HOW CAN I SIGN UP TO BE AN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR?

Sign up when you get your driver’s license

You can sign up at the Department of Safety (DMV) when you apply for or renew your driver’s license or ID card—simply check “Yes, I want to be an organ donor” on the application. Your information will be added to the Registry and a miniature ♥ will appear on the license.

IMPORTANT: EVERY time you renew your license you must check “yes” or your name will automatically be removed from the Registry.

Sign up online anytime at
www.TnDonorRegistry.org (TN)
www.DonateLifeVirginia.org (VA)
www.DonateLifeGA.org (GA)

You can also join the Donate Life Tennessee Donor Registry (or Virginia’s or Georgia’s) online anytime by visiting www.TnDonorRegistry.org (in TN), www.DonateLifeVirginia.org (in VA) or www.DonateLifeGA.org (in GA).

By signing up on the Registry (online or at the Department of Safety) you legally give your consent for the anatomical gift of your organs, eyes and tissues upon your death. No one can override your wishes and your family will not have to make the decision for you. The Registry also allows you to indicate restrictions or specifications to your gift.

Be sure to tell your family you registered as a donor so they will be informed of your decision.

Sign up. Save lives.
www.TnDonorRegistry.org
877-552-5050
Over 800,000 lives are improved through tissue transplants each year in the United States. Last year 6,499 patients died waiting for a transplant in the US, including 95 patients in TN, 178 in VA and 146 in GA.

*As of July 1, 2011*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PATIENTS WAITING IN THE U.S.*</th>
<th>2010 U.S. Transplants</th>
<th>WAITING IN Tennessee*</th>
<th>2010 TN Transplants</th>
<th>WAITING IN Virginia*</th>
<th>2010 VA Transplants</th>
<th>WAITING IN Georgia*</th>
<th>2010 GA Transplants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>3,196</td>
<td>2,333</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart and Lung</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>89,331</td>
<td>16,898</td>
<td>2,147</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>2,552</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>2,944</td>
<td>445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>1,783</td>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>16,278</td>
<td>6,291</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreas/Islet Cell</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney &amp; Pancreas</td>
<td>2,168</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestine</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>111,957</td>
<td>28,663</td>
<td>2,519</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>3,003</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>3,241</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Donors 2010**

Deceased: 7,943
Living: 6,563

Deceased: 269
Living: 101

Deceased: 147
Living: 109

Deceased: 284
Living: 161

Sign up. Save lives. Register now at:

www.TnDonorRegistry.org (TN)
www.DonateLifeVirginia.org (VA)
www.DonateLifeGA.org (GA)

www.budurl.com/DonateLifeTN
www.twitter.com/DonateLifeTenn
SIGN ME UP TODAY! YES! I want to be an organ and tissue donor.

All information submitted will be used only for official Registry business and will be kept completely confidential.

Personal Information—PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (*required fields)

*First Name________________________________________ *Middle Initial______ *Last Name____________________________________

*Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) _______________ *Gender _______ *Mother’s Maiden Name____________________________________

*Address ______________________________________________________________________________________________

*City_________________________________ *State______ *Zip Code____________ *County________________________

Phone _____________________________ Email Address _____________________________________________________

*Driver’s License or State ID#__________________ Ethnicity:______________ *Place of Birth (City, State)________________

Yes! I wish to join the Donate Life Tennessee Organ & Tissue Donor Registry and designate myself as an organ and tissue donor. By submitting this registration, I affirm that I am the applicant described on this application and that the information entered herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. This registration will serve as a document of gift as outlined in the Tennessee Uniform Anatomical Gift Act.

Specific Donations: If you would like to specify only certain organs and tissues you would like to donate or place other restrictions on your gifts, please register online at www.tndonorregistry.org

I give permission for my information, changes, or deletion to be entered into the Donate Life Tennessee Organ & Tissue Donor Registry on my behalf.

Signature________________________________________ Date____________________

Parent Signature ___________________________________ Printed Name________________________________ Date _______
(if under 18)

Please mail form to:
Donate Life Tennessee
110 KLM Drive, Suite 2
Gray, TN 37615
1-877-552-5050

Thank you for giving the Gift of Life!
Sign me up as an organ, eye and tissue donor!
Organ, eye and tissue donation can save 9 lives, restore sight to two people and help many others. Almost anyone can be a donor at the time of their death, regardless of age or medical condition.

If you would like to be an organ, eye and tissue donor, fill out the form below or sign up online at www.DonateLifeVirginia.org. All information submitted will be kept completely confidential and will only be accessed by transplant professionals at the appropriate time. We will not share, sell, or otherwise compromise this information.

If you are 13 to 18 years old you can register, but your parents will make the final decision about organ, eye and tissue donation at the appropriate time.

Personal Information—PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY (*required fields)
First Name:_________________________  Middle Name:_________________________  Last Name:_________________________ *
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):_____/_____/_______*  Gender*: □Male  □Female
Address:_________________________________________ *
Address 2:_________________________________________
City:_________________________ *  State: VA  Zip:_________________________ *

Only Virginia residents can register here. If you live in another state, please go to www.DonateLifeAmerica.net and click on your state of residence to learn how to register there.

Phone number: (______) ______-_______* (required only if you do not submit an email address. It will be used only if there is a problem with your registration.)
Email:_________________________________________ (while not required, if you do not submit an email address you will not get confirmation of your registration. If you do not have an e-mail address please make a copy of this form for your records. To sign on in the future, you will need your driver’s license number or the last four digits of your social security number.)
Mother’s Maiden Name:_________________________ *
Place of Birth(City/State):_________________________ *
Last 4 digits of Social Security Number:_____________*  OR  Drivers License/State ID#:_________________________ *
How did you learn about DonateLifeVirginia.org (name of event/place and city)?
_________________________________________ *

___YES! I wish to join DonateLifeVirginia.org and designate myself as an organ, eye and tissue donor. By submitting this registration form, I affirm that I am the applicant described above and that the information entered herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. This registration will serve as a document of gift as outlined in the Code of Virginia, which grants permission for my gift to be used for transplantation, medical research, education and therapy. I also authorize the necessary testing for determining the medical suitability of the organs. I understand, in accordance with the Code of Virginia, that “no family member, guardian, or person responsible for the decedent’s estate shall refuse to honor the donor designation or, in any way, seek to avoid honoring the donor designation.”

I give permission for any of my information listed above to be entered in DonateLifeVirginia.org on my behalf.

Signature_________________________________________ Date_________________________________________

Please mail form to: Donate Life Virginia
Attn: Community Education Specialists, LifeNet Health
1948 Franklin Road, S.W., Suite A-100
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

If you have any questions, please call 1.866.VADonor
ONE organ, eye and tissue donor can save the lives of eight people, the sight of two, and improve the health of over 50 more. Without a donor, transplant surgeons cannot help even one person.

