



## Talking Points, Frequently Asked Questions and Statistics July 9 – 22, 2017

### What is Donate Life ECHO?

ECHO stands for *Every Community Has Opportunity* – the opportunity to save and heal lives. Donate Life ECHO began in 2015 as a collaborative partnership between the Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT) and Donate Life America (DLA). It is a nationwide observance focused on the importance of donation and transplantation in multicultural communities. The ECHO concept is that one voice with a donation message or story can be carried, amplified and echoed throughout a community. There is power and strength in one voice sharing a story or message and their decision to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

### Why is it important?

Multicultural communities play a vital role in donation and transplantation. Multicultural communities save and heal lives as donors; need lifesaving kidney transplants in higher numbers; and educate and work with patients and families as healthcare professionals. According to clinical research shared by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), “successful transplantation often is enhanced by the matching of organs between members of the same ethnic and racial group.” For more information, please visit [AMAT1.org](http://AMAT1.org).

Multicultural Communities in Donation and Transplantation
<p><b>58%</b> of people currently on the <i>U.S. transplant waiting list</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 34,500 of those waiting are African American/Black</li> <li>• More than 22,500 of those waiting are Hispanic/Latino</li> <li>• More than 9,500 of those waiting are Asian/Pacific Islander</li> <li>• More than 1,100 of those waiting are American Indian/Alaska Native</li> </ul>
<p><b>44%</b> of people who received organ transplants in 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,056 African American/Black organ transplant recipients</li> <li>• 5,390 Hispanic/Latino organ transplant recipients</li> <li>• 1,863 Asian/Pacific Islander organ transplant recipients</li> <li>• 231 American Indian/Alaska Native organ transplant recipients</li> </ul>
<p><b>32%</b> of deceased and living organ donors in 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,569 deceased and 555 living African American/Black donors</li> <li>• 1,311 deceased and 894 living Hispanic/Latino donors</li> <li>• 294 deceased and 251 living Asian/Pacific Islander donors</li> <li>• 49 deceased and 16 living American Indian/Alaska Native donors</li> </ul>

*Data from Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) as of May 7, 2017.*

### What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in my community?

- Register your decision to be a donor in the National Donate Life Registry, [RegisterMe.org](http://RegisterMe.org). Tell your family and friends about your decision to Donate Life.
- Ask others to visit [DonateLife.net](http://DonateLife.net) to learn more and to register as a donor.
- Participate in Donate Life ECHO, July 9-22, 2017. Visit [DonateLife.net/ECHO](http://DonateLife.net/ECHO) for downloadable tools, resources and implementation ideas.

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **Is there a cost to the donor family?**

- There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for organ, eye and tissue donation.

### **Am I too old or sick to be a donor?**

- Anyone can be a potential donor, regardless of age or medical history. A medical evaluation is done by donation professionals at the time of death to determine eligibility.

### **Does registering as a donor change my patient care?**

- Doctors work hard to save the patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

### **Will I be able to have an open casket funeral if I donate?**

- An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors.

### **Does my place of worship support organ, eye and tissue donation?**

- All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.

### **Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ if I ever need one?**

- No. A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the list.
- Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

### **Why register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor?**

- You can save up to 8 lives and heal the lives of more than 75 people.
- Donation gives comfort to the donor family in knowing that their loved one helped to save the lives of others.
- Registering your decision and sharing it with your family lets them know your wishes.

### **How can I become an organ, eye and tissue donor?**

- Register your decision to be a donor in the National Donate Life Registry, [RegisterMe.org](http://RegisterMe.org).
- It is important to tell your family members that you have decided to register your decision to be a donor so that they will know your wishes.

## ***Donation and Transplantation Statistics***

- In 2016, more than **33,600** transplants brought new life to patients and their families (*from 9,970 deceased and 5,977 living donors*).
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- **118,000** men, women and children await lifesaving organ transplants. More than **1,100 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 **one person per hour**) because the organs they need are not donated in time.
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- **83%** of patients on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. 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 (the living donor's kidney will enlarge, doing the work of two healthy kidneys).\*
  - **12%** 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 of the donor liver will regenerate and regain full function).
  - More than **32%** of all deceased donors are age **50 or older**; more than **6%** are age **65 or older**.
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- Each year, there are approximately **30,000** tissue donors and more than **1.75 million** tissue transplants; the surgical need for donated tissue is steadily rising.
  - A single tissue donor can help more than **75** people.
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- **48,000** patients have their sight restored through corneal transplants each year.
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- More than **134 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](http://RegisterMe.org).
- To learn ore about organ, eye and tissue donation, visit [DonateLife.net](http://DonateLife.net).

\* *Living donation is not included in your donor registration.*

*Data from Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) as of May 7, 2017.*

