

NATIONAL MINORITY DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

shines a spotlight on the health struggles facing thousands of our family, friends and neighbors. In communities of color, the need for life-saving transplants is greatest.

2026

Building Trust, Saving Lives: Jimmy Jam's Legacy

When Madeline talks about her son, Jimmy Jam, she remembers his kind heart. He was always helping others. As a teenager, he organized a basketball event where people donated shoes for families in need. After learning he had a universal blood type, he became a regular blood donor.

In 2024, Madeline lost her only son when he was just 31. Jimmy Jam had signed up to be an organ donor because helping others mattered so much to him. But at first, Madeline says she was unsure about organ donation. Like many people, she worried it could affect the medical care a person receives.

Madeline says her experience with the health care and donation teams when she lost Jimmy Jam changed her mind. She saw how hard the medical team worked to save her son's life. She also saw the care and respect shown to her family as they honored his generous decision to be a donor.



Through organ donation, Jimmy Jam saved six lives. Knowing her son was able to help others brings Madeline comfort and makes her proud of his legacy.

Philadelphia Freeway's Gift of Life:

**"An organ donor
saved me.
My son saved
4 others."**

You can save lives, too!

**Use your power to
save lives.** Talk with your family,
register your decision to become a donor and bring
hope to more than 4,000 children and adults on
the transplant waitlist in our community. It's private
to sign up at **donors1.org/register**.



Hip-Hop Icon Freeway holds a floral portrait of his son, Jihad, an organ donor hero.

Gift of Life Donor Program partners with faith and community organizations through educational workshops, our faith-based and community grant program, staff education lunches and donor registration tabling. To start a conversation, contact Multicultural Affairs Specialist Naja Killebrew at nkillebrew@donors1.org.



GIFT of LIFE
DONOR PROGRAM
donors1.org



A Donate Life Organization



Honoring a Mother, Promoting Kidney Health

Lynette Luckers, Ed.D., knows how deeply kidney disease can affect a family.

After she lost her mother, Marion Luckers, to kidney failure, Dr. Luckers started the Marion Luckers Kidney Foundation (mlkidney.org) to help others avoid the same pain her family experienced. The foundation works to raise awareness about kidney disease in Black and Brown communities, share helpful health information, and correct myths about organ donation.

Kidney disease often develops slowly, and many people do not know they are at risk. High blood pressure and diabetes are two of the biggest causes of kidney failure. These conditions are more common in communities of color, which makes regular checkups very important. Kidneys are the most-needed organ with more than 90,000 people waiting for a kidney transplant in the U.S.



Keath's Story of Hope

When Keath Gerald was a college student, a viral infection caused sudden heart failure and changed the course of his life. Facing repeated hospital stays and an uncertain future, he never imagined he would live long enough to become a father.

Everything changed because of the generosity of a stranger.

Today, Keath is thriving with a healthy heart and liver from an organ donor hero. He is a proud father, a college counselor who helps students pursue their dreams, and a transplant athlete who competes in events such as the Donor Dash and the Transplant Games of America. His life is a powerful example of the hope and healing made possible through organ donation.

"My donor is a hero in my eyes — a hero to me, my family and my friends," Keath says.

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 private to sign up online at donors1.org/register.

Protect Your Health & Your Future

Small steps today can help prevent serious disease and the need for an organ transplant tomorrow.

- Know your numbers: blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and kidney function.
- Manage chronic conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure early and consistently.
- Stay connected to preventive care and don't delay routine checkups.