my donor for this human resurrection. I am making the most of his gift to me."



Isa, double lung recipient

When Yeon had less and less energy to do the things he loved, he assumed it was because of stress. The diagnosis turned out to be kidney disease. Yeon was in the terminal stages of the disease when he received his transplant. "After my transplant, my wife and children became cheerful again."



Yeon, kidney recipient

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

To find out how to become a donor in Connecticut, visit [www.donatelifect.org](http://www.donatelifect.org). For more information, call 203-387-1549.