The Waiting List

In 2010, 28,663 Americans received life-saving organ transplants. However, more than 110,000 still wait for the organ that will save their lives. Nationally, 1,821 patients waiting are children. Organs that can be transplanted include heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas and small intestine.

In the ten years from 2000 - 2010, the number of patients on the waiting list has increased 45% (74,524 to 110,693), but the number of organ donors has only grown 33% from nearly 6,000 to 8,000.

Someone dies every 79 minutes, 18 people per day, while waiting for an organ transplant that doesn't come in time. Over 6,000 patients died waiting last year. On average, 138 people are added to the nation’s organ transplant waiting list each day—one every 10 minutes.

Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation

Nationally, 7,943 Americans graciously donated organs after their death in 2010. Another 6,563 Americans were living organ donors—donating an organ to a friend, relative, or even a stranger. Organs, or portions thereof, that can be donated while living are kidneys, liver, small intestine and lungs. Of the living donors in 2010, 96% donated a kidney. Almost 300 donated a portion of their liver.

More than 800,000 tissue transplants restore health in the United States every year. Tissues that can be donated include bone grafts, skin grafts, heart valves and pericardium, tendons and ligaments, and veins and arteries. Over 42,000 people receive the gift of sight each year through cornea transplants.

Who Receives the Organs

Organ recipients are chosen based upon several criteria including tissue matching, medical urgency, length of time on the waiting list, and geographic location. A national computerized matching system is used to place available organs with potential recipients. National policies govern the sharing of organs in the United States to ensure all patients fair and equal access to transplantation. "Who gets the organ" is not a problem of “equality” it is an issue of “availability”. If everyone donated, there would be enough organs for all transplant recipients—EVERYONE would receive life and that is the fairest of all.

The number one reason people are not donors is because they don’t take a moment to sign up. Donors can register at the DMV or online with their state Donor Registry –

www.TnDonorRegistry.org (in Tennessee)
www.DonateLifeVirginia.org (in Virginia)
www.DonateLifeGa.org (in Georgia)
Frequently Asked Questions

How can I become an organ donor?

You can indicate your wishes at the DMV on the application to apply for or renew your driver’s license or ID card. Your registration is legal consent to donate your organs, eyes and tissues (family members cannot override your decision). Your donor registration will automatically be entered into the state Donor Registry through the DMV. IMPORTANT: EVERY time you renew your license or ID you must check “yes” for donation or your name will automatically be removed from the Donor Registry.


If you prefer to fill out a paper registration form, please call 1-877-552-5050. However you document your decision, make sure you tell your family so they will know about your wishes.

Should I sign up on a state or national donor registry?

Yes. By signing up on the state registry, you are giving your legal consent to organ, eye and tissue donation. There is NO national registry of organ and tissue donors. Even if you have indicated your wishes on your state’s registry, be sure you have told your family. They cannot override your decision to donate, but they will be consulted before donation takes place.

Am I too old or sick to donate?

Almost everyone, regardless of age, can donate something to help others. Age and health criteria are evaluated on an individual basis at the time of death. Most medical conditions do not prevent donation. People of all ages – from just a few days old to over 100 years – have given the gift of life through donation.

Is the donor’s family charged for the donation process?

Absolutely not! While the family is responsible for hospital charges, once death has been declared and either a donor designation is found or the family consents to donation, all charges related to the donation process are billed to the organ and tissue recovery agency.

If I am a donor, who is responsible for my funeral costs and arrangements?

The family will make the funeral arrangements in the usual fashion. All costs related to donation are the responsibility of the organ and tissue recovery agency. All other costs associated with the funeral remain the responsibility of the family.

If I am a donor, can I still have an open casket viewing at my funeral?

In most cases, someone who is an organ and tissue donor can have a traditional funeral service with an open casket viewing and donation does not interrupt funeral arrangements. Donation is a surgical procedure. As in any other medical procedure, the body is treated with great respect and dignity. It is fully reconstructed once organs and tissues are recovered.
If I sign up, how can I be sure that I am really dead when organs and tissues are recovered? Will they do everything they can to save ME before recovering organs to save someone else?

If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, you will receive the same level of care regardless of whether or not you have indicated your wish to be an organ and tissue donor. The doctors treating you are not involved with transplant programs or possible recipients. This fact is both law and ethical medical practice. In brain death cases, a doctor performs numerous tests to ensure the patient’s brain has died and has NO CHANCE of recovery. The first and foremost job of the healthcare professionals at any hospital is to do everything they can to try and save your life. It is only after all of these efforts have been exhausted that organ and tissue donation would even be considered.

I would like to be a bone marrow donor. How can I do that?

Contact the National Marrow Donor Program at 1-800-627-7692 or visit www.marrow.org.

What if organ donation is against my religion?

All major religions support organ and tissue donation and consider donation the greatest gift one can give. The donation of life is an act of human kindness in keeping with religious teachings. Many religions consider donation a generous act and it is the individual’s choice.

Can organs be sold? Can I get paid for donating?

No! It is against the law to buy or sell human organs and tissues in the United States. In 1984, Congress passed the National Organ Transplant Act which outlaws the buying and selling of human organs in the United States. By federal law, all organs recovered for transplant from deceased donors in this country are monitored and tightly controlled by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) making it illegal to retrieve or transplant human organs outside of the system. The intent of the law is to ensure equitable access to donor organs without any group or person having an unfair advantage.

Is there a black market for organs?

If you are a careful researcher, intent on finding the truth, you will find that, despite rumors to the contrary, there is no "black market" for organs in the United States. Television programs representing an underground market for organs in the U.S. are pure fiction. The tragic fact is that many people believe these myths, resulting in a potential decrease in donation and more people dying without the organ transplant they so desperately need.

Can my organs be used if I die at home?

To be suitable for donation, organs must have a continuous supply of blood and oxygen. This is not usually the case when someone dies at home. However, in many instances, someone who dies away from a hospital setting may be a tissue donor.
What is tissue donation?

Tissues such as corneas, bone, skin, veins, arteries, heart valves, pericardium, tendons, and ligaments can be recovered to help people who have suffered burns, eye disorders, bone cancers, etc. While in most cases tissue donation helps improve the quality of someone’s life, in some cases they, too, are lifesaving.

What if I want to donate my body to science?

Information about whole body donation for the advancement of medical science can be obtained through various body donation programs throughout the United States. For information, contact the medical school nearest you.

Is donation emotionally painful for donor families?

While some question the practice of asking a bereaved family about organ and tissue donation, the opportunity to donate a loved one’s organs can give a grieving family some comfort in an otherwise hopeless situation. In fact, many families raise the issue of donation themselves before even being approached by the organ and tissue recovery agency. However, not knowing whether or not your loved one wanted to be a donor can create stress for the family. It is important that you talk with your family about your decision to be a donor so that if tragedy strikes your wishes will be clear.

