

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.



25TH ANNIVERSARY

DONOR DASH

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 Philadelphia Museum of Art

COMMEMORATE
the heroic legacy of donors

EDUCATE
our community to save lives

CELEBRATE
the power of donation and transplantation

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Visit DonorDash.org



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

DASH

Don't Miss Fun and Excitement at 25th Anniversary Event

Gift of Life's biggest and most popular event will be more exciting than ever when the Donor Dash celebrates its 25th anniversary on April 19. To mark this milestone, the Dash will feature new attractions including live music, special entertainment for children, photo booths and more, plus 5K and 10K runs, a Kids Fun Run and a 3K walk. All 5K and 10K finishers will receive a commemorative 25th anniversary Donor Dash medal.

In the last five years alone, the Donor Dash has raised more than \$3 million to increase awareness of the life-saving power of organ and tissue donation. Proceeds from the Donor Dash benefit the Transplant Foundation, *Gift of Life's* charitable foundation that supports programs and activities for donor and recipient families. These include Gift of Life Family House and Team Philadelphia's participation at the Donate Life Transplant Games of America.

The Dash brings together families touched by donation as a transplant recipient, living donor, donor family or having a loved one on the transplant waiting list. More than 14,000 people participated in last year's Dash.

The event's founder, Claire Braverman of Cherry Hill, NJ, was inspired by a donor walk she attended in 1995 in New York led by the son of famed baseball player Mickey Mantle, who received a liver transplant. Claire was grieving the loss of her husband who died

to Save Lives!



Dash Founder Claire Braverman joins *Gift of Life* President & CEO Howard Nathan at the 15th Annual Donor Dash in 2015.

waiting for a liver. Claire worked with *Gift of Life* to launch the first Donor Dash in Philadelphia with the help of her family, friends and business acquaintances. It attracted about 800 participants.

"My thoughts were that everybody needed something like this," she said. "It's been successful because, unfortunately, so many people are still waiting for organs. And so many have received organs. All of this means so much to me."

Claire plans to be part of this year's big event. The Dash has even more personal significance for her now that she has become a cornea transplant recipient. Like many other *Gift of Life* supporters, she'll bring a team of Dashers along with friends to cheer for the participants.

Don't miss the incredible energy of the 25th anniversary Donor Dash. Join us to walk, run, cheer or volunteer. We look forward to seeing you there!

REGISTER TODAY 25th Anniversary DONOR DASH SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Philadelphia Museum of Art
Online registration open through April 13

10K Run/5K Run: \$35
3K Walk: \$30 (Kids under 13: \$15)

Visit DonorDash.org

To volunteer at the Dash, contact Colleen Duran at cduran@donors1.org or 215-557-8090, ext. 1145.

12 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY

LEADING The NATION



GIFT of LIFE DONOR PROGRAM

is the nation's leading organ procurement organization (OPO) for the 12th consecutive year thanks to the life-saving power of our region's generous donors and donor families. *Gift of Life* coordinated the most organs for transplant among all 58 U.S. OPOs and set two new national records – most organ donors and most transplants in 2019.

Gift of Life's annual donation rate, 59 organ donors-per-million-population, and annual transplant rate, 167 transplants-per-million population, both rank among the highest in the world.

"Every day, our dedicated staff works around the clock to do everything they can to save the lives of the more than 5,000 men, women and children in our region waiting for a life-saving organ," said Gift of Life President and CEO Howard M. Nathan. "They are supported by the most generous community in the country and the nation's foremost hospitals and transplant centers. Together, we have created an international model of compassionate care, clinical excellence and community partnership."

In 2019, *Gift of Life* also recovered life-enhancing tissue from 2,677 donors, including 1,305 musculoskeletal donors and 2,234 cornea donors.

These donations can benefit more than 100,000 people, with bone donations for orthopedic and sports injuries, skin donations to heal burn patients and for reconstructive surgery, heart valve donations to repair life-threatening defects and corneas to provide the gift of sight.

Since 1974, *Gift of Life* has coordinated more than 50,000 life-saving organs for transplant, and approximately 1.5 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 one tissue donor can transform the lives of more than 75 others.

664 MOST ORGAN DONORS
1,865 MOST ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

Gift of Life partners with 128 acute care hospitals and 15 transplant centers across its region in its life-saving work.

"Through our shared mission of saving lives and providing compassionate care, Gift of Life staff and hospital critical care teams work 24/7 to ensure that families have the opportunity to save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation," said Gift of Life Vice President of Clinical Services Richard D. Hasz. "These extraordinary partnerships of dedicated and committed professionals build a strong culture of donation throughout our region."

Approximately 113,000 people are waiting for a life-saving organ in the U.S. and every day, 20 people die waiting. In *Gift of Life's* region, which encompasses the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware, there are currently more than 5,000 men, women and children awaiting a life-saving transplant. The percentage of people registered as organ donors through their states' driver's license registries are: 49.4 percent in Pennsylvania, 36 percent in New Jersey and 52 percent in Delaware.

"We are so privileged to serve the community that is the most generous region in the country for donation," said Gift of Life Vice President of Administration & General Counsel Jan L. Weinstock, Esq. "Yet the need for increased communication and advocacy about the shortage of organs for transplant remains a critical public health issue. We urge everyone to register as a donor and join our mission. Our vision is that one day, no one will die waiting for an organ."

Get Ready for BLUE & GREEN DAY



Everyone is encouraged to wear blue and green on Friday, April 17 as *Gift of Life* joins Donate Life America to promote organ and tissue donation in our workplaces, schools, houses of worship and more. Don't miss this opportunity to highlight the urgent need for registered donors.

