



## Organ and Tissue Donation Facts

- **20** people die each day waiting for an organ transplant.
- There are more than **5,300** men, women and children in our region awaiting a life-saving organ transplant.
- Nationally, there are approximately **115,000** people waiting for an organ transplant.
- Just one organ donor can save up to eight lives, and one tissue donor can benefit as many as 75 others.
- **About Gift of Life Donor Program:** Since 1974, Gift of Life has coordinated more than **46,000** organ transplants and approximately **1 million** life-enhancing tissue transplants.
  - Gift of Life's region is the eastern half of PA, southern NJ and DE.
  - Gift of Life's service area includes 11.2 million people.
  - Gift of Life's annual donation rate equates to 50 organ donors per-million-population - ranking it among the highest in the world. GLDP serves the most giving region in the nation!
- **About the Family House:** Gift of Life Family House serves as a "home away from home" for transplant patients and their families by providing temporary, affordable lodging and supportive services to those who travel to Philadelphia for transplant-related care.
- **Why are there so many people on the transplant waiting list?** As advances in medicine have grown, transplants have become more successful and more people have been added to the national waiting list. At the same time, the number of donors has not grown as quickly as the number of people who are in need of organs and tissue. Every 10 minutes, another person's name is added to the list.
- **Is there an age limit for donating organs?** No set age limit exists for organ donation. At the time of death, the potential donor's organs are evaluated to determine their suitability for donation. Therefore, people of any age wishing to become organ and tissue donors should indicate their decision to be an organ and tissue donor on their driver's license and inform their family that they wish to donate.
- **Does my religion approve of donation?** All of the major religions in this country approve of organ and tissue donation and consider it a gift and an act of charity.
- **Does it cost anything to donate organ and tissues?** No. Donation costs nothing to the donor's family or estate.
- **Will donation change the appearance of my body?** No. Donation neither disfigures the body nor interferes with funeral arrangements.
- **Will my decision to become an organ and tissue donor affect the quality of my medical care?** No. Organ and tissue recovery takes place only after all efforts to save your life have been exhausted and death has been declared. The doctors working to save your life are entirely separate from the medical team involved in recovering organs and tissues.

**For more information about organ and tissue donation or to register,  
visit [donors1.org](http://donors1.org).**

**It only takes 30 seconds to register.**