



Gift of Life Donor Program Overview

Gift of Life Donor Program, founded in 1974 and headquartered in Philadelphia, is the largest organ procurement organization (OPO) in the United States, working 24/7 to coordinate the recovery of precious organs and tissues from deceased donors to save and heal lives. Gift of Life is the non-profit, federally designated OPO serving 11.3 million people across the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.

Thanks to the generosity of its community, Gift of Life has coordinated 14,196 donors and 39,499 organs for transplant, **the most of any OPO in the country** since the start of our national donation system in 1986. Overall, Gift of Life has coordinated more than 59,000 organs and more than two million tissue transplants since its founding.

Gift of Life leads the nation in providing kidneys – the most needed organ for transplant – with 991 transplanted in 2023 bringing its total number to 20,625, 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 percent of transplant waitlist patients in the nation needing a kidney transplant.

Gift of Life works in partnership with the 125 acute care hospitals and 12 transplant centers in its designated service area as well as hundreds of transplant centers throughout the country, to provide the most comprehensive array of services available in the U.S. to the donation and transplantation community. Gift of Life ranks in Tier 1 of CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) OPO donation and transplant performance metrics.

The need for more registered donors is one of this country's critical public health issues. Currently, there are more than 100,000 children and adults in the U.S. who need an organ transplant to survive, with an average of 17 people dying each day waiting. Just one organ donor can save up to eight lives, and one tissue donor can transform the lives of about 100 others.

Gift of Life Donor Program is recognized internationally for its expertise, scholarship, innovation and leadership in the field of organ and tissue donation.

Gift of Life continues to expand the broadest variety of services of any OPO in the U.S. as part of its 50-year commitment to serve the donation and transplantation community. Services include:

- Screening and coordinating the importation and transportation of organs for transplant from other areas of the country for patients in our community.