Sign up.  
Save lives.  
Register to donate at  
www.TnDonorRegistry.org in TN  
www.DonateLifeVirginia.org in VA  
www.DonateLifeGA.org in GA
TRAVMA SCENE/ CAUSE OF DEATH

Most organ donors are victims of circumstances that cause fatal head injuries. Car wrecks, gun shot wounds, or cerebrovascular accidents, for example.

TRANSPORT

Paramedics begin lifesaving efforts at the accident scene and continue treatment while transporting the patient to the Emergency Room.

EMERGENCY ROOM

Doctors and nurses have advanced life-support equipment ready when the ambulance or helicopter arrives. They evaluate injuries and continue life-saving measures including a respirator (breathing machine), IV fluid and blood replacement, and drugs to help the heart keep beating. When the patient’s vital signs stabilize, he is transferred to an intensive care unit (ICU).

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU)

A doctor does special tests to see how much damage has been done to the brain and body. During these tests, the medical team continues to provide lifesaving measures.

BRAIN DEATH

If a patient is in a coma, tests show brain activity and blood flowing through the brain. But if tests show no blood supply to the brain, it is completely destroyed. If all tests show the brain is no longer alive, the doctor tells the family the patient has died.

REFERRAL/EVALUATION

Hospital staff call the organ donor center to notify them of the patient's death. A donor center coordinator goes to the hospital to see if the patient is medically suitable to be an organ donor. After the patient dies, the breathing machine provides oxygen to the major organs until the patient’s or family’s wishes about donation can be determined.

FOLLOW-UP

Several weeks later, the donor’s family receives a letter from the donor center telling them where the organs went and anonymous information about the recipients. Knowing how the recipients of their loved one’s donation are doing often brings donor families comfort.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

After donation, the body is reconstructed and taken to a funeral home. The funeral is normally not delayed. The family can usually have an open casket funeral if they choose.

ORGAN RECOVERY

In most cases, the recipient’s surgical team comes to the hospital to remove the donor’s organ for their patient. Like other operations, this surgery takes place in an operating room. Organs are then taken to the transplant center.

ORGAN PLACEMENT

The donor’s blood type, size and hospital are entered in the national computer to find patients awaiting transplants that best match the donor’s heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and small intestine. Recipients for tissue such as corneas (eyes), skin, and bone can be found later.

DONOR DESIGNATION AND FAMILY CONSULTATION

Once suitability has been determined, the donor center coordinator will attempt to locate a donor designation on the state registry. In Tennessee and Virginia, if a person has documented their donation decision, no one can override their wishes. However, if the person’s donation decision is not documented, then the decision to donate must be made by the next-of-kin. That is why it is important to tell your family you want to be an organ, eye and tissue donor—so they don’t have to decide for you. In either case, family members need to be consulted to obtain medical and social history of the patient in order to prevent possible disease transmission to the recipient.
TRANSPLANTATION PROCESS

DIAGNOSIS
Many diseases can destroy organs or other necessary body parts. More than half of the heart transplant patients were normal and healthy until they caught a viral infection (a cold or flu), that attacked the heart. Vital organs, such as hearts, lungs, livers, and kidneys must be replaced for a person to live. Tissues can help someone return to a normal life. For example, cornea transplants help a blind person see again.

REFERRAL/EVALUATION
A doctor decides a patient needs a transplant and that patient goes to a special transplant center to be evaluated. Patients must meet medical, and psychological requirements to be placed on the transplant waiting list. Medicare pays for all kidney and pancreas transplants and some heart and liver transplants. Transplants are covered by some, but not all, health insurance companies.

WAITING
Depending on how sick a patient is, he or she may have to wait from one day to many years for an organ. Patients who need kidney transplants can be kept alive by a dialysis machine. Heart assist pumps and medication can temporarily help patients waiting for transplants, but those who need a heart, lung or liver will eventually die without a transplant.

CALL
The transplant surgeon accepts an organ for the patient and the patient goes to the hospital immediately. Many are already in the hospital because they are so sick. The doctor makes sure the patient is in good condition for surgery. If a patient has a cold or fever, the organ is offered to the next patient on the waiting list instead.

TRANSPLANT
A patient is approved for surgery and the transplant may begin at the same time as the donor’s surgery. This saves time because donated organs cannot survive very long outside the body.

RECOVERY AND SURVIVAL
Many patients go home two or three weeks after a transplant. Others stay longer.

WRITING TO THE DONOR FAMILY
Many recipients write letters to donor families to let them know how well they are doing. Most feel very grateful that someone they have never met saved their life.

SIGN UP TO BE A DONOR
Sign up to be a donor now at
www.TnDonorRegistry.org
www.DonateLifeVirginia.org
www.DonateLifeGA.org
### What organs can be donated?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organ</th>
<th>Helps people with:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Kidneys   | • End stage renal disease  
             • High blood pressure  
             • Diabetes           |
| Heart     | • End stage heart disease  
             • Cardiomyopathy (viral) |
| Liver     | • Biliary Atresia  
             • Hepatitis  
             • Cirrhosis       |
| Pancreas  | • Diabetes                       |
| Lungs     | • Emphysema  
             • Cystic Fibrosis     |
| Small intestine | • Short Gut Syndrome  
                     • Pseudo-obstruction  
                     • Microvillus Inclusion  
                     • Tumor             |

### What tissues can be donated?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tissue</th>
<th>Helps people with:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Corneas     | • Eye diseases  
             • Traumas  
             • Prevents blindness  
             • Restores sight |
| Bone        | • Hip replacement surgery  
             • Crushing injuries  
             • Bone cancers  
             • Reconstructive dental surgery  
             • Spinal fusion to reduce pain  
             • Prevents amputation |
| Skin        | • Life threatening burns  
             • Bladder reconstruction |
| Heart Valves| • Cardiovascular diseases  
             • Heart bypass surgery  
             • Blood flow restoration  
             • Heart valve replacement |
| Veins & Arteries | • Cardiovascular diseases  
                       • Heart bypass surgery  
                       • Blood flow restoration  
                       • Heart valve replacement |
| Tendons/Ligaments | • Joint injuries    |

---

**Sign up. SAVE LIVES!** Register to become an organ, eye & tissue donor at  
[www.TnDonorRegistry.org](http://www.TnDonorRegistry.org) in TN,  
**What are the three types of donors?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deceased Donors: Brain Death</th>
<th>Deceased Donors: Cardiac Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintained on breathing machine — heart beating</td>
<td>No cardiac function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart beating</td>
<td>No respiratory function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organ and tissue donor potential</td>
<td>Tissue donor potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Possible Donation:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Possible Donation:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>Corneas/eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lungs</td>
<td>Heart valves/Pericardium/Aorta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>Skin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidneys</td>
<td>Bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreas</td>
<td>Veins/arteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestines</td>
<td>Tendons/ligaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissues</td>
<td>Fascia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organs are removed in the operating room while heart function is maintained with artificial support.</td>
<td>Tissues can be donated up to 24 hours after death.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Living Donors**

Living people who may or may not be related to the potential recipient.

