

# 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.



## DASHING TO SAVE LIVES

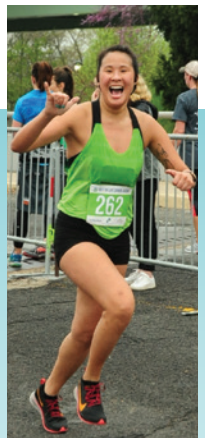
Join *Gift of Life Donor Program* this April as we highlight the life-saving and transformative power of organ and tissue donation.

Your support and involvement are more critical than ever as we strive for a day when no one dies waiting for a second chance at life. Celebrate Donate Life Month by taking an active role in our mission. Join us to Dash, engage with us on social media, sign up for our monthly eNews and contact us to volunteer. Learn more at [donors1.org](http://donors1.org).

Together, we'll save even more lives!

**SHARE** the excitement of our 25th anniversary **DONOR DASH** as we invite everyone to experience the inspiring camaraderie of our *Gift of Life* community!

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**MEET** new President & CEO Rick Hasz and learn about his 30 years of life-saving work.

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THE REGION'S ORGAN & TISSUE TRANSPLANT NETWORK  
DONOR PROGRAM  
GIFT of LIFE



A Donate Life Organization

## CELEBRATE NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

# DASH



## TO SAVE LIVES!

Join our region's premier event dedicated to the power of organ and tissue donation



Our 25th anniversary Donor Dash will be our major celebration of the year as we welcome supporters back in person outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Dash will also include a virtual option so that anyone, anywhere can be part of this special opportunity to embrace our life-saving mission.

More than a quarter of a million people of all ages have taken part in the Donor Dash since its founding, and our virtual Dash in 2021 included participants in 37 states. The inspiring message of Dash reaches millions more each year through media and community participation.



Proceeds from the Dash benefit Gift of Life Donor Program's Transplant Foundation, the charitable entity that supports programs and activities for donor families and transplant recipients.

Register Today!

25TH ANNIVERSARY

**DONOR DASH**

Sunday, April 24  
Philadelphia Museum of Art

Visit  
[DonorDash.org](http://DonorDash.org)

5K Run/10K Run: \$35  
3K Walk: \$30  
3K Walk Ages 6-13: \$15  
Virtual Participant: \$35

Online registration closes:  
Run: April 18  
Walk: April 23

To volunteer, contact  
Dwendy Johnson at  
[djohnson@donors1.org](mailto:djohnson@donors1.org)

## BLUE & GREEN DAY

Friday, April 22 Show your support for organ and tissue donation by wearing Donate Life colors on National Blue & Green Day. It's a great way to have fun and get your community involved.

- Organize a "Blue & Green Day" at your workplace, school or house of worship
- 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

## THE PARTY

Theme: Under the Big Top

For details, visit

[donorsareheroestheparty.com](http://donorsareheroestheparty.com)



All proceeds promote public awareness of the critical need for registered organ and tissue donors.

## MEET PRESIDENT & CEO

# RICK HASZ

We officially welcomed Rick Hasz as president and CEO of Gift of Life Donor Program, Gift of Life Family House and Gift of Life Institute in January. Rick succeeded longtime president and CEO Howard M. Nathan, who now serves as executive director of Transplant Foundation.

A part of the Gift of Life family for nearly three decades, and vice president of clinical services since 1999, Rick's unparalleled commitment and expertise ensure the continuation of our legacy of leadership, innovation and clinical excellence.

### BUILDING CHARACTER

Rick joined Gift of Life as a transplant coordinator in 1993 and has been involved in all aspects of the donor program. He jokes that he is even suited for the role of our mascot, Heartman. Rick grew up in Hershey, PA, where one of his first jobs was at Hershey Park. *"I can tell you that our Heartman costume is a lot nicer than the cardboard cutout I wore as the Hershey Bar."*

### EXTENDED FAMILY

Rick grew up with five siblings. He and his wife, Linda, are the parents of three children. His many evenings with family around the dinner table give Rick a deep appreciation for Gift of Life Family House and the volunteers who make sure our guests have good food, compassionate care and as stress-free a transplant journey as possible. *"Our Home Cook Heroes, shuttle drivers and other volunteers and staff provide so much more than food or services. They create an extended family to support and care for transplant patients and their families which is so important for their healing."*

