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GIFT OF LIFE News

GIFT of LIFE DONOR PROGRAM
donors1.org

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.



...is at the Heart

OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

Thanks to the generosity of donor families and the support of our community, we help save and transform lives every day.

WISHING YOU and YOUR LOVED ONES
a Season of Warmth
and
a New Year filled with Hope.

YOUR FRIENDS AT GIFT OF LIFE

Young athletes from *Gift of Life Donor Program's* Team Philadelphia celebrate success at the 2026 Transplant Games of America in Denver, Colo.. Learn more about them at donors1.org/holiday.

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TEAM PHILADELPHIA SHINES AT TRANSPLANT GAMES

Team Philadelphia proudly represented our region at the 2026 Transplant Games of America, showcasing the healthy, active lives made possible through organ, tissue and cornea donation. Every Team Philly athlete – ages 7 to 79 – showed that donation and transplantation work.

Team Philly included transplant recipients, living donors, donor family members and supporters who took to the national stage for the Games in Colorado. These champions of hope raised awareness of the more than 100,000 people nationwide waiting for a life-saving transplant.

Our team was also part of the Guinness World Record for most solid organ transplant recipients and living donors in one place with a total of 966!

Team Philly HIGHLIGHTS

- 200+ members strong
- Competed in 20+ sports
- Won 125 medals – 70 gold
- 27 donor heroes honored
- Part of the Transplant Games since its inception in 1982











Join Team Philly at the 2028 Transplant Games!

TRANSPLANT GAMES 20 28 Saint Paul

August 4–9, 2028 | Saint Paul, Minn.

Help us share the power of donation nationwide to save more lives.

Learn more: **teamphilly.org**

This Holiday Season, YOU CAN BE A CHAMPION OF HOPE

This season is a time to celebrate the people who inspire us and remind us of what's possible – like the champions of Team Philly. As you gather with family and friends, take a moment to talk about the gift that can make a lifetime of difference. Register as an organ and tissue donor — and tell your loved ones about your decision. You can help someone enjoy more time with the people they love during the holidays and all year long.

Give the greatest gift of all. Register today at donors1.org/register and start a conversation with your family and friends.

KIDNEY RECIPIENT & PROUD MOM

TARA'S STORY: "I Want to Inspire Others"

For many organ transplant recipients, their second chance at life includes the dream of starting a family. Tara McLeod wasn't sure that dream was realistic – but it was fulfilled thanks to help from the Transplant Pregnancy Registry International (TPRI), a division of Gift of Life Institute.

For 35 years, TPRI's team has studied the effects of immunosuppressive medications on fertility and pregnancy outcomes, providing expert guidance to recipients like Tara.

Tara was diagnosed with a chronic disease that causes a person's immune system to mistakenly attack healthy organs and tissues. She endured five years on dialysis before receiving a life-saving kidney from a donor hero.



Tara eventually talked about her longtime wish to become a mother with Temple University Hospital nephrologist, Serban Constantinescu, MD, PhD. Under the guidance of her healthcare team and with the help of research-based data from TPRI, Tara was able to switch her medications and plan a pregnancy.

Now a mother of two, Tara says the most rewarding part of her journey is "seeing two human beings that I've dreamed about for years." Tara's advice to other recipients: "be open and honest with your transplant team – and never give up."

Learn more: transplantpregnancyregistry.org

CLINICAL CORNER

Celebrating Our Hospital Partners

Thank you, hospital partners for sharing the power of organ and tissue donation and inspiring more people to sign up to become a donor!

2026 DONATE LIFE PENNSYLVANIA Hospital Challenge

113 hospitals statewide / 65 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 and Healthsystem Association of PA (HAP)
- PA Department of Health
- Gift of Life Donor Program
- Center for Organ Recovery & Education



LEFT: Staff at Temple University Health System joined *Gift of Life* mascot Heartman to celebrate Donate Life Month in April.

"The HAP Donate Life Pennsylvania Hospital Challenge celebrates hospitals that are leading the way by building a strong culture of donation. We applaud their commitment, which helps save more lives today while setting a higher standard for tomorrow. Together, we will continue to work toward a future where every patient in need of a transplant receives a second chance at life," said Richard D. Hasz, Jr., MFS, CPTC, President and CEO of *Gift of Life Donor Program.*

2026 WINNERS in *Gift of Life's* Region

TOP HEALTH SYSTEMS:

First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Temple Health	Penn Medicine	Tower Health

TOP HOSPITALS:

First Place	Second Place	Third Place
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania	Temple Hospital	Penn Presbyterian Medical Center

Titanium Level

Bryn Mawr Hospital
Geisinger Community Medical Center
Geisinger Medical Center
Geisinger St. Luke's Hospital
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center
Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest
Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg
Lehigh Valley Hospital – Pocono
Paoli Hospital
Phoenixville Hospital
Pottstown Hospital
Reading Hospital
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
St. Luke's University Hospital – Bethlehem Campus
St. Luke's Hospital – Monroe Campus
Temple University Hospital – Jeanes Campus
UPMC Williamsport

Platinum Level	Gold Level	Silver Level
39 hospitals	4 hospitals	2 hospitals

REMEMBERED WITH LOVE & GRATITUDE

This fall, *Gift of Life* again hosted special ceremonies to honor our donor heroes and their generous families.

Life and Legacy CELEBRATIONS

- Held annually to honor organ, tissue & cornea donors
- In-person & virtual events
- Feature inspiring speakers, photo tribute, special music
- Families receive Gift of Life donor medal, matching lapel pins & handmade wrap
- Supported by *Gift of Life* staff & volunteers

Thank you to every family who participated. Our *Gift of Life* community remembers our donor heroes and their families with gratitude every day.







29TH ANNUAL GIFT OF LIFE DONOR DASH:

15,000 UNITE TO SAVE LIVES

More than 15,000 supporters from across our region and beyond gathered in April for the 29th Annual Gift of Life Donor Dash — one of the nation's largest Donate Life Month events. Held annually at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, the Dash unites donor families, transplant recipients, patients waiting and supporters to spread the word that donors are heroes, reaching millions through community and media partnerships.

Funds raised through the Dash support programs for donor families and transplant recipients, along with critical public education efforts to inspire more people to register as organ donors.

DASH HIGHLIGHTS

- 15,000+ participants
- 350+ teams and 330+ volunteers
- More than $730,000 raised to support *Gift of Life's* mission
- Participants joined virtually from 22 states and Washington, D.C.

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COMING IN APRIL 2027

30TH ANNUAL DONOR DASH

Join *Gift of Life* for the biggest and most inspiring event of National Donate Life Month!

Want to be among the first to hear about registration, event details and other exciting ways to celebrate? Follow *Gift of Life* (@donors1) on social media and sign up for our colorful monthly eNews at donors1.org/eNews.