Potential living donors undergo screening and compatibility testing.

Transplants possible from living donors include:

- Kidney, partial pancreas, liver or lung;
- bone marrow and blood.

Sign up. SAVE LIVES! Register to become an organ, eye & tissue donor at

- [www.TnDonorRegistry.org](http://www.TnDonorRegistry.org) in TN,
- [www.DonateLifeVirginia.org](http://www.DonateLifeVirginia.org) in VA, or
- [www.DonateLifeGA.org](http://www.DonateLifeGA.org) in GA
FACT: To date, the oldest organ donor was 93 and the oldest tissue donor was 101 years old. If someone is waiting for an organ transplant and has only days to live, the age of the donor is not likely going to matter much to them. Without a transplant, they will die.

FACT: Some senior citizens are in better health than younger people because they have taken better care of themselves.

FACT: Even if the health of a person’s organs prevents them from being an organ donor, they most likely can be a tissue donor. Tissues such as corneas, bone grafts and skin grafts restore sight and improve health and mobility for many patients every day. Each year over 800,000 tissue transplants and 42,000 cornea transplants take place in the United States.

FACT: The only absolute preclusion to someone becoming an organ and tissue donor is a diagnosis of HIV. Careful tests are done prior to organs being recovered to ensure the donor has no infectious diseases that could put the recipient at risk.

FACT: Many diabetics CAN donate organs and tissues.

If you support organ, eye and tissue donation, make your decision known by joining the Donor Registry. Go to www.TnDonorRegistry.org today and sign up to be a donor, or call the number below to request a registration form. Remember to check “yes” every time you renew your driver’s license or ID card to remain in the Donor Registry and tell your family so they will be informed of you decision. Let healthcare professionals determine if you can donate at the appropriate time—at the time of your death.
Donate Life Tennessee Organ & Tissue Donor Registry
Donate Life Virginia Organ, Eye & Tissue Donor Registry
Donate Life Georgia Organ, Tissue & Eye Donor Registry
Tennessee Donor Services
Donate Life America
“Recycle Your Life” Teen Donation Education Program
United Network for Organ Sharing
National Donor Family Council
Organ Procurement and Transplant Network
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
American Association of Tissue Banks
Eye Bank Association of America
American Association of Blood Banks
National Marrow Donor Program
Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network
Department of Health and Human Services
The Nicholas Green Foundation
National Transplant Society
Transweb
Donate Life Hollywood
Decision: Donation (online student education)

Sign up. Save lives.
Register to be an organ, eye & tissue donor.

www.TnDonorRegistry.org (TN)
www.DonateLifeVirginia.org (VA)
www.DonateLifeGA.org (GA)

www.donatelife.net
www.recycleyourlifevirginia.org
www.unos.org
www.donorfamily.org
www.optn.org
www.aopo.org
www.aatb.org
www.restore.org
www.aabb.org
www.marrow.org
www.organdonor.gov
www.nicholasgreen.org
www.organdonor.org
www.transweb.org
www.donatelifeshollywood.org

www.organdonor.gov/student/
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

Indicate whether the following statements are true or false.

T or F 1. Someone is added to the national organ transplant waiting list every 10 minutes.

T or F 2. Currently, there are over 110,000 patients waiting for an organ transplant in the U.S.

T or F 3. Bone is the second most transplanted tissue today, second only to blood.

T or F 4. Organ transplantation is still considered an experimental treatment.

T or F 5. If a person signs up to be a donor, doctors will not try as hard to save their life if they are taken to the hospital.

T or F 6. Some people are too old to be donors.

T or F 7. The National Organ Transplant Act made the buying and selling of organs legal in the U.S.

T or F 8. When surveyed, 91% of Americans indicated that they support organ donation, yet in reality only 50% actually donate.

T or F 9. One organ and tissue donor can help 10 people.

T or F 10. Organ and tissue donation is against many religions.

T or F 11. The more famous and rich you are, the quicker you will receive an organ transplant.

T or F 12. A living person can donate the following: blood, bone marrow, kidney; and part of the lung, liver and intestine.

T or F 13. A person must be 18 years old to be a donor.

T or F 14. Last year, approximately 1,000 Americans died waiting for a transplant.

T or F 15. When a loved one dies, most families report that discussing organ and tissue donation creates more stress for them.

T or F 16. In most cases, organ and tissue donors can have an open casket funeral.

T or F 17. The family of the donor has to pay for donation.

T or F 18. A person can recover from brain death with proper medical treatment.

T or F 19. Over half the people on the national transplant waiting list need a kidney transplant.

T or F 20. Brain death and coma are the same thing.

T or F 21. It is difficult to sign up to be an organ & tissue donor.
Indicate whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Someone is added to the national organ transplant waiting list every 10 minutes. **TRUE.** On average, 138 people are added every day.

2. Currently, there are over 108,000 patients waiting for an organ transplant in the U.S. **TRUE.** The number of patients waiting has increased 45% in the past 10 years.

3. Bone is the second most transplanted tissue today, second only to blood. **TRUE.** Donated tissues, like bone, are often used to repair crushing injuries or prevent disfigurement and amputation for those with bone cancer. Over 800,000 tissue transplants take place in the United States each year.

4. Organ transplantation is still considered an experimental treatment. **FALSE.** Advances in transplant surgery techniques and the development of effective anti-rejection medications have allowed great strides in the field of transplantation. In 2010, 28,663 people received life-saving organ transplants in the U.S.

5. If a person signs up to be a donor, doctors will not try as hard to save their life if they are taken to the hospital. **FALSE.** If you are sick or injured and go to the hospital, you will receive the same level of care regardless of whether or not you have indicated your wish to be an organ and tissue donor. The first and foremost job of healthcare professionals is to do everything they can to save your life. It is only after all these efforts have been exhausted that organ and tissue donation would even be considered. The doctors treating you are not involved with transplant programs or possible recipients. This fact is both law and ethical medical practice. Donation of organs and tissue is only considered after all lifesaving efforts have failed and death has been declared.

6. Some people are too old to be donors. **FALSE.** Almost everyone, regardless of age, can donate something to help others. Age and health criteria are evaluated on an individual basis at the time of death. Most medical conditions do not prevent donation. People of all ages – from just a few days old to over 100 years – have given the gift of life through donation.

7. The National Organ Transplant Act made the buying and selling of organs legal in the U.S. **FALSE.** The buying and selling of organs and tissues is ILLEGAL in the United States. In 1984, Congress passed the National Organ Transplant Act making it against the law to buy and sell human organs in the United States. All organs recovered for transplant from deceased donors in this country are monitored and tightly controlled by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) making it illegal to retrieve or transplant human organs.
outside of the system. The intent of the law is to ensure equitable access to donor organs without any group or person having an unfair advantage.

