



Aftercare Program

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES



CENTER FOR DONATION & TRANSPLANT
NEW YORK – VERMONT

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

We understand that the families of donors have special needs and considerations following the loss of their loved one. Thus, we want to extend our profound gratitude to you for supporting such a special cause. This selfless act is inspiring and impacts the entire donation community. Thank you on behalf of all of those whose lives you have touched, including ours. It is an honor to work with families who display such compassion during a very trying time. It is our hope that we can help make your experience in our aftercare program as meaningful as possible. We thank you for welcoming us to walk alongside you on your journey.

Family Services

The Family Services Program at the Center for Donation & Transplant was created with donor families in mind. Our family services coordinators are specially trained in grief and loss to work with all families faced with the decision of donation and provide them with the right amount of support they need both during and after the donation process. The aftercare services that the family services coordinators provide include assistance with writing to recipients, help in finding appropriate grief support resources in one's community, advice regarding grief and bereavement literature, planning events and activities for donor families, answering questions regarding donation and recipient update requests, and providing assistance and information on how to become involved at CDT. We always welcome your feedback when it comes to how we can better serve you during your time of need.

Grief Support

Our family services team is always available to connect you and your family to grief support services in your community. If you or someone in your family is considering participating in a grief support service, a family services coordinator can work with you to help locate the most appropriate counseling center or support group that will meet both your emotional and financial needs. In addition to locating grief support services, our family services team can help identify and recommend helpful grief support websites and literature.

Correspondence

If your loved one's gift of life went to a recipient(s), you may wish to make contact with them at some point following the donation. This is a personal decision that is at the discretion of each individual and we welcome you to choose what is best for you. If you do choose to send correspondence, it is important to remember that your loved one's recipients may not feel ready to write back. To assist families in writing a letter, we have comprised a *Writing to Your Loved One's Recipients* booklet. You can also visit our website at www.donatelifecdt.org to learn more about donor family and recipient correspondence. Of course, our family services team is always available to assist you throughout this process as well.

GETTING INVOLVED WITH FAMILY SERVICES

We are pleased to be able to offer our donor families the following support services and events to attend as an opportunity to meet one another and to honor your loved ones.



Donor Remembrance Ceremonies

Every year, CDT invites all families who said yes to donation to the CDT Donor Remembrance Ceremony. This event offers donor families a time to remember loved ones and honor their decision to support donation. The ceremony has historically consisted of several speakers representing advocates for organ and tissue donation that speak on behalf of donor families and recipients, along with several other ceremonial activities that help families and CDT reflect on the incredible acts of generosity.

Volunteer Program

Many donor family members often become volunteers for CDT. Their assistance is invaluable at health fairs, schools, and community events across our donor service area. As a non-profit organization, CDT truly appreciates our volunteers' ability to educate our community about the importance of donation.

If interested in volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 518-262-5606.

Donor Family Quilt Program

CDT is pleased to offer donor