

National Minority Organ Donation Awareness Month

Honoring Generosity. Saving Lives.

Each August, we recognize **National Minority Organ Donation Awareness Month**—a time to spotlight the urgent need for organ, eye, and tissue donors, especially within communities of color. With more than **100,000 people** currently waiting for lifesaving organ transplants, the generosity of donors is more critical than ever.

Understanding Organ Donation

Organ donation is a powerful act of compassion. Two of the ways it can be done are:

► After Death

Donation is possible after either:

- **Brain Death:** Caused by severe brain injury (e.g., accident, stroke, lack of oxygen). The patient is declared legally dead while on ventilated support.
- **Cardiac Death (DCD):** Occurs when life support is withdrawn and the heart stops naturally. A physician confirms death before donation begins.

In both cases, the hospital contacts an **Organ Procurement Organization (OPO)** to check the donor registry. If the patient is registered, the family is informed. If not, the family may authorize donation. Recovery of organs, corneas, and tissues only happens after consent.






► While Living



Living donation allows a person to donate:

- **A kidney** (we can live with one)
- **A lobe of the liver** (it regenerates within 6–12 weeks)

Living donation can shorten wait times and improve long-term outcomes for recipients.

Fast Facts About Organ Donation

-  Every **8 minutes**, someone new is added to the transplant waiting list
-  Over **6,000 people** die each year waiting for a transplant
-  A national system matches donors and recipients based on medical criteria—not race, gender, income, or social status
-  There is **no cost** to the donor's family for donation
-  Donation can occur across racial and ethnic lines, but **matches within the same background** often lead to better outcomes

-  Anyone—regardless of identity—can be a donor
 -  One donor can:
 - Save **up to 8 lives**
 - Restore sight to **2 people**
 - Heal **75+ lives** through tissue donation
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Why Minority Donation Matters

People of **African American/Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native**, and **multiracial descent** make up nearly **58%** of the national transplant waiting list. Yet, these communities are underrepresented among donors.

Increasing awareness and registration in these communities can lead to more successful matches and saved lives.

Living Tissue Donation

Birth tissue—such as placenta and umbilical cord—can be donated to help treat burns, wounds, and promote healing. It's another way to make a lasting impact.

Final Thoughts

Becoming a donor is a deeply personal decision, but it's also a chance to be a hero. Whether through living donation or registering as a donor after death, your choice could transform—and even save—multiple lives.

DMV offices across the country offer the donor registration opportunity. This is for your State Donor Registry

Registering your decision to be an organ donor in the National Donate Life Registry ensures your donor registration travels with you, no matter where you live or move across the country

You can register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor in MyChart from your desktop or phone. Adults 18 or older in the United States can register, regardless of medical history.

Scripture for the Month

But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the Lord.
(Jeremiah 30:17 NIV)

In Faith & Health
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