### BROTHER, DONOR & HERO

Programs such as the Family House Caregiver Lifeline hold special meaning for Rick, who knows firsthand how essential caregiver support is for transplant families. Rick's brother, Todd, needed a heart transplant when he was in his mid-30s. Their dad, Dick, a physician, and mom, Faye, a nurse, became Todd's caregivers. *"It's so important we recognize the role caregivers play in the success of a transplant. Building programs to support them will continue to be a priority."*

Sadly, Todd died while waiting for a transplant. Rick said he takes comfort in that *"through my parents' strength and generosity, Todd was able to become an organ, tissue and eye donor, providing life and healing to others."*

### SUPPORTING HEROES

Rick's commitment to our community includes a Sunday morning Crossfit workout with veterans through The Weekly Fight, which helps turn post-traumatic stress into post-traumatic growth. The program promotes a healthy lifestyle and helps veterans transitioning to civilian life. For Rick, the camaraderie, mission and purpose of the program echo the teamwork and dedication of Gift of Life's staff.

## DISTINGUISHED CAREER SNAPSHOT

- Bachelor of Science in biology from Pennsylvania State University and Master of Forensic Science from George Washington University
- Major transplantation milestones: developed clinical protocols and coordinated bilateral pediatric hand transplants, uterus donation, first U.S. African American face transplant, world's first successful face and bilateral hand transplants
- Leadership roles with Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, United Network for Organ Sharing and American Board for Transplant Certification

### POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Rick's leadership includes spearheading strong, innovative partnerships throughout our network of 129 donor hospitals and 14 transplant centers and with medical leaders across the country. *"What stands out at Gift of Life are all the relationships that we have built with our transplant partners, our hospital and acute care partners, volunteers throughout our region, and most importantly, within our Gift of Life team."*

*Day in and day out, they are advocating on behalf of not only the 5,000 patients in our region, but the more than 100,000 patients waiting nationally. Our team of professionals are second to none working 24/7 to support families and enable them to create life-saving legacies for their loved ones."*

### LIFE-SAVING VISION

*"What inspires me every day is knowing we're doing everything we can for all of the patients who are waiting and to honor the families who make life-saving transplants possible. Early on in my career, a mentor said to me, 'At the end of every day, you should ask yourself the question: Did I do everything I could today for those patients who are waiting for a transplant?' Our vision is that one day no one in need of a transplant will die waiting."*





**GIFT of LIFE**  
DONOR PROGRAM

# GIFT OF LIFE COORDINATES MOST ORGAN DONORS IN U.S. HISTORY

## REGION IS NATION'S MOST GENEROUS FOR 14TH YEAR

For the 14th consecutive year, *Gift of Life* coordinated the most organs for transplant, achieving the highest number of organ donors ever recorded for a U.S.-based organ procurement organization.

Thanks to our community's heroic donors and generous donor families, dedicated staff who work around the clock for each person on the organ waitlist, and hospital partners committed to saving every life possible, in 2021 *Gift of Life* led the nation in:

### MOST ORGAN DONORS

coordinated life-saving gifts from 705 organ donors, the most ever in the U.S. in a single year.

### MOST ORGANS TRANSPLANTED

those donations resulted in 1,732 transplants, the most in the U.S. in 2021.

### MOST KIDNEYS TRANSPLANTED

coordinated 1,007 kidney transplants – the most ever in U.S. history.

With kidney disease on the rise, and often tied to common conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, this provides hope to all who are waiting. The need is especially prevalent in multicultural communities. In *Gift of Life* region's 14 transplant centers, 56 percent of the kidney recipients were people of color.

*"I am humbled and inspired by Gift of Life's community, which year after year is the most generous in the nation for donation. It takes a team of heroes – donors, donor families, Gift of Life staff and hospital partners – to save the lives of people on the organ waitlist. Without each one of them, organ donation would not be possible,"* said *Gift of Life* President and CEO Rick Hasz.

