



the
Wish

A Story of Hope, Faith & Generosity



Get the Facts about Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation

There are many myths about donation and transplantation. But for something as important as saving lives, only the facts count.

- FACT:** Your commitment to donation will NOT interfere with your medical care. If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life.
 - FACT:** All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.
 - FACT:** In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs or tissue for transplantation.
 - FACT:** An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process, the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.
 - FACT:** Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race or medical history.
 - FACT:** When you are on the waiting list for an organ, all that counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information.
 - FACT:** 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.
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Please Protect Your Health

African Americans are at risk for many illnesses like high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease that can lead to the need for an organ transplant.

It is so important to protect your health and prevent the future need for a transplant.

- ✓ Have your blood pressure checked at least twice a year.
- ✓ Limit foods high in salt, cholesterol and saturated fats, such as fried foods, that can clog the arteries.
- ✓ Visit your doctor at least once a year.
- ✓ Be sure to be tested for diabetes and other illnesses that can lead to organ failure.

Consider Living Donation

Living donation provides the potential to save the life of someone in need.

It offers patients an alternative to waiting on the national transplant waiting list for an organ from a deceased donor.

Kidneys from a living donor have significantly better long-term survival than kidneys from a deceased donor.

Kidneys are the most common organs donated by living donors. Other organs that can be donated include a lobe of a lung, partial liver, pancreas or intestine.

The decision to become a living donor involves careful consideration. For more information, go to <http://DonateLife.net/living-donation/>.



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