T or F 8. When surveyed, 91% of Americans indicated that they support organ donation, yet in reality only 50% actually donate. **TRUE.** The number one reason people don't donate is procrastination...they never get around to ACTION--registering at the DMV or online at [www.TnDonorRegistry.org](http://www.TnDonorRegistry.org) (in Tennessee), [www.DonateLifeVirginia.org](http://www.DonateLifeVirginia.org) (in Virginia), or [www.DonateLifeGA.org](http://www.DonateLifeGA.org) (in Georgia) AND telling their family they want to DONATE LIFE. Do it TODAY!

T or F 9. One organ and tissue donor can help 10 people. **FALSE.** Eight lives can be saved through organ transplants and dozens more improved through tissue transplants such as corneas, bone grafts, and skin grafts. One organ and tissue donor can help over 50 people live better, healthy, pain-free lives.

Organ and tissue donation is against many religions. **FALSE.** All major religions support organ and tissue donation and consider donation the greatest gift one can give. The donation of life is an act of human kindness in keeping with religious teachings. Many religions consider donation a generous act and it is the individual’s choice.

T or F 10. The more famous and rich you are, the quicker you will receive an organ transplant. **ABSOLUTELY FALSE!!** Organ recipients are chosen based upon several criteria including tissue matching, medical urgency, length of time on the waiting list and geographic location. An individual’s wealth and social status are never a part of the mix when determining who receives a lifesaving organ transplant. A national computerized matching system is used to place available organs with potential recipients. National policies govern the sharing of organs in the United States to ensure all patients fair and equal access to transplantation. “Who gets the organ” is not a problem of “equality”, it is an issue of “availability”. If everyone donated, there would be enough organs for all transplant recipients—EVERYONE would receive life and that is the fairest of all.

T or F 11. A living person can donate the following: blood, bone marrow, and kidney; and part of the lung, liver and intestine. **TRUE.** In 2010 the number of donated organs from living donors was 6,563. While living donation is a noble and generous act, it should not be necessary. Unfortunately, the severe shortage of deceased organ donors makes the families and friends of patients waiting consider risk of surgery to save their loved ones.

T or F 12. A person must be 18 years old to be a donor. **FALSE.** Anyone can donate, however people under the age of 18 must have their parent’s permission. They can sign up on their driver’s license, permit or ID card application or on a donor card with their parent’s signature or they can sign up on the donor registry; although their registration is not LEGAL CONSENT, it is simply an indication of their INTENT to donate.

T or F 13. Last year, approximately 1,000 Americans died waiting for a transplant. **FALSE.** Last year, over 6,000 Americans died waiting for a transplant—one every 79 minutes.

T or F 14. When a loved one dies, most families report that discussing organ and tissue donation creates more stress for them. **FALSE.** The opportunity to donate a loved one’s organs can give a grieving family some comfort in an otherwise hopeless situation. In fact, many families raise the issue of donation themselves before even being approached by the organ and tissue recovery agency. However, not knowing whether or not your loved one wanted to be a donor can create stress for the family. It is important that you talk with your family about your decision to be a donor so that if tragedy strikes your wishes will be clear.
16. In most cases, organ and tissue donors can have an open casket funeral. TRUE. In most cases, someone who is an organ and tissue donor can have a traditional service with an open casket viewing. Donation is a surgical procedure. As in any other medical procedure, the body is treated with great respect and dignity. It is fully reconstructed once organs and tissues are recovered.

17. The family of the donor has to pay for donation. FALSE. All costs related to donation are the responsibility of the organ procurement organization. A family or a donor’s estate is not charged for donation costs. All other costs associated with the hospital admission and the funeral remain the responsibility of the family.

18. A person can recover from brain death with proper medical treatment. FALSE. Brain death is the complete and irreversible stopping of all brain function. Injury to the brain and subsequent swelling due to trauma or cerebrovascular accident (like a stroke or ruptured brain aneurysm) sometimes blocks the body’s blood supply to the brain and the brain tissue dies. Just like if you were to put a tourniquet on your leg and leave it there, blood flow would stop and the tissue would die. The same thing happens to your brain. Once the brain has died, it is permanent and can never recover. Without brain function, the body soon deteriorates and the heart stops beating.

19. Over half the people on the national transplant waiting list need a kidney transplant. TRUE. Of the 110,000 people on the waiting list for an organ transplant, 88,000 are waiting for a kidney.

20. Brain death and coma are the same thing. FALSE. A person in a coma has injured only a portion of their brain. The brain is still receiving blood flow and electrical activity is present (responsible for breathing & heart beat), so recovery is possible. A brain dead patient’s brain is receiving NO blood flow, therefore, the brain has died. As a result, they have no electrical activity and NO CHANCE OF RECOVERY.

21. It is difficult to sign up to be an organ & tissue donor. FALSE. It is very easy to be an organ & tissue donor. Simply sign up at the DMV when you apply for or renew your driver’s license or ID card; or you can register online anytime at www.TnDonorRegistry.org (Tennessee residents), www.DonateLifeVirginia.org (Virginia residents), or www.DonateLifeGA.org (Georgia residents) and tell your family YOU want to DONATE LIFE.

Revised: 4/11
In 2009 the Wall Street Journal reported that Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple Inc., received a liver transplant. Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute in Memphis, TN confirmed that Mr. Jobs received a liver transplant at their facility and stated that he was the sickest patient on the waiting list at the time a donor organ became available. Some have questioned Mr. Jobs’ liver transplant due to the short nature of his waiting list time and the fact that he travelled to Tennessee to receive his transplant. This mystique and skepticism can lead the public to believe that the rich and famous receive special treatment over the general public with regard to transplantation.

The current allocation process in the United States is fair and equitable, operating within highly constricted timeframes and helping save close to 30,000 lives each year through the placement of organs for transplant.

All patients awaiting transplant are on the same national transplant waiting list, which is blind to celebrity status, income, and race or ethnicity. Organs are given to patients based on the severity of illness, match with the donor, and time on the waiting list. Yes, some celebrities have gone on the transplant waiting list and received transplants quickly, and so have thousands of non-celebrity patients who never make it into the national news. Media attention focused on famous people who receive transplants tends to magnify the misperception that celebrities “get special treatment”.

The United States Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) is operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) under contract with the federal government. UNOS has been operating the system since it began in 1987. All potential transplant recipients, Jobs and other celebrities included, must be placed on the transplant list in accordance with UNOS policies.

But what about how fast he got his liver? Don’t most people wait many months, or even years? Yes. It is true that of liver transplant candidates with a MELD (model for End-State Liver Disease) score between 19 and 24 (higher the score, the more urgent the need for transplant), half receive a liver transplant within approximately 15 weeks of being listed. Of those listed with a MELD score of 25 or higher, half receive a transplant within 20 days of listing. Candidates who are not as sick may often wait months to years for a transplant opportunity…and it may never come at all. According to Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute, Steve Jobs had the highest MELD score of his blood type, which made him the most ill patient on the waiting list when a donor organ became available. The median time patients wait for a liver transplant in the U.S. is 306 days and in Tennessee, it is 48 days.

