

GIFT OF LIFE NEWS



A publication of *Gift of Life Donor Program*, the region's organ and tissue transplant network, serving the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

APRIL is National Donate Life Month!

Join *Gift of Life* as we celebrate the life-saving power of organ and tissue donation!



24th Annual

DONOR DASH

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Philadelphia Museum of Art

More than 10,000 spirited Dashers making up nearly 400 teams joined forces last year to demonstrate support for organ and tissue donation at *Gift of Life's* annual Donor Dash. Join them this year!

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DONOR PROGRAM
THE REGION'S ORGAN & TISSUE TRANSPLANT NETWORK
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A Donate Life Organization

Dashers include heart recipient Derek Fitzgerald, his young daughter Emma and his fiancée Erin, pictured here. After beating cancer, Derek suffered from heart failure for seven years, until he got the call that changed his life forever.

Dasher Grateful for Second Chance at Life

Derek's transplant transformed his health and his entire life. The man that once struggled to simply take a breath now runs marathons, is a father and a staunch advocate for organ donation.

"I received the gift of life, but she's a miracle. To be able to run this race with my daughter is just an amazing gift that I've been given."

—Derek Fitzgerald, Heart Transplant Recipient

Each year he runs the Dash to raise awareness about the life-saving and life-enhancing importance of organ and tissue donation.

"We need to save the lives of the people that are waiting and also people like my daughter Emma who would never be here without some anonymous hero donating their organs to me," said Derek.

For a video about Derek's amazing journey, visit donors1.org/derek.

Join Derek and the thousands of other Dashers on April 14th to make the 24th Annual Donor Dash better than ever!

The Donor Dash will feature something for everyone – 10K and 5K runs, a 3K walk and a Kids Fun Run! To learn more about the Donor Dash visit: donordash.org.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the 24th Annual DONOR DASH

Sunday, April 14
Philadelphia Museum of Art

10K RUN / 5K RUN
Kids Fun Run
3K WALK

PRE-RACE PACKET PICK-UP & PICNIC
Gift of Life Family House

Saturday, April 13.....10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

REGISTRATION

Event	Online	On-site
3K Walk	\$30	\$35
5K Run	\$35	\$40
10K Run.....	\$40	\$45

Online registration open now through noon on April 9.

On-site registration tent opens at 6:00 a.m. the morning of the Dash

To volunteer at the Dash, contact Colleen Duran at cduran@donors1.org or 215-557-8090 x1145.



U.S. LEADER IN SAVING LIVES

The life-saving power of our region's generous donors and donor families has made Gift of Life the nation's leading organ procurement organization for the 11th year in a row.

Gift of Life's annual donation rate, 55 organ donors-per-million-population, and annual transplant rate, 149 transplants-per-million population, both rank among the highest in the world.

"We are so proud to serve a community that year after year is the most generous in the nation," said Gift of Life President and CEO Howard M. Nathan. "Our community understands the fundamental human responsibility of neighbor helping neighbor. Registering to become an organ and tissue donor is one of the purest acts of kindness you can do as a human being."

In 2018, Gift of Life recovered tissue from 2,503 donors, including 1,368 musculoskeletal donors and 2,009 cornea donors. These life-enhancing donations can benefit more than 100,000 people, with bone donations for orthopedic and sports injuries, heart valve donations to repair life-threatening defects, skin donations for reconstructive surgery and to heal burn patients, and corneas to provide the gift of sight.

Gift of Life partners with 128 acute care hospitals and 15 transplant centers across its region in its life-saving work. *"Gift of Life staff and the hospital critical care teams work side-by-side, 24/7," says Gift of Life Vice President of Clinical Services Richard D. Hasz.*

MOST GENEROUS COMMUNITY
615 ORGAN DONORS IN 2018

U.S. LEADER IN ORGAN DONATION FOR 11TH YEAR

1,671 LIFE-SAVING ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

BREAKS TWO U.S. RECORDS IN 2018!

- **MOST ORGAN DONORS**
- **MOST TRANSPLANTS**

"The dedication and compassion that they exhibit as they care for families through the entire donation and transplantation process is truly exceptional." These important partnerships have helped build an extremely strong culture of donation throughout the Gift of Life region.

Donate Life America estimates that if every potential donor were registered, the number of lives saved each year would double. Last year, there were more than 34,000 life-saving transplants in the U.S.

"There remains a tremendous gap between the number of people waiting for organs and the number of people receiving transplants. We urgently need more people to register as organ donors to help fill that void and save more lives," said Gift of Life Vice President of Administration & General Counsel Jan L. Weinstock, Esq.

Since 1974, Gift of Life has coordinated more than 47,000 organs for transplant, and approximately one million tissue transplants have resulted from the generosity of donors and their families. One organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people, and a tissue donor can enhance the lives of more than 75 others.

BLUE & GREEN DAY

CELEBRATE ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION on Friday, April 12

Each year Gift of Life joins Donate Life America on a special day in April to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation by wearing blue and green! Join the movement and sport your best blue and green on April 12!

Get involved:

- ✓ Organize a "Blue & Green Day" in your community
- ✓ Encourage family, friends and co-workers to wear blue and green to promote donation
- ✓ Take a ton of photos and share them on social media with #BlueGreenDay and tag @donors1



Panelists at a Donation Champion Learning Session (from left): Sarah Higgins of *Gift of Life* Hospital Services, Jacquelyn Kates of *Gift of Life* Family Support Services, donor mom Markita Lewis (her son, Marquis, was a donor), with liver recipients John Branton and Lloyd Walling.

At hospitals across our region...

