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

Organ and Tissue Donation Facts

- **Lives Are at Stake**
    - More than **100,000** children and adults across the U.S. need an organ transplant to survive.
        - Each day, **17** people die waiting for an organ transplant.
        - Every **8** minutes, another person is added to the waitlist.
    - There are about **5,000** people of all ages who need a life-saving organ transplant in our region.

- **Power of Organ & Tissue Donation**
    - The power of just one donor is extraordinary:
        - 1 organ donor can save up to **8** lives and 1 tissue donor can transform the lives of about **100** others.
    - 1 organ donor can donate their kidneys, pancreas, liver, lungs, heart and intestines.
    - Tissue donation includes bone to repair fractures and prevent amputations, skin to heal burn patients and for reconstructive surgery for breast cancer patients, and heart valves to repair life-threatening defects. Tissue donors can also donate their corneas, providing the gift of sight to two recipients.

- **Gift of Life Donor Program**
    - Works 24/7 to coordinate the recovery of precious organs and tissues from deceased donor heroes to save and transform lives.
    - Serves 11.3 million people across the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.
    - Works in partnership with **126** acute care hospitals and **12** transplant centers in its region as well as hundreds of transplant centers throughout the country.
    - Provides the most comprehensive array of services of any OPO in the U.S. to the donation and transplantation community.
    - Has coordinated more than **59,000** organs for transplant and more than **two million** tissue transplants – *the most of any U.S. organ procurement organization* (OPO) – since it was founded in 1974.
    - Has coordinated 14,196 donors and 39,469 organs for transplant – more than any other U.S. OPO – since the inception of our national donation system in 1988.
        - **Organ donors –** coordinated life-saving gifts from 693 organ donors in 2023.

- **Organs transplanted –** those donations resulted in 1,734 transplants in 2023.
- **Most kidneys transplanted in U.S. history –** with 991 kidneys for transplant in 2023 bringing its total number to 20,825. Kidneys are the organ needed by 90 percent of patients on the national waitlist.

- **Organ Donation**
  - Registering as an organ and tissue donor is a generous and fundamental act of human kindness. It saves and transforms lives, helping the person in need of a transplant as well as their loved ones.
  - More than half of transplant waitlist patients in the U.S. are people of color.
  - All major religions support organ donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.
  - With ongoing advancements in transplantation, the need for organ donation grows, as does the need for more registered donors.
  - Most organ donors are hospital patients who have been declared dead after they have suffered complete and irreversible loss of all brain function. Mechanical ventilation and medications are used to continue blood flow to organs so they are able to be transplanted. In the U.S., fewer than two percent of all deaths occur in a way that allow organ donation to be possible. That is why it is critical that everyone who can register does. Everyone has the potential to be a donor hero regardless of age, health or medical history. At the time of death, medical tests are conducted to determine suitability for donation.
  - Most transplants are made possible by deceased donors but some organs can come from living donors. These include a kidney, a segment of their liver, a lobe of their lung, and portions of their intestine and pancreas. With the urgent need for donated organs, living donation is another way to save lives.

- **Sign Up to Help Save Lives**
  - **95%** of people surveyed in the U.S. support organ donation, yet in many states, including Pennsylvania, the organ donor registration rate is below **50%.**
  - It takes *less than one minute* to sign up to become a donor any time at donors1.org.
  - Gift of Life urges everyone to learn the facts about organ and tissue donation and discuss it with loved ones to make their personal preferences known.

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