Get Involved:

- ★ ORGANIZE a "Blue & Green Day" in your community
- ★ ENCOURAGE family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to wear blue and green
- ★ TAKE LOTS OF PHOTOS and post them on social media with #BlueGreenDay and tag @donors1

2020 Donate Life Transplant Games of America

Team Philadelphia

WANTS YOU!



July 17-22, 2020 • Meadowlands, NJ

The Transplant Games are an Olympic-style competition made up of athletes who have undergone life-saving or life-enhancing transplant surgery or are living donors. This event aims to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation and to celebrate and honor those who have given the gift of life.

Who is eligible to compete?

Organ, tissue or bone marrow recipients, as well as living donors, who are at least nine months out from transplantation or donation and medically eligible.

Donor families are encouraged to attend! Families enjoy cheering on the athletes and attending a variety of special workshops and events.

For more information, visit **TeamPhilly.org** or email **TeamPhilly@donors1.org**

Kidney recipient Ali, 8, at the 2018 Transplant Games of America



Celebrate the ROARING 2020s at THE Party

Join Donors Are Heroes to eat, drink and kick up your heels as THE Party features a Roaring 20s theme on March 27 at The Bellevue Hotel in Philadelphia. Guests in fashionable dress – 20s attire welcomed – will enjoy a razzle-dazzle evening of celebration and dancing along with culinary delights from our region's top restaurants and vendors.

DJ Eddie Tully will provide music and our VIP party host will be Mike Jerrick of Fox 29's "Good Day Philadelphia." Co-chairs of this year's event are Stanton Myerson and Anca Peruto.

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 thanks to Donors Are Heroes. This dedicated group of volunteers who support Gift of Life Donor Program was founded in 2001 by heart recipient Don and Renee D. Freeman. They have raised more than \$1 million for donation education.

Become a sponsor, vendor or a guest at THE Party and be part of an exciting event that blends lavish fun with a life-saving cause.



Friday, March 27 at 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: 215-557-8090 or kkeener@donors1.org

Delaware Leads World in Organ Donation

Delaware is an international leader in organ donation, with the highest rate of donors-per-million-population in the world. Its rate of 101 donors-per-million-population is much higher than the overall U.S. rate of 36.3 donors-per-million-population. More than half, nearly 52 percent, of Delaware residents are designated as donors on their drivers licenses and identification cards. This is a substantial increase from 46.23 percent in 2012, when the Delaware Healthcare Association and Gift of Life Donor Program launched an organ donor awareness campaign. The program includes ongoing education of

hospital staff and the community about the critical need for organ and tissue donation registration.

Over the years, Gift of Life Donor Program has recognized many of Delaware's health care systems for their dedication to organ donation in the first state, encouraging everyone to sign up as organ, eye and tissue donors, and honoring those who have saved lives through donation. "ChristianaCare and Gift of Life work together as partners to care for our community. It's a culture that creates success," said Kimberly Talley, Vice President of Patient Services at ChristianaCare.

CLINICAL CORNER

WELCOME, BABY BENJAMIN

Gift of Life Supports Penn Medicine's Uterus Transplant Milestone

The birth of Benjamin Thomas Gobrecht marked an exciting milestone as Gift of Life Donor Program continues to support the latest medical advancements in donation and transplantation. His mother, 33-year-old Jennifer Gobrecht, was born without a uterus. Benjamin grew inside a womb Jennifer received as part of an organ transplant research trial in partnership with Gift of Life.

Benjamin, who arrived in November 2019 at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, is the second baby in the nation to be born following transplantation of a uterus from a deceased donor. Penn Medicine's Uterus Transplantation for Uterine Factor Infertility (UNTIL) trial is currently the only U.S. uterus transplant trial that is actively enrolling patients. The Penn Medicine team worked closely with Gift of Life Donor Program to perform the 10-hour transplant in 2018.

Gift of Life looks forward to working with Penn on future uterine transplants to support the advancement of this innovative field, said Richard D. Hasz, MFS, CPTC, vice president of Clinical Services, Gift of Life Donor Program. He added, "We extend our deep appreciation to the selfless donor and her family for their role in saving three lives through organ donation and helping to bring new life into this world through uterine donation. Congratulations to Penn's talented medical team and to the Gobrecht family."



Gift of Life's support of the UNTIL trial included our Transplant Pregnancy Registry International (TPR), a resource for the entire transplant community on up-to-date information regarding pregnancy after solid organ transplantation and immunosuppression taken during pregnancy. Research done by TPR over the last 29 years has determined that immunosuppression medications can be taken safely during pregnancy. TPR follows 2,700 transplant recipients with more than 4,700 pregnancies and serves as a resource for recipients and their health care teams when making family planning decisions.

Penn Medicine's trial is one of a few programs around the world to explore donation from both living and deceased donors — an approach which has the potential to expand the pool of organs available for donation and allows investigators the opportunity to directly compare outcomes from both types of donors.

Co-principal investigators of the UNTIL trial are Kathleen O'Neill, MD, MTR, an assistant professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and Paige Porrett, MD, PhD, an assistant professor of Transplant Surgery.

Jennifer Gobrecht, her husband Drew and Benjamin live just outside of Philadelphia.

Thanks to generous organ donors, donor families and patient pioneers such as Jennifer, clinical trials are helping physicians learn more about how to make uterus transplants safer, more effective and available to more women.



The donor's mother shared these sentiments:

"Our family is extremely proud to support transplantation that will enable more women to experience the joy of childbirth. My daughter was the best mother I ever knew; nothing was more important to her than her children. What a beautiful and fitting legacy for her to help give the gift of motherhood to another woman. Our hearts and prayers go out to my daughter's recipients and their families."