It is not illegal or even uncommon for a patient to register with multiple transplant centers throughout the country in an effort to decrease their wait time for a transplant. Since candidates at centers near donor hospitals are usually considered ahead of those who are more distant geographically, multiple listing may increase chances of receiving an organ. Methodist University Hospital Transplant Institute is one of the ten largest liver transplant centers in the United States, performing on average 120 liver
transplants each year. One of the reasons Mr. Jobs chose the Transplant Institute was because their one-year survival rates are among the best in the nation.

**Matching Donor Organs with Transplant Candidates**—When a donated organ becomes available anywhere in the U.S., a transplant coordinator from an organ procurement organization accesses the United Network for Organ Sharing’s (UNOS) computer system (which currently houses over 110,000 names) and enters necessary medical information about the donor including blood type, donor size and weight, tissue type, etcetera. The system uses this information to match the medical characteristics of the candidates waiting against those of the donor. The UNOS system then generates a ranked list of patients who are suitable to receive the organ and most closely match the donor. The better the match, the less likely the recipient is to reject the organ. The list itself is broken down by patient need (the sickest patients receive priority) and geographic location (state, region, national). Factors affecting list ranking may include:

- Tissue match
- Blood type
- Length of time on the waiting list
- Immune status (does the patient have a cold or infection, for example)
- Distance between the potential recipient and the donor
- Degree of medical urgency (for heart, liver, lung and intestines)

The organ is offered to the transplant team of the first person on the list. Often, the first person must be available, healthy enough to undergo major surgery and willing to be transplanted immediately. Also, a laboratory test to measure compatibility between the donor and potential recipient may be necessary. If the organ is refused for any reason, the transplant hospital of the next patient on the list is contacted. The process continues until a match is made. Once a patient is selected and contacted and all testing is complete, surgery is scheduled and the transplant takes place.

Wait times depend on many factors including: the urgency of the patient’s condition, time spent waiting, blood type, and proximity to the donor’s hospital. Those in most critical need generally get transplanted much faster. Other potential transplant recipients who have been on the list longer could be bypassed due to blood types not being a match to the donor. Income, race and social status are never taken into account during the allocation process.

For less urgent cases, there is a greater variance in wait times, depending on a person’s location, and shorter waiting lists aren’t the only reason to travel for a transplant. According to UNOS, a lot of people who travel for a transplant look at the center’s experience, survival rate, or whether it specializes in certain conditions.
Since 1988 approximately 500,000 organ transplants have been performed in the United States. Of those, 42 notable patients were identified (.001%--less than one thousandth of one percent):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PATIENT</th>
<th>TRANSPLANT</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CLAIM TO FAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandy Patinkin</td>
<td>Cornea</td>
<td>1997, 1998</td>
<td>Actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Altman</td>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Film Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert P. Casey</td>
<td>Heart/Liver</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Governor of Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Gondrezick</td>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>NBA player, broadcaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Large</td>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>British comedian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Perkins</td>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Author, mountain climber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Richardson</td>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Owner -- NFL Carolina Panthers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erma Bombeck</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Cojocaru</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Fashion Critic, “Entertainment Tonight”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Cole</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Singer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Davis</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Actress, “Dawn Tinsley” on “The Office”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neal Elliott</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>NBA player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Harman</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>World Series of Poker winner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Howard</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Actor, “Ken Reeves” on “The White Shadow”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivan Klasic</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Australian Football player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Little</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Australian country/rock artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonath Lomu</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>New Zealand rugby player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Lopez</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Actor, comedian, host “The George Lopez Show”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alonzo Mourning</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>NBA player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Simon</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Director, playwright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Perkins</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Australian soccer player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Preston</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Musician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Springs</td>
<td>Kidney</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>NFL player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Allman</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Musician, “The Allman Brothers”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Best</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>British football player</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Bruce</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>British musician, “Cream”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Crosby</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Musician, “The Byrds”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris LeDoux</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Musician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelley Fabares</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Actress, “Coach”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freddy Fender</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Musician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Superstar” Billy Graham</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Professional wrestler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Jobs</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>CEO, Apple, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evel Knievel</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Stuntman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Klug</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Olympic snowboarder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mickey Mantle</td>
<td>Liver</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Hall of Fame baseball player</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The UNOS computer does not recognize Steve Jobs (liver recipient, 2009 and CEO of Apple computers). It is not an avid reader of Erma Bombeck books (kidney recipient, April 1996). The system does not listen to the music of Natalie Cole (singer and kidney recipient, 2009) or the Allman Brothers (Greg Allman, liver recipient, 2010). Nor does the computer cheer for Olympic athlete Chris Klug (liver recipient, 2000 and Olympic medal winner in 2002). The UNOS allocation system is blind to status, beauty, fame and fortune.

The bottom line is that the problem lies not with how organs are allocated, but the shortage of organs for transplant. As a result of the many advances in organ transplantation, the number of patients waiting for a transplant has tripled over the past ten years. Unfortunately, the number of donors has increased only 36%.

Points to Ponder— When matching transplantable organs, it would be unfair to deny celebrities available organs just because of their fame. Also consider this, in the year 2010, 28,663 organ transplants were made possible by the families of deceased patients (does not include living-related transplants). How many of these 21,854 recipients do you think were celebrities? Very few. An Internet search revealed only three: Jerry Richardson, Natalie Cole, and Steve Jobs). The only reason we didn’t hear about the majority of the other transplants was that average citizens were the recipients. By media standards, these stories did not have the news value of the celebrity transplants.

The next time someone starts talking about how the organ allocation system is “rigged” or that “they know” celebrities or rich people get special treatment and move to the head of the line when it comes to transplants, consider this. After being diagnosed with a rare liver disease, doctors for former Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton, age 44, determined that his only hope for survival was a liver transplant. After being evaluated for transplant, he was listed on the national transplant waiting list. However, it wasn’t long before his name was taken off again. The liver disease he had, after time, often results in the development of bile duct cancer. He was no exception. And, once someone has been diagnosed with certain types of cancer, they are no longer a candidate for donation. (Because the anti-rejection medication that organ recipients must take suppresses the immune system, it allows cancer to run rampant; therefore, the cancer, not the transplant would have killed him.) Had a liver been readily available when he went on the transplant waiting list, he would not have developed bile duct cancer, and would probably be alive today.

You can also tell them about a man named Donald Streater. Who is Donald Streater? Mr. Streater, age 58, died in February 1997 while also awaiting a liver transplant. What made Mr. Streater special was his so-called “connections”. He was a member of the UNOS board of directors. But, not even his position on the UNOS board could move him up the waiting list to get him the lifesaving transplant he needed in time. It’s a tragedy that is played out again and again; a story that should not have to be told. No one should die because an organ is not available to save their life.

