

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

CELEBRATE AT

DONOR DASH ON APRIL 28!

Join Gift of Life as we kick off our one-year commemoration of our 50th anniversary. Help us raise awareness for organ and tissue donation at our biggest event of the year: Donor Dash!



Our 27th annual Donor Dash on Sunday, April 28 will honor heroic donors, showcase grateful transplant recipients, bring hope to waitlist patients and inspire even more people to help save lives through donation. The Dash will bring our *Gift of Life* family together as the highlight of National Donate Life Month. Enjoy the fun and festive atmosphere, run or walk in our main events, visit a special donor tribute area and experience an uplifting day.

NEW Donor Dash Location! **PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD**

- Later start times for **10K/5K Runs & 3K Walk**
- More **FREE** parking • Scenic riverfront

See page 2 for details.



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GIFT of LIFE
DONOR PROGRAM
THE REGION'S ORGAN & TISSUE TRANSPLANT NETWORK
800-DONORS-1 • www.donors1.org



A Donate Life Organization

Celebrate National Donate Life Month

DON'T MISS DONOR DASH: "FANTASTIC FAMILY EVENT"

Join *Gift of Life Donor Program* for an inspiring day filled with gratitude, hope and joy at our 27th Annual Donor Dash on Sunday, April 28. The Dash is the ultimate celebration of donation for supporters like Scott and Tracye Burroughs, pictured in the Dash box lower right.

Scott's cardiac problems date back almost a decade. Thankfully, a donor hero made it possible for Scott to receive a transplant that saved his life in 2020. "I never realized how sick I was until I got my new heart and felt better," Scott said.

Now, Donor Dash is a special opportunity for Scott and Tracye to celebrate Scott's gift of life. "It's a great way to honor my donor and donor family, to meet other transplant recipients and be surrounded by positive energy," said Scott, who enjoys an active lifestyle. "I have something from somebody who was loved. I have their heart and I need to take care of it."



Donor Dash will bring donor families, transplant recipients, waitlist patients, hospital partners, volunteers, and advocates together at a new scenic and spacious riverfront venue: the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Donor Dash will include a virtual option so that anyone, anywhere can be part of this special experience.

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 plus Ireland. **The life-saving message of the 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 programs and activities for donor families and transplant recipients.

REGISTER TODAY!
27TH ANNUAL
DONOR DASH
SUNDAY, APRIL 28

NEW LOCATION
Philadelphia Navy Yard

Registration Opens 8 a.m.
10K/5K Runs 9:15/9:30 a.m.
3K Walk 11 a.m.

Visit **DonorDash.org**

To volunteer, contact Colleen Brand at cbrand@donors1.org.

Scott and Tracye Burroughs.



BLUE & GREEN DAY: FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Let's fill social media with Donate Life colors on National Blue & Green Day to inspire resounding support for organ and tissue donation. Join the fun and get your community involved:

- Organize a "Blue & Green Day" at your workplace, school or house of worship.
- Encourage family, friends, co-workers and classmates to wear blue and green.
- Dress up your pets.
- Take lots of photos and post them on social media with #BlueGreenDay and tag @donors1.

COMMUNITY AND HOSPITAL PARTNERS ADVANCE 50-YEAR LEGACY

as the **MOST GENEROUS REGION** in the U.S.

As we prepare to commemorate *Gift of Life's* 50th anniversary of its founding in 1974, we are proud that our donor program has coordinated 14,196 donors and 39,469 organs for transplant – **more than any other U.S. organ procurement organization (OPO)** since the inception of our national donation system in 1988 thanks to selfless donor heroes and their generous families.

We expanded our extraordinary legacy of saving lives with 693 organ donors resulting in 1,734 transplants in 2023. We also coordinated the recovery of precious tissues from **the most musculoskeletal and cornea donors in Gift of Life's history.** These life-changing donations can benefit more than 140,000 people, with bone donations for orthopedic and sports injuries, skin for burn patients and reconstructive surgery for breast cancer patients, heart valves to repair life-threatening defects and corneas to provide the gift of sight.

"We can't save lives without you – without each person in our community using their extraordinary power to say 'yes' to donation." —Richard D. Hasz, Jr., MFS, CPTC, President and CEO of Gift of Life Donor Program, Gift of Life Transplant Foundation and Gift of Life Howie's House

Gift of Life continues to rank in Tier 1 of CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) OPO donation and transplant performance metrics and provides the broadest array of services of any OPO in the U.S. as part of our commitment to serve the donation and transplantation community.

While we have seen tremendous advancements in science and technology, transplantation still depends on the fundamental kindness of families who, often at their worst moment, make a selfless decision to help others.



Gift of Life President and CEO Rick Hasz is calling on hospitals, faith, business, government, and community leaders to partner with Gift of Life, and for families throughout our region to start a conversation about donation and register at donors1.org.

Together, we continue to honor the legacy of donor heroes and create a future of hope thanks to each family and designated donor who says "yes" to donation.

50-YEAR LEGACY of SAVING LIVES

CONTRIBUTED MOST DONORS (14,196) and ORGANS FOR TRANSPLANT (39,469) of all U.S. OPOs since start of national system in 1988.

2023

693 ORGAN DONORS **1,734** ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

GIFTS OF HEALING
1,433 Musculoskeletal Donors

GIFTS OF SIGHT
2,278 Cornea Donors

GIFTS OF HOME
8,855 Nights at Gift of Life Howie's House

Gift of Life Award

ST. MARY MEDICAL CENTER
Honored for Supporting Donation

Gift of Life Donor Program and the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) Southeast Connect honored St. Mary Medical Center with the 2023 Gift of Life Award in recognition of its outstanding commitment to organ donation. St. Mary, part of Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic, is in Langhorne, Pa.

