

GIFT OF LIFE NEWS



GIFT of LIFE
DONOR PROGRAM
A Legacy of **HEROES**. A Future of **HOPE**.

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.

A SEASON TO *Honor* OUR LEGACY OF HEROES



AND *Inspire* A FUTURE OF HOPE

Wishing you
AND YOUR LOVED ONES
health, happiness
AND *hope*
NOW AND THROUGHOUT
THE NEW YEAR.

YOUR FRIENDS AT  GIFT OF LIFE

Pictured are donor families and transplant recipients who represent our proud past and inspiring future. Learn more about them at donors1.org/holiday.



A Donate Life Organization

GIFT of LIFE
DONOR PROGRAM
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50 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES

GIFT OF LIFE DONOR PROGRAM has coordinated the most donors and organs for transplant of any U.S. organ procurement organization since the start of our national donation system in 1988.

Gift of Life has been internationally recognized for leadership, clinical excellence and innovation in donation and transplantation throughout our 50 years of service. Here are some of the many milestones and achievements made possible by our world-class team, clinical partners, transplant recipients, dedicated supporters, and especially donor heroes and their generous families. [Visit donors1.org/timeline](https://donors1.org/timeline) for our complete timeline.

1955-66 First kidney transplants in Philadelphia are performed by surgeons that include **Clyde Barker, MD**, and **Aaron Bannett, MD**, who went on to found *Gift of Life Donor Program*.



1974 Gift of Life Donor Program (GLDP), originally known as Delaware Valley Transplant Program (DVTP), is formed by the Greater Delaware Valley Society of Transplant Surgeons.



1990 GLDP's Team Philadelphia, with 40 transplant recipients, is the largest team at the first U.S. Transplant Games, setting the stage for future success in these competitions.



1994 GLDP plays a major role in crafting landmark legislation **Pennsylvania Act 102, signed into law by Governor Robert P. Casey**, a heart and liver transplant recipient. The law:

- Established a driver's license registry allowing people to sign up to become a donor.
- Required every patient death in a hospital to be referred for evaluation to organ and tissue donation professionals.
- Became a national model for donor registration and sparked a dramatic increase in registered donors.



1995 First GLDP donation after circulatory death (DCD) occurs with donor **Michael McVey** by **Avi Shaked, MD**. Michael's legacy went on to transform donation across the U.S. and save thousands of lives thanks to the advocacy of his mother, Susan McVey Dillon, and *Gift of Life's* leadership in bringing DCD best practices to organ procurement organizations nationwide.



1996 First Donor Dash draws 800 supporters thanks to the vision of Dash founder **Claire Braverman**, whose husband died waiting for a liver transplant. Dash has grown to become the region's largest organ and tissue donation awareness event, drawing 15,000+ participants.



2001 Gift of Life Eye Bank was created, facilitating cornea donation to provide the precious gift of sight and continue GLDP's commitment to offer the broadest array of services of any organ procurement organization in the U.S.



2004 Gift of Life Institute is created as an international center of expertise and learning that goes on to train more than 14,000 transplant professionals from 39 countries.

First Camp Jeremy brings young transplant recipients and their siblings together for a week of summer fun, inspired by heart recipient **Jeremy Clemens**, a camp counselor.

2011 Thanks to the vision of former GLDP President and CEO **Howard M. Nathan**, **Gift of Life Howie's House** (originally known as Gift of Life Family House) opens to support transplant patients and families traveling to Philadelphia with affordable lodging, meals and more. The House has gone on to provide more than \$14 million in subsidized care.



2013 National Transplant Pregnancy Registry, now known as **Transplant Pregnancy Registry International (TPRI)**, joins GLDP and goes on to become the longest running voluntary pregnancy registry of its type in the world, providing expert research on post-transplant parenthood with more than 5,000 pregnancies tracked.



2021 Rick Hasz becomes president and CEO of GLDP, **Gift of Life Howie's House** and **Gift of Life Transplant Foundation** after three decades of service, including 22 years as vice president of clinical services. Former President and CEO Howard M. Nathan retires after 43 years with GLDP.



2022 Gift of Life Donor Care Center opens at the **Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia** as the first intensive care unit in the Northeast U.S. exclusively for deceased organ donors — a state-of-the-art donor-focused surgical facility.



2023 GLDP partners with Penn Medicine on cutting-edge xenotransplantation clinical research to help provide a "bridge" to transplant or time for healing for critically ill patients suffering from liver failure.



2024 GLDP launches a **Community Advisory Board**, bringing regional leaders, donor families and transplant recipients together to decrease barriers to organ donation, especially in Philadelphia's Black community, which has a high number of patients on the transplant waitlist and historically low donation and donor designation rates.

THANKS to donor heroes and their families, *Gift of Life* has coordinated the donations for these historic transplants:

2011 First Bilateral Hand Transplant at Penn Medicine
Lindsay Ess



2015 World's First Bilateral Pediatric Hand Transplant
Zion Harvey, 8
Penn Medicine



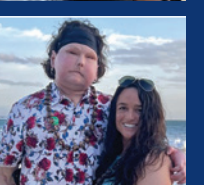
2019 World's First African-American Full Face Transplant
Robert Chelsea
Brigham & Women's Hospital



2020 Milestone Uterine Transplant Baby Benjamin, second baby in U.S. born following transplantation of a uterus from a deceased donor.
Penn Medicine



2021 World's First Successful Face & Bilateral Hand Transplant
Joe DiMeo
NYU Langone Health



Scan Now to Save Lives
To honor *Gift of Life's* 50 years of saving lives, help us register **50,000** more organ donors.



