

# NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

shines a spotlight on the health struggle facing thousands of our family, friends and neighbors. **Sixty percent of people who need an organ transplant are from communities of color.**

**Philadelphia Freeway's Gift of Life:**  
**“An organ donor saved me. My son saved 4 others.”**  
**You can save lives, too!**



*Freeway holds a floral portrait of his son, Jihad, an organ donor hero*

For Hip-Hop icon Leslie Pridgen, aka Philadelphia Freeway, the gift of life is something precious to both give and receive. He endured dialysis three times a week after being diagnosed with kidney failure in 2015. **Thanks to an organ donor hero, Freeway received a transplant that transformed his life.**

The joy of receiving a healthy kidney was followed by a devastating loss when Freeway's beloved son, Jihad, died in 2020. **Knowing the power of organ donation, Freeway supported the opportunity for Jihad to become a donor hero and save four lives.**

Freeway's personal experience with organ donation fuels his passion as an advocate for *Gift of Life*. Close to 90 percent of people waiting for an organ transplant in our region need a kidney.

“(High blood pressure, diabetes, and kidney failure) are affecting our community at a rapid pace, but people are shying away from talking about it. So we're starting a conversation and, God willing, we'll be able to help each other,” he said.

**Use your power to save lives.** Sign up today,

spread the word and bring hope to the nearly 5,000 children and adults on the transplant waitlist in our region. It's easy, private and takes less than one minute to sign up today at [donors1.org/register](https://donors1.org/register).



**“I don't only talk the talk. I walk the walk. You can see on my license I'm registered as an organ donor myself.”**

*—Philadelphia Freeway*

***Gift of Life Donor Program is committed to helping every person on the transplant waitlist receive a second chance at life. For information about programs in your community, contact Multicultural Affairs Specialist Naja Killebrew at [nkillebrew@donors1.org](mailto:nkillebrew@donors1.org).***



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



A Donate Life Organization



# 5 Fast Facts

## About Organ Donation

- #1** Saving your life is the only priority for doctors if you are sick or in an accident. Donation is not an option for any family until all life-saving efforts have been completed.
- #2** A donor's family may have any type of funeral or burial arrangements for their loved one that they wish including an open casket viewing.
- #3** Everyone has the potential to save lives as an organ donor regardless of age, health or medical history. One organ donor can save as many as 8 lives and heal 100 others through tissue donation.
- #4** All major religions in the U.S. support organ donation as a generous act of kindness.
- #5** You can save lives as an organ donor without going to the DMV or having it on your license. It's easy and private to sign up online at [donors1.org/register](https://donors1.org/register).

## Take Care of Your Health

"We only have one body, our body is our temple, and we have to take care of it. **The best thing to do is get your blood work done at least once a year and keep up with your routine physicals.**"

—Philadelphia Freeway

## What is Gift of Life Donor Program?

Gift of Life's caring, professional team works around-the-clock to support families of donor heroes in the hospital and coordinate the recovery of precious organs and tissues from deceased donors for life-saving transplants. Our goal is to achieve a day when nobody dies waiting for a transplant.

"*Gift of Life is near and dear to my heart. I know the importance of organ donation and transplantation first hand.*"

—Philadelphia Freeway



Freeway performed at Gift of Life Donor Program's largest event of the year, the Donor Dash

## Giving Back, Lifting Up



Freeway's battle with kidney failure inspired him to launch Freedom Thinkers Academy, which provides low-cost workforce development programs in health and technology along with music workshops to promote achievement and help Philadelphia families rise out of poverty.

"I'm trying to give back as much as I can," Freeway said. "Having a new lease on life thanks to my kidney transplant makes me appreciate everything. I'm not taking anything for granted. I'm cherishing every moment."

Learn more online at [freedomthinkers.academy](https://freedomthinkers.academy)

Freeway with Gift of Life President & CEO Rick Hasz at a Freedom Thinkers graduation ceremony