“This marks the fourth time in the 17-year history of the Gift of Life Award that we have honored St. Mary Medical Center for their superior performance in organ donation,” said Rick Hasz, Gift of Life President and CEO. “We congratulate the dedicated team at St. Mary on this achievement and celebrate the strong and sustainable culture of donation they have built by caring for donors, helping to support donor families, and working in close collaboration with our Gift of Life team throughout the donation process to save lives.”

“Our ability to provide donors and their families with a heroic legacy of saving and healing lives through donation begins with strong collaboration. Gift of Life Donor Program has the expertise, our compassionate and dedicated staff has the relationship with each family and our donor families inspire us with their extraordinary generosity,” said James L. Woodward, President and CEO of Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic. “We are grateful for this powerful partnership that transforms so many lives in our community.”



From left: Gift of Life’s Chief Clinical Officer Christine Radolovic, MS, BSN, RN; and Hospital Services Coordinator Denise Cirio; from St. Mary Medical Center: President Michael Magro, Jr. DO, MBA, FACOI; Trauma Program Manager Meg Ashton, RN, BSN, MHA, CEN; and Critical Care Nurse Manager Peter Lorchak; Gift of Life’s Hospital Services Manager Jacqueline Giuffrida; and Hospital Services Vice President Gweneth D. O’Shaughnessy.

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

- | | |
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| Chester County Hospital | Jefferson Torresdale Hospital |
| Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia | Lankenau Medical Center |
| Crozer-Chester Medical Center | Lower Bucks Hospital |
| Doylestown Hospital | Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital |
| Jefferson Abington Hospital | Nazareth Hospital |
| Jefferson Bucks Hospital | Paoli Hospital |
| Jefferson Einstein Montgomery Hospital | St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children |
| Jefferson Frankford Hospital | St. Mary Medical Center |
| Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience | Thomas Jefferson University Hospital |

MOST KIDNEYS FOR TRANSPLANT IN U.S. HISTORY

Gift of Life continued to lead the nation in providing kidneys – the most-needed organ for transplant — with 991 transplanted in 2023 bringing its total number to 20,825, which is the most kidneys for transplant overall in U.S. history. A half million people in the U.S. are suffering from End-Stage Renal Disease, with 90,000 awaiting a kidney transplant.

WAITLIST PATIENTS: Strong, Determined and Hopeful

PHILLIP

Assistant School Principal

“Your life can change so quickly. On my 34th birthday, I was having the worst headache ever and then the next thing I know, I’m in the hospital being told I have chronic kidney disease. You have to be optimistic in this process because if you aren’t, it will eat you up. Waiting for a kidney is long; sometimes you feel hopeless. But it also shows me how strong I can be.”

BRIANNA

Music Education Student

“I went into kidney failure in my senior year of high school. It felt like everything was crashing down on me and I had no future. Despite that, I’m in college now trying to achieve my dreams. I don’t let my medical condition define me. I just try to take it day by day and keep going. My superpower is that I’m extremely determined.”

CARING FOR YOUR KIDNEYS

One in three adults in the U.S. is at risk for kidney disease, which often goes undetected until it is very advanced, requiring dialysis or a life-saving transplant, according to the National Kidney Foundation. The need for kidney transplants is especially high in multicultural communities. Know the risk factors and warning signs below.

Healthy kidneys are key to removing waste, balancing fluids and minerals, controlling blood pressure and helping to make red blood cells as they filter more than 50 gallons of your blood every day.

RISK FACTORS

- Diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease (you or your family)
- Obesity
- Age 60 or older
- Prolonged use of NSAIDs painkillers, e.g. ibuprofen and naproxen
- Lupus, other autoimmune disorders
- Chronic urinary tract infections
- Kidney stones

TROUBLE SIGNS

- Fatigue, weakness
- Difficult, painful urination
- Foamy or pink/dark urine
- Increased thirst
- Increased need to urinate (especially at night)
- Swollen face, hands, abdomen, ankles, feet

3 SIMPLE LIFE-SAVING TESTS

- Blood Pressure: Below 140/90 is good for most people. Check with your healthcare team to find out what is right for you.
- Urine Test: Traces a type of protein called albumin that may be an early sign of kidney disease.
- Blood Test: Measures how well your kidneys are working to filter blood.

Learn more: [kidney.org](https://www.kidney.org) Source: National Kidney Foundation

Join **TEAM PHILADELPHIA** for a Life-Changing Experience

This summer’s Transplant Games of America will showcase the full, inspiring lives made possible by donor heroes and their generous families. Don’t miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity to honor the profound legacy of donors, celebrate the success of transplantation and highlight the need for more registered donors as part of Gift of Life’s Team Philadelphia.



TRANSPLANT GAMES OF AMERICA
JULY 5-10, 2024
Birmingham, Alabama

- Organ, tissue and bone marrow recipients, living donors, donor families and supporters are all invited.
- Features athletic events plus Olympic-style opening ceremony, donor tribute and more.
- Connect with transplant recipients and donor families from across the U.S.
- Enjoy a festival-style atmosphere filled with fun and camaraderie.

Visit TeamPhilly.org

Sign up 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 12 to 16.

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, Del.



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.