National Pediatric Transplant Week – April 22-26, 2019

Donation and Transplantation Statistics

- Currently, nearly 2,000 children under the age of 18 are on the national transplant waiting list. More than 500 of the children waiting for transplant are between 1 and 5 years old.
- 1,900 children received transplants in 2018.

- There were 875 pediatric organ donors in 2018.
- The donors ranged in age from newborn to age 17, most were between 11 and 17 years old.
- In 2018, more than 100 pediatric organ donors were babies under the age of 12 months.

- The size of the recipient's body and the donor organ are taken into account when matching donors to recipients. Very small children most often receive donations from other young people – although older children and adults can also be a good match.

- Sometimes, children can receive deceased or living donations of partial organs, like a portion of a liver.

- Most children under the age of 1 year are waiting for a heart or a liver.
- Most children age 1 to 5 years are waiting for a kidney, liver or heart.
- Most children age 5 to 10 years are waiting for a kidney.
- Most children age 11 to 17 years are primarily waiting for a kidney, followed by liver and heart.

- More than 150 million people, approximately 58% of the U.S. adult population, are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.*

- Pediatric donation: A parent or legal guardian must authorize the donation for anyone under the age of 18 years. Fifteen- to seventeen-year-olds may register their intent to be a donor; however, until they are 18 years old, a parent or legal guardian makes the final donation decision.

- To register your decision to save and heal lives, visit RegisterMe.org. To learn more about organ, eye, tissue and living donation, visit DonateLife.net.

* Living donation is not included in a donor registration.

Data from the Donate Life America Quarterly Registry Overview Report and the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) as of March 4, 2019.