Scan the code or go to donors1.org/register to sign up on the national donor registry even if you are already registered on your license. It's easy, private and doesn't expire! Please share with family and friends. Together, we can provide hope to the thousands waiting for a transplant!



Join Us for **DONOR DASH**
Gift of Life's biggest celebration of organ and tissue donation and the **CULMINATION OF OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY** is coming up in **SPRING 2025** as part of National Donate Life Month.

Follow *Gift of Life* (@donors1) on social media and sign up for our lively monthly eNews at donors1.org/eNews so you'll get details as soon as they are announced.

THANK YOU, Hospital Partners

Sharing the power of organ and tissue donation and inspiring more people to register as donors helps save lives!



2024 DONATE LIFE PENNSYLVANIA Hospital Challenge

118 hospitals statewide/66 in Gift of Life's region:

- Hosted educational programs to improve the clinical process for donation.
- Held special events to register new donors.
- Earned recognition for their efforts.

Sponsored by:

- Hospital Association of PA (HAP)
- PA Department of Health
- Gift of Life Donor Program
- Center for Organ Recovery & Education

"The HAP Donate Life Hospital Challenge has been going strong for 12 years and, this year, had the largest number of participating hospital partners to date," said Rick Hasz, Gift of Life president and CEO. "Throughout our 50 years of service, Gift of Life has been proud to work side by side with hospital teams to provide compassionate care for donor heroes and families. We couldn't save lives without their support and commitment. Together, we will keep striving for the day when every person on the transplant waitlist receives a second chance at life."

TOP HEALTH SYSTEMS:

First Place Temple Health <i>(pictured)</i>	Second Place Penn Medicine	Third Place UPMC North Central PA
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TOP HOSPITALS:

First Place Temple University Hospital	Second Place Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania	Third Place Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
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2024 WINNERS IN GIFT OF LIFE'S REGION:

Titanium Level Bryn Mawr Hospital Geisinger Medical Center Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Lankenau Medical Center Paoli Hospital Penn Presbyterian Hospital Phoenixville Hospital St. Christopher's Hospital for Children	Gold Level 8 hospitals	Bronze Level 3 hospitals
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Life and Legacy CELEBRATIONS

"What a beautiful way to honor our loved ones!"
—Donor Family

- Held each fall to honor organ, tissue & cornea donors from Gift of Life's service area of eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey & Delaware
- In-person & virtual events
- Families receive Gift of Life Donor Medal, matching lapel pins, handmade wrap
- Feature inspiring speakers, photo tribute, special music
- Supported by Gift of Life staff & volunteers

These ceremonies share the life-saving impact of donor heroes and encourage increased advocacy for donation. Gift of Life's commitment to support donor families and honor the legacy of their loved ones has been a cornerstone of our work throughout our 50 years of service. We remember our donor heroes and their generous families with gratitude every day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHAMPIONS!



2024 TRANSPLANT GAMES OF AMERICA

Birmingham, Ala.
9,000+ in attendance
Showcasing the vitality and athleticism of transplant recipients made possible by donor heroes and their generous families!

Gift of Life's TEAM PHILADELPHIA

- 141 members, ages 8 to 77
- 46 athletes from 12 local transplant centers
- 36 organ recipients
- 10 living donors, corneal & tissue recipients
- 32 donor family members honoring 20 donor heroes
- Team Philly represented in all 20 competitions
- 125 medals including 70 gold medals
- Every team member medaled in at least one event

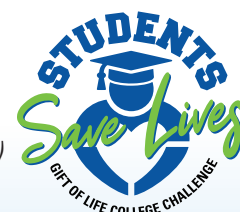
Youth Athlete of the Year
KACEY HEISLER, 11

Bilateral cornea transplant recipient
Gold Medals: Youth Olympiad, Cycling 1K & Bowling
Silver Medal: Darts



Gift of Life College Challenge

STUDENTS SAVE LIVES!



Fifteen Pennsylvania and New Jersey colleges participated in Gift of Life's 2024 College Challenge, registering 304 people as organ and tissue donors. Those individuals have the potential to save more than 2,000 lives (one organ donor can save eight lives)!

Each organization shared the importance of donation with students, faculty and staff through donor registration drives, special events, social media, and other activities. Thank you to all participants and congratulations to the winners:

FIRST PRIZE | Arcadia University *(pictured)*
1853 Communications (student-run PR firm)

SECOND PRIZE | Susquehanna University
Paul Dannelly Chapter of Public Relations Society of America (PRSSA)

THIRD PRIZE | University of Scranton
COMM 435: Social Media Campaigns Class

MOST DONORS REGISTERED
Last year's College Challenge champions, Temple University Student Nurses Association, registered 72 people to become organ donors, the most of any school in the 2024 Challenge.



2025 Gift of Life College Challenge

Registration opens in Fall 2025 for student organizations and clubs.

Visit donors1.org/collegechallenge or contact Dwendy Johnson at djohnson@donors1.org.
2025 College Challenge will run from February 14 (National Donor Day) through the end of April.