More Than 10,000 Champions for Donation

Gift of Life and our hospital partners have achieved an important milestone: more than 10,000 nurses, respiratory therapists and hospital professionals trained through Donation Champion Learning Sessions.

Since our Hospital Services team launched this dynamic training initiative in 2006, the *Gift of Life* region has experienced an impressive 61 percent increase in organ donors.

We've held 138 learning sessions throughout eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

Each eight-hour workshop features presentations by clinical experts, break-out sessions, group brainstorming and peer learning. Donor families, transplant recipients and patients awaiting a transplant share their personal insight as part of a panel presentation. Participants learn optimal practices for supporting donors and their families.

The sessions prepare and motivate healthcare providers to become champions for donation by mentoring colleagues, sharing information and actively supporting *Gift of Life*. Participants overwhelmingly report increased knowledge and confidence as a result of the workshops. They also receive continuing education credits for their participation in this accredited program.

Thirteen sessions are planned for 2019 – six at *Gift of Life's* headquarters in Philadelphia and seven at additional locations throughout our region.

Thank you to our healthcare partners for their ongoing participation in this important program and for their support in fostering a strong culture of donation within our region.

Find more information on the 2019 Donation Champion Learning Session visit the Healthcare Professionals section of our website at donors1.org.

Celebrate MARDI GRAS at THE Party

You're invited to **THE PARTY**

Friday, March 29

8 p.m. The Bellevue Hotel
200 South Broad Street, Philadelphia

Tickets: \$150 (\$175 at the door)

Online: DonorsAreHeroesTHEParty.com

Sponsorships available

Contact: Karen Keener at 215-557-8090
or email kkeener@donors1.org



Our region's most dazzling fundraiser, hosted by Donors Are Heroes, will feature a Mardi Gras theme as THE Party blends lavish fun with a life-saving cause on March 29.

More than 500 guests in fashionable attire – with masks invited – will fill the newly renovated ballroom of the Bellevue Hotel. The event features culinary specialties from many of the city's top restaurants and music by DJ Eddie Tully.

All proceeds will help increase public awareness about the critical need for more organ and tissue donors in our region, especially among students, houses of worship and multicultural communities. Donors Are Heroes was founded in 2001 by Don and Renee D. Freeman and has raised more than \$1 million for donation education.

Co-chairs for THE Party 2019 are Carol Domb and Stanton Myerson. Commenting on his commitment to Donors Are Heroes Mr. Myerson said, *"It is my way of giving back to my community, which has given so much to me and my family."*

DON'T MISS THE CELEBRATION!
Become a sponsor, a vendor or a guest at THE Party.



SUMMER FUN FOR TRANSPLANT KIDS

Register now for Camp Jeremy
SPACE IS LIMITED

A fun-filled, action-packed week is in store for transplant recipients and their siblings ages 5 to 16 who sign up for Camp Jeremy, which will be held this summer July 15 – 19.

Campers enjoy swimming, archery, rock wall climbing, games, crafts and the opportunity to make new friends. Camp Jeremy is free for youngsters in *Gift of Life's* region.

Camp Jeremy is held at Mermaid Country Day Camp in Blue Bell, PA in memory of Jeremy Clemens, a heart recipient and camp counselor. His family has continued Jeremy's legacy by having young transplant recipients enjoy the day camp for 15 years.

Register soon as space is limited. Transportation for campers is available. **For more information and to register, call Karen Keener at 215-557-8090.**

TEAM PHILLY at Sixers Game

Members of Team Philadelphia's youth basketball team were honored for their courage both on and off the court in November as NBC Sports Philadelphia Authentic Fans during the Philadelphia 76ers vs. the Washington Wizards game! Layla Hickey, Taylor Dyer, Anastasia Prieto and Tariq Sabur got the VIP treatment as they went behind-the-scenes to tour the broadcast studio at NBC Sports Philly. The four transplant recipients were taken center court in front of thousands of fans to be recognized and to share the importance of organ and tissue donation. The teammates cheered from their own suite as the 76ers beat the Wizards 123-98. Sixers fans could see the four kids on the jumbotron throughout the game as well as video highlights of them competing at the Transplant Games last summer.



ABOVE RIGHT: Young transplant recipients and Team Philadelphia athletes join NBC Sports commentators center court at the Philadelphia 76ers game.

Living Donor Represents Gift of Life at Rose Parade

Donate Life America starts each year off by creating a float for the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA. This year, living kidney donor Carolina Harvey took a trip across the country to walk alongside the "Rhythm of the Heart" float and represent *Gift of Life*.

"It is an amazing honor to participate in the Rose Parade and walk alongside the Donate Life float and represent living donors! Our family has been blessed to hear so many wonderful stories and meet some extraordinary people! We are forever grateful for the experience Gift of Life is giving us," said Harvey.

After finding out that her husband Lukeman needed a kidney transplant in order to survive, the Harrisburg, PA mother of three boys made the selfless decision to donate her kidney. After finding out that she and her husband were not a match, Carolina decided to participate in a paired kidney exchange program. The innovative program connects individuals who are willing to donate a kidney – but are not a match for their loved ones – with other people in the same situation. For Carolina, the exchange program was a wonderful opportunity to show her love for her husband and to bless another family. In October 2017, Carolina donated her kidney to a young



woman she never met and her husband received a kidney that saved his life.

Carolina was accompanied at the Rose Parade by her husband and their three sons.

ABOVE: Carolina Harvey poses with her three sons and husband Lukeman in front of the 2019 Donate Life Rose Parade float. Carolina donated her kidney as part of a paired kidney exchange so her husband could receive a life-saving kidney transplant.