What is National Donor Sabbath?
National Donor Sabbath is observed annually, two weekends before Thanksgiving, from Friday through Sunday. This three-day observance seeks to include the days of worship for major religions practiced in the United States. During National Donor Sabbath, faith leaders from many religions, with donor families, transplant recipients, and donation and transplantation professionals, participate in services and programs to educate the public about the need for donation and the importance of registering one’s decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.

What are the benefits of being an organ, eye and tissue donor?
• Registering your decision to be a donor relieves your family from the burden of making this important decision on your behalf during a time of trauma and loss.
• Knowing that you can give someone else a chance to live a healthy productive life is the greatest gift of all.
• A single donor can save or heal the lives of more than 50 people.
• Donation is a consolation to the donor family in knowing that their loved one helped make life possible for others.

Is there a cost to the donor?
• There is no cost to the donor’s family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

Am I too old or sick to be a donor?
• People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.

Does my place of worship support organ, eye and tissue donation?
• All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.
Does donation affect funeral plans?
- An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process, the body is treated with care and respect. Funeral arrangements can continue as planned following donation.

How can I become an organ, eye and tissue donor?
- Register your decision to be a donor at RegisterMe.org, at your local DMV or in your state registry [state registry URL]
- Always remember: it is important to tell your family members that you have signed up as a donor so that they can support your decision.

What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in my community?
- Tell your family and friends about your decision to Donate Life. Ask them to get the facts, and consider registering their decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.
- Go to www.DonateLife.net for tips and tools for educating members of your community about the lifesaving gift of donation and transplantation.

Donation and Transplantation Statistics
- It is estimated that nearly 30,000 patients began new lives in 2015 thanks to organ transplants (from 8,500 deceased and 6,000 living donors).

- 120,000 men, women and children await lifesaving organ transplants. More than 1,000 of them are 10 years old or younger.
- About 58% of patients awaiting lifesaving transplants are minorities.
- Another person is added to the nation’s organ transplant waiting list every 10 minutes.
- Sadly, 8,000 people die each year - 22 people each day, almost 1 every hour - because the organs they need are not donated in time.

- The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is 3 to 5 years. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list*.

- 13% of patients waiting are in need of a liver. Living donation of part of the liver is an option for these patients; the remaining portion will regenerate and regain full function. Partial lung, intestine and pancreas living donation are possible as well.

- More than 33% of all deceased donors are age 50 or older. More than 5% are age 65 or older.
• Each year, there are approximately **30,000** tissue donors and more than **1 million** tissue transplants; the surgical need for donated tissue is steadily rising.

• A single tissue donor can help more than **50** people.

• **48,000** patients have their sight restored through corneal transplants each year.

• More than **130 million** people, approximately **54%** of the U.S. adult population, are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.

• To register your decision to save and heal lives, visit RegisterMe.org.

*Statistics from Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network and Donate Life America as of August 10, 2016.*