News of celebrity transplants highlights the need in the U.S. for more organ donors. With more than 110,000 people currently waiting for a transplant, the importance of registering to become an organ, eye, and tissue donor is more important now than ever before. More than 94 million Americans have
taken action and registered their decision to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor, up from 63 million in 2006. One donor can save and heal more than 50 lives through the donation of organs, eyes and tissues including heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, small intestine, skin, bone, vascular tissue, corneas and others.

Sign up today to save lives.
Register your decision to DONATE LIFE when you renew or apply for your driver’s license or online:
TN: www.TnDonorRegistry.org
VA: www.DonateLifeVA.org
GA: www.DonateLifeGA.org

Sources:
Transplant Living: Organ Donation and Transplantation Information for Patients (July, 2010)
Wall Street Journal (June 20, 2009)
Transplant News (July, 2009)
USA Today (January 23, 2002)
Wikipedia (July 1, 2010)
optn.transplant.hrsa.gov (April 14, 2011)

Revised 04/14/11
The Widening GAP
Between Transplants and Patients Waiting

*Transplants and Donors from Deceased Donors Only
Based on OPTN data as of 04/08/2011

Revised 4/2011
The Organ Shortage Claims Lives
Number of Deaths on the Waiting List Each Year

Based on OPTN data as of April 8, 2011. Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction.

Revised: 4/2011
1. Sally is an energetic high school student. She studies hard and loves playing soccer. She has lots of friends because she cares about people. She has even signed up on the Donor Registry stating that she wants to be an organ donor someday. But first, she wants to grow up and become President of the United States.

2. Joey is 12 years old & has been sick with heart problems for years. He likes to have fun, but can’t play like other kids and stays in bed most of the time. The doctor says Joey needs a heart transplant, or he will die. But Joey wants to grow up and become President of the United States.

3. The doctor puts Joey’s name on the national transplant waiting list. Joey is very brave as he waits month after month for a heart that will fit his body and match his blood type.

4. One sad day, Sally is in a car accident and has very serious head injuries. Emergency medical technicians begin life-saving efforts and the ambulance rushes her to the hospital.

5. Sally is put on a ventilator (breathing machine) and is given IV fluid, blood and medicine to keep her heart beating.

6. A doctor does special tests to see how much damage has been done to Sally’s brain and body. Tests show that she has no blood supply to the brain, her brain has died and it will never work again.

7. The doctor tells Sally’s parents that she has died. A nurse from the organ donor center comes to the hospital to talk to Sally’s family about the donation process. Sally had signed up on the Donor Registry stating that she wanted to be a donor. Sally’s funeral will be in a couple of days.

8. Sally’s height, weight and blood type are entered into a national computer database to search for a match from people waiting for an organ transplant. Joey’s name comes up as a match for Sally’s heart.

9. Joey’s parents get a call from his transplant doctor saying that a heart has been donated that matches his heart. They hurry to the hospital with Joey to prepare for an operation called a heart transplant.

10. Sally’s heart is delivered to the operating room in a cooler. Joey’s bad heart is removed and Sally’s heart is transplanted into Joey’s body.

11. Joey stays in the hospital for several weeks to make sure his new heart is working well and that his body accepts the new heart. He now has to take many different kinds of medicine every day to keep his body from rejecting his new heart.

12. Joey is able to go home with his family and go back to school. He can play with his friends now and do things other kids do. He will take medicine and have regular check-ups with the doctor for the rest of his life to take care of his new heart.

13. Organ donation gave Joey a second chance at life. Joey is so thankful to have a new heart that was a gift from someone he never knew. He writes a letter to Sally’s family to thank them and to let them know he is doing well.

14. There are thousands of people who are very sick because they need an organ transplant, like Joey. They wait every day, hoping that someone will care enough to give the Gift of Life, like Sally did. Because Sally gave her heart, Joey grows up and becomes President of the United States.

15. It’s easy to be an organ and tissue donor. People just need to sign up on the Donor Registry when they get their license or sign up online at www.TnDonorRegistry.org in TN, in VA at www.DonateLifeVirginia.org or in GA at www.DonateLifeGA.org. Talk to your parents about organ donation. Someday you might be able to save someone’s life!

To help save lives call Tennessee Donor Services toll-free 1-888-234-4440 or visit www.TnDonorRegistry.org
AME & AME ZION (African Methodist Episcopal):
Organ and tissue donation is viewed as an act of neighborly love and charity by these denominations. They encourage all members to support donation as a way of helping others.

AMISH:
The Amish will consent to transplantation if they believe it is for the well-being of the transplant recipient. John Hostetler, world-renowned authority on Amish religion and professor of anthropology at Temple University in Philadelphia, says in his book, Amish Society, "The Amish believe that since God created the human body, it is God who heals. However, nothing in the Amish understanding of the Bible forbids them from using modern medical services, including surgery, hospitalization, dental work, anesthesia, blood transfusions or immunization."

ASSEMBLY OF GOD:
The Church has no official policy regarding organ and tissue donation. The decision to donate is left up to the individual. Donation is highly supported by the denomination.

BAPTIST:
Though Baptists generally believe that organ and tissue donation and transplantation are ultimately matters of personal conscience, the nation's largest protestant denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, adopted a resolution in 1988 encouraging physicians to request organ donation in appropriate circumstances and to "...encourage voluntarism regarding organ donations in the spirit of stewardship, compassion for the needs of others and alleviating suffering." Other Baptist groups have supported organ and tissue donation as an act of charity and leave the decision to donate up to the individual.

BRETHREN:
While no official position has been taken by the Brethren denominations, according to Pastor Mike Smith, there is a consensus among the National Fellowship of Grace Brethren that organ and tissue donation is a charitable act so long as it does not impede the life or hasten the death of the donor or does not come from an unborn child.

BUDDHISM:
Buddhists believe that organ and tissue donation is a matter of individual conscience and place high value on acts of compassion. Reverend Gyomay Masao, president and founder of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago says, "We honor those people who donate their bodies and organs to the advancement of medical science and to saving lives." The importance of letting loved ones know your wishes is stressed.

CATHOLICISM:
Catholics view organ and tissue donation as an act of charity and love. Transplants are morally and ethically acceptable to the Vatican. According to Father Leroy Wickowski, Director of the Office of Health Affairs of the Archdiocese of Chicago, "We encourage donation as an act of charity. It is something good that can result from tragedy and a way for families to find comfort by helping others." Pope John Paul II stated, "The Catholic Church would promote the fact that there is a need for organ
donors and that Christians should accept this as a 'challenge to their generosity and fraternal love' so long as ethical principles are followed." Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed, “To give one’s organs spontaneously for transplants, in full awareness and full knowledge, means to give expression to a true, deep act of love for one’s neighbor…As for myself, I have agreed to give my organs to whomever might be in need.”

