

## Why should I become an organ donor?

Organ donation is an amazing opportunity. The concept of giving a part of yourself to someone to make them whole and healthy is absolutely, awe-inspiring. Given that there are more than 100,000 people on the waiting list, the impact a single donor can make is immense. And the best thing a person can do is to spread awareness of the need for, and the ease of registering to be an organ and tissue donor.

- There are several types of organ donations, eye and tissue donation, and each one brings new hope for the thousands of people awaiting transplants.
- Organ Donation
- Tissue Donation
- Eye Donation
- Living Donation
- Donate for Research
- Bone Marrow and Blood Stem Cell Donation

Contact your local network for more information and to setup an educational seminar.



Find a network in your neighborhood.

[www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net)

Or contact me.



Cherie Lee Williams-DeWitt  
Nevada State President, 2022-2024

*"UnSung SHEROES"*

*Celebrating women who triumph by changing the community around them one day at a time.*

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## Organ Donation Education



Each day, 17 people die waiting for a life-saving organ transplant and a new name is added to the transplant waiting list every nine minutes. Currently, there are more than 100,000 people waiting for a second chance as of July 20, 2022.

## ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION EDUCATION

*Making hope, strength & life possible.*

*We strive to maximize the gift of life & health through organ, eye & tissue donation education.*

## Donate Organs While Alive

You can donate some organs and tissues while you're alive. Most living donations happen between family members or close friends. Other people choose to donate to someone they don't know.

How common are living donations? Nearly 6,000 living donations take place each year. That's about four out of every 10 donations.

### Organs that can be donated while alive include:

- **One of your kidneys**  
A kidney is the most common donation. Your remaining kidney removes waste from the body.
- **One liver lobe.**  
Cells in the remaining lobe grow or refresh until your liver is almost its original size. This happens in a short amount of time for both you and the receiving patient.
- **A lung or part of a lung, part of the pancreas, or part of the intestines.**  
These organs don't regrow. Both the portion you donate and the portion that remains function fully.

### Tissue that can be donated while alive include:

- Skin—after surgeries such as a tummy tuck.
- Bone—after knee and hip replacements.
- Healthy cells from bone marrow and umbilical cord blood.
- Amnion —donated after childbirth.
- Blood—white and red blood cells—and platelets.
- You can donate blood or bone marrow more than once. They regrow and the body replaces them after you donate.

### Ability to donate:

Doctors at a transplant center check you over. They need to be sure you're a good living donor. They don't want you to suffer any negative physical, or emotional outcome. Your body should be in good health. You also shouldn't have diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, kidney disease, or heart disease, now or in the past.

## My GFWC Nevada Federation Presidents Project



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*Together for more than 20 years, married in 2017, we will overcome this challenge together. With the help of family and friends.*

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*I chose organ donation education for my President's project, because my husband needs a liver. He is 73 years old, AB positive blood type, and on the transplant list. That means that he can get a Liver from anyone. There are many on the transplant list. A living donor would mean that they can help forward without waiting for a deceased donor.*

*I decided that education about organ donation was vital for us and many others waiting for organs. Please join me on my Journey to help give life!*

*Thank you for your support with this important project.*

## Deceased Donations

You decide you want to help save people with end-stage organ disease by donating your organs when you die. When your time comes, decades later, your organs may be used to save lives. The following describes the basic steps in donation from deceased donors.

**Transport:** A specialized team of EMTs and paramedics begin life-saving efforts at the scene. They also contact emergency room doctors during transport.

**Treatment:** When the team arrives, ER doctors and nurses evaluate injuries and continue life-saving measures, including a ventilator, IV fluids, blood replacement and medicine to help the heart keep beating.

**Intensive care:** After vital signs stabilize, the patient is transferred to the ICU, where a doctor performs special tests to see how much damage has been done to the brain and organs. The medical team continues advanced life saving measures during the tests.

**Brain death declared:** Brain death is diagnosed as an irreversible loss of blood flow to the whole brain, causing the brain to die. After brain death, the donor's body is supported by artificial means, such as a ventilator.

**Evaluation:** Specially trained medical practitioners from the organ procurement organization (OPO) go to the hospital to see if the patient is medically suitable for organ donation.

**Consent; Authorization:** The doctor talks to the family about the patient's death. Then, someone from the OPO, or specially trained hospital staff, talks to the family about donation. If the patient signed up to be a donor in his/her state or national registry, that information is shared with the family and the OPO family counselor talks to the family to explain the donation process and answer all the family's questions.