## SAVING LIVES TOGETHER

NATION'S MOST GENEROUS COMMUNITY SINCE 2008

2021

705

MOST ORGAN DONORS IN U.S. HISTORY

1,732

MOST ORGAN TRANSPLANTS IN U.S.

GIFTS OF

HEALING  
1,348

MUSCULOSKELETAL DONORS



SIGHT  
1,894

CORNEA DONORS



HOME  
6,172

NIGHTS AT GIFT OF LIFE FAMILY HOUSE



In 2021, *Gift of Life* also recovered life-enhancing tissues from 2,399 donors including 1,348 musculoskeletal donors and 1,894 cornea donors. These donations can benefit more than 110,000 people through 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.

# CLINICAL

ORNER

## Temple Hospital Receives Gift of Life Award

*Gift of Life Donor Program* and the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) Southeast Connect honored Temple University Hospital with the prestigious Gift of Life Award.

The award is presented to a hospital in recognition of outstanding commitment to organ donation. Temple University Hospital's talented and compassionate team was honored for championing donation and offering families the opportunity to create a heroic legacy for their loved ones by providing those on the waitlist a second chance at life.

"It's really attributed to our caregivers who see an opportunity for a transplant, for an organ donation, and they make it happen because they know how valuable that organ is to save someone else's life," said Michael Young, President and CEO of Temple University Hospital. "So, it tells me that our teams are doing the right thing and in the right way and that they know how important it is. It's really quite an honor."



Joseph Paparo (L), *Gift of Life* Hospital Services Coordinator with Michael Young, President & CEO, Temple University Hospital.

*Gift of Life* also recognized the following 18 Pennsylvania hospitals that achieved a 100 percent patient referral rate:

Abington Hospital – Jefferson Health, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Einstein Medical Center Montgomery, Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience, Jefferson Torresdale Hospital, Lankenau Medical Center, Lower Bucks Hospital, Mercy Catholic Medical Center – Mercy Fitzgerald Campus, Nazareth Hospital, Paoli Hospital, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Temple University Hospital and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

## Meet *Gift of Life's* New Chief Clinical Officer

Former ICU Nurse and Transplant Coordinator



Christine Radolovic, MS, BSN, RN, is a 20-year veteran of *Gift of Life* who was recently promoted to chief clinical officer after leading our team of more than 65 transplant coordinators. Christine's team achieved the highest standards of clinical practice in all areas of organ and tissue donation and recoveries, consistently providing the opportunity for donation to more families and saving more lives through transplantation.

Christine joined *Gift of Life* as a transplant coordinator, supporting families throughout the donation process. "Coordinators work 24/7 advocating for each person who is waiting for a life-saving organ donation and helping donor families during the most difficult moments of their lives," she said.

As chief clinical officer, Christine leads day-to-day clinical operations for the busiest of the 57 organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the U.S., with programs that include Transplant Coordination, Hospital Services, Organ Preservation, Eye Bank, Donation and Transplant Analytics, Quality Assurance and Tissue Recovery.

A former intensive care nurse, Christine understands firsthand the critical partnership between *Gift of Life* and its network of 129 acute care hospitals and 14 transplant centers.

Christine plays a key role in directing innovative approaches to improve the donation process. She is leading *Gift of Life's* partnership with the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in establishing a new Donor Care Center, an enclosed unit that will consist of six beds and three dedicated recovery suites for organ recovery in addition to pulsatile organ preservation capabilities. The Donor Care Center is expected to open this year.

Prior to joining *Gift of Life*, Christine worked at Paoli Hospital in suburban Philadelphia helping patients who were critically in need of medical care.

2022 DONATE LIFE TRANSPLANT GAMES OF AMERICA



Join Team Philadelphia

July 29-August 3 San Diego, California

- Honor the heroic legacy of donors, highlight the need for registered donors and celebrate the success of transplantation.
- Organ, tissue and bone marrow recipients, living donors, donor families and supporters are all invited!

To learn more, visit [TeamPhilly.org](http://TeamPhilly.org)