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST):
The Christian Church encourages organ and tissue donation, stating that we were created for God's glory and for sharing God's love. A 1985 resolution, adopted by the General Assembly, encourages "...members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to enroll as organ donors and prayerfully support those who have received an organ transplant."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE:
The Church of Christ Scientist does not have a specific position regarding organ donation. According to the First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Christian Scientists normally rely on spiritual instead of medical means of healing. They are free, however, to choose whatever form of medical treatment they desire including a transplant. The question of organ and tissue donation is an individual decision.

EPISCOPAL:
The Episcopal Church passed a resolution in 1982 that recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ, blood and tissue donation. All Christians are encouraged to become organ, blood and tissue donors "...as part of their ministry to others in the name of Christ, who gave His life that we may have life in its fullness."

GREEK ORTHODOX:
On January 7, 2005 in Athens, the head of the Greek Orthodox Church, Archbishop of Athens and All Greece Christodolous said that he and the members of the Holy Synod had signed organ donor forms. The church also asked clerics and parishioners to display solidarity in the cause. The Greek Orthodox Church has supported organ donation since 1999. The decision was then prompted by the death of a 12-year-old boy from Rhodes, who had waited 14 months for a heart transplant.

GYPSIES:
Gypsies are a people of different ethnic groups without a formalized religion. They share common folk beliefs and tend to be opposed to organ donation. Their opposition is connected with their beliefs about the afterlife. Traditional belief contends that for one year after death the soul retraces its steps. Thus, the body must remain intact because the soul maintains its physical shape.

HINDUISM:
According to the Hindu Temple Society of North America, Hindus are not prohibited by religious law from donating their organs. This act is an individual's decision. H. L. Trivedi, in Transplantation Proceedings, stated that, "Hindu mythology has stories in which the parts of the human body are used for the benefit of other humans and society. There is nothing in the Hindu religion indicating that parts of humans, dead or alive, cannot be used to alleviate the suffering of other humans."

INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE EVANGELICAL:
Generally, Evangelicals have no opposition to organ and tissue donation. Each church is autonomous and leaves the decision to donate up to the individual.

ISLAM:
The religion of Islam believes in the principle of saving human lives. According to A. Sachedina in his Transplantation Proceedings (1990) article, Islamic Views on Organ Transplantation, "...the majority of the Muslim scholars belonging to various schools of Islamic law have invoked the principle of priority of saving human life and have permitted the organ transplant as a necessity to procure that noble end."
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:
According to the Watch Tower Society, Jehovah's Witnesses believe donation is a matter of individual decision. Jehovah's Witnesses are often assumed to be opposed to donation because of their belief against blood transfusion. However, this merely means that all blood must be removed from the organs and tissues before being transplanted.

JUDAISM:
All four branches of Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist) support and encourage donation. According to Orthodox Rabbi Moses Tendler, Chairman of the Biology Department of Yeshiva University in New York City and Chairman of the Bioethics Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America, "If one is in the position to donate an organ to save another's life, it's obligatory to do so, even if the donor never knows who the beneficiary will be. The basic principle of Jewish ethics-'the infinite worth of the human being'-also includes donation of corneas, since eyesight restoration is considered a life-saving operation." In 1991, the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox) approved organ donations as permissible, and even required, from brain-dead patients. The Reform movement looks upon the transplant program favorably and Rabbi Richard Address, Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations Bio-Ethics Committee and Committee on Older Adults, states that "Judaic Responsa materials provide a positive approach and by and large the North American Reform Jewish community approves of transplantation."

LUTHERAN:
In 1984, the Lutheran Church in America passed a resolution stating that donation contributes to the well-being of humanity and can be "...an expression of sacrificial love for a neighbor in need." They call on members to consider donating organs and to make any necessary family and legal arrangements.

MENNONITE:
Mennonites have no formal position on donation, but are not opposed to it. They believe the decision to donate is up to the individual and/or his or her family.

MORAVIAN:
The Moravian Church has made no statement addressing organ and tissue donation or transplantation. Robert E. Sawyer, President, Provincial Elders Conference, Moravian Church of America, Southern Province, states, "There is nothing in our doctrine or policy that would prevent a Moravian pastor from assisting a family in making a decision to donate or not to donate an organ." It is, therefore, a matter of individual choice.

MORMON (CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS):
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints believes that the decision to donate is an individual one made in conjunction with family, medical personnel and prayer. They do not oppose donation.

PENTECOSTAL:
Pentecostals believe that the decision to donate should be left up to the individual.

PRESBYTERIAN:
Presbyterians encourage and support donation. They respect a person's right to make decisions regarding his or her own body.
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:
Donation and transplantation are strongly encouraged by Seventh-Day Adventists. They have many transplant hospitals, including Loma Linda in California. Loma Linda specializes in pediatric heart transplantation.

SHINTO:
In Shinto, the dead body is considered to be impure and dangerous, and thus quite powerful. "In folk belief context, injuring a dead body is a serious crime..." according to E. Namihira in his article, Shinto Concept Concerning the Dead Human Body. "To this day it is difficult to obtain consent from bereaved families for organ donation or dissection for medical education or pathological anatomy... the Japanese regard them all in the sense of injuring a dead body." Families are often concerned that they not injure the itai, the relationship between the dead person and the bereaved people.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS):
Organ and tissue donation is believed to be an individual decision. The Society of Friends does not have an official position on donation.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST:
Organ and tissue donation is widely supported by Unitarian Universalists. They view it as an act of love and selfless giving.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:
Reverend Jay Lintner, Director, Washington Office of the United Church of Christ Office for Church in Society, states, "United Church of Christ people, churches and agencies are extremely and overwhelmingly supportive of organ sharing. The General Synod has never spoken to this issue because, in general, the Synod speaks on more controversial issues, and there is no controversy about organ sharing, just as there is no controversy about blood donation in the denomination. While the General Synod has never spoken about blood donation, blood donation rooms have been set up at several General Synods. Similarly, any organized effort to get the General Synod delegates or individual churches to (register as organ donors) would meet with generally positive responses."

UNITED METHODIST:
The United Methodist Church issued a policy statement regarding organ and tissue donation. In it, they state that, "The United Methodist Church recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ and tissue donation, and thereby encourages all Christians to become organ and tissue donors by (registering as donors), attesting to their commitment of such organs upon their death, to those in need, as a part of their ministry to others in the name of Christ, who gave his life that we might have life in its fullness." A 1992 resolution states, "Donation is to be encouraged, assuming appropriate safeguards against hastening death and determination of death by reliable criteria." The resolution further states, "Pastoral-care persons should be willing to explore these options as a normal part of conversation with patients and their families."

If you have specific questions regarding your faith’s position on organ and tissue donation, please talk with your spiritual advisor. To be an organ and tissue donor, simply sign up when you apply for or renew your driver’s license or go online to register:

www.TnDonorRegistry.org in Tennessee
www.DonateLifeVirginia.org in Virginia
www.DonateLifeGA.org in Georgia