

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.

CELEBRATE Saving Lives

Join us April 16 at **DONOR DASH!**

Gift of Life is the U.S. leader in life-saving organ donations for 15 years in a row thanks to our generous community (story on page 3). Join us to celebrate this achievement and share the power of organ and tissue donation at our biggest and most exciting event of the year: Donor Dash.

Our 26th annual Donor Dash will honor heroic donors, showcase grateful transplant recipients and inspire more people to join our mission to save the lives of those waiting for life-saving organ transplants. Dash will bring our *Gift of Life* family together this April 16 as the highlight of National Donate Life Month. Enjoy fun activities, run or walk in our main events, visit a special donor tribute area and experience an unforgettable day (see page 2 for details).



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



CELEBRATE NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

DONOR DASH:

“Fantastic, Emotional Day!”

There's no bigger celebration of the power of organ and tissue donation than *Gift of Life's* premier event, Donor Dash. Here's what some of our Dash team captains say:

“It's totally awesome”
“We're so excited to be there”
“It's wonderful to be together for this great event”

Join us for an uplifting day of smiles, cheers and inspiration.

Our 26th annual Donor Dash will bring donor families, transplant recipients, waitlist patients, hospital partners, volunteers and advocates together in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art for a fun-filled morning. Donor Dash will include a virtual option so that anyone, anywhere can be part of this truly special experience.



BLUE & GREEN DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 14 Show your support for organ and tissue donation by wearing Donate Life colors on National Blue & Green Day, which will be held on Friday, April 14. It's a great way to get creative, 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
- 🐾 Dress up your pets
- 📸 Take lots of photos and post them on social media with #BlueGreenDay and tag @donors1



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 has included participants in more than 30 states. The life-saving message of Dash reaches millions through media and community participation each year.

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

Register Today!
 26th Annual
DONOR DASH
 SUNDAY, APRIL 16
 Philadelphia Museum of Art

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

Visit DonorDash.org
 To volunteer at the Dash, contact Colleen Brand at cbrand@donors1.org



MOST DONOR HEROES & LIFE-SAVING TRANSPLANTS IN U.S.

GIFT OF LIFE DONOR PROGRAM is the U.S. leader in life-saving organ donations for a milestone 15 consecutive years thanks to its **DEDICATED STAFF, HOSPITAL PARTNERS** and **GENEROUS COMMUNITY**.

In 2022, *Gift of Life* coordinated the most organ donors and the most organs for transplant among all 57 organ procurement organizations (OPO) in the country. This includes coordinating the most kidneys for transplant – 1,017 – ever in U.S. history.

Gift of Life's community played a major role in helping the U.S. become the first country in the world to exceed one million transplants in 2022.

“Our community – filled with families of incredible generosity – is served by the world's best team in organ donation working in close partnership with hospitals throughout our region. Together, we have achieved the longest record of coordinating the most donor heroes in the U.S. each year for a remarkable 15 straight years,” said Richard Hasz, President and CEO of *Gift of Life Donor Program*, Transplant Foundation and Gift of Life Howie's House.

Hasz added, **“Our commitment to every person on the transplant waitlist – more than 5,000 in our region alone – is unwavering. Our strong, passionate *Gift of Life* staff works around the clock every day to save lives. We have changed the lives of more than two million people through organ and tissue transplantation in our nearly 50-year history. We will continue to innovate and strive to achieve a day when no one who needs a transplant dies waiting.”**

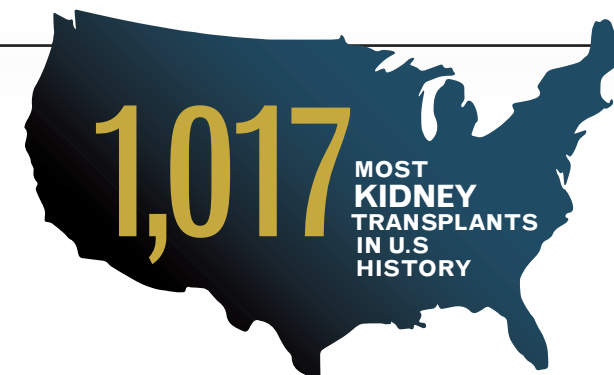
690 MOST ORGAN DONORS IN U.S.

1,744 MOST ORGAN TRANSPLANTS IN U.S.

Gift of Life's expert donation professionals collaborate with 126 acute care hospitals and 13 transplant centers. **“Offering families the opportunity to give life after the death of their loved one takes a special partnership. Our *Gift of Life* and hospital critical care teams bring so much sensitivity and skill to their shared mission of caring for donors and supporting donor families. The complex process from donation to transplant is truly a team effort and a tribute to our clinical caregivers who know how precious each organ is to save someone's life,”** said Christine Radolovic, MS, BSN, RN, *Gift of Life* Chief Clinical Officer.

Gift of Life's annual donation rate, 61 organ donors-per-million-population, is among the highest in the world.

“We are humbled to serve a community of such extraordinary kindness – leading the nation in life-saving organ donations every year since 2008. We urge everyone to help close the gap between organs available for transplant and the more than 100,000 children and adults in the country who are desperately waiting. Each one of us can be a hero by signing up as donor,” said Jan L. Weinstock, Esq., Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel.



THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL Receives Gift of Life Award

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

The award is presented to a hospital in recognition of outstanding commitment to organ donation. Thomas Jefferson University Hospital's 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.

"We are excited to recognize Thomas Jefferson University Hospital with the Gift of Life Award for superior performance in organ donation," said Rick Hasz, President & CEO, Gift of Life Donor Program. **"We applaud this dedicated and compassionate team for making organ donation an integral part of end-of-life care."**

Gift of Life also recognized 17 Pennsylvania hospitals that achieved a 100 percent patient referral rate, affording eligible families the opportunity to create a legacy through donation:

- Abington Hospital – Jefferson Health
- Bryn Mawr Hospital
- Chester County Hospital
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Crozer-Chester Medical Center
- Doylestown Hospital
- Jeanes Hospital
- Jefferson Bucks Hospital
- Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience
- Lankenau Medical Center
- Nazareth Hospital
- Paoli Hospital
- Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
- Riddle Hospital
- St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
- St. Mary Medical Center
- Thomas Jefferson University Hospital



STAFF SPOTLIGHT



BRINGING COMFORT, *Saving Lives*

Victoria Burns, RN, CPTC, CT

Victoria has brought her extensive nursing and communication skills to Gift of Life as a transplant coordinator for more than 14 years. The sophisticated work of coordinating donations is richly rewarding, she said.

"The work we do each day means the difference between life and death for a waitlist patient and can bring comfort to a family facing a devastating loss. Donor families share with us how meaningful it is that their loved one's final act was to save and heal lives. It's incredibly powerful."

Learn more about our life-saving work at donors1.org/careers



ALTHEA'S STORY: Kidney Recipient, Donor Mom

DON'T BE AFRAID TO GIVE

Althea Fogle has experienced the power of organ and tissue donation as both a donor mom and transplant recipient.

To meet Althea's daughter, Tiffany, was to feel embraced by her compassionate spirit, charismatic charm and giving attitude. Tiffany touched everyone who crossed paths with her, from classmates to fellow churchgoers to strangers she met while shopping.

Althea worked at the Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley for decades, often interacting with donor families, and Tiffany tagged along to community events, volunteering once she was old enough. "She loved people," Althea said. "She was a beautiful young lady."

When Tiffany passed away, her precious gifts as a cornea and tissue donor healed more than 70 people.

Althea never imagined needing a transplant herself, but stage-five kidney disease landed her on the waitlist shortly after she retired. She was preparing to start dialysis in spring of 2022 when late one Saturday night, she received a call from Penn Medicine. A possible donor had been identified. The next morning, the match was confirmed.

Following her successful transplant, she is feeling stronger and filled with gratitude: "I can't thank God enough for my donor family, for their benevolence. Without them, I wouldn't be here."

She urges everyone to register to become an organ and tissue donor: "You can save someone else's life. Don't be afraid to give."

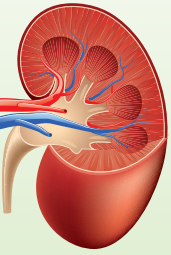
SAVING LIVES, Building Healthy Communities To support our communities, Gift of Life offers grants to Houses of Worship, community organizations, and schools to support education and programs to increase awareness about organ donation, transplantation and organ health.

Learn more: visit donors1.org/community

How Are Your Kidneys?

As you read this, your kidneys are hard at work filtering almost 53 gallons of blood every day. **March is National Kidney Month.** Here's what you should know:

- Kidneys remove waste, balance fluids and minerals, control blood pressure, help make red blood cells and more
- One in three of us is at risk for kidney disease, often caused by high blood pressure or diabetes
- Kidneys are needed by 87 percent of the more than 100,000 transplant waitlist patients in the U.S.
- The need for kidney transplants is especially great in multicultural communities.



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| Know the risk factors: | Care for your kidneys: | Learn more: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes • High blood pressure (hypertension) • Family history of kidney failure • Obesity • Heart disease • Past damage to kidneys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise regularly • Follow a balanced diet • Quit smoking • Drink alcohol only in moderation • Stay hydrated • Monitor cholesterol levels • Get an annual physical • Know your family medical history | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kidney.org • worldkidneyday.org |

Gift of Life:

- **Coordinated the most kidneys for transplant in U.S. history in 2022 (1,017)**
- **Is a leader in the first-of-its-kind initiative – the national "Kidney Collaborative" (End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative) – of CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration), working to increase the number of kidneys available for transplant by sharing highly effective practices among acute care hospitals, organ procurement organizations and transplant centers.**



Register for Camp Jeremy

SUMMER FUN for Transplant Kids

Transplant recipients ages five to 16 and their siblings are invited to a week of summer fun at Gift of Life's Camp Jeremy from August 14 to 18.

This annual summer day camp features swimming, games, crafts and making new friends at beautiful Camp Shelly Ridge in Lafayette Hill, Pa. Free transportation is provided from Gift of Life's main office in Philadelphia and from Nemours Children's Hospital in Wilmington, De.

Camp Jeremy is held in memory of heart recipient and former camp counselor Jeremy Clemens. **For more information, contact Karen Keener at kkeener@donors1.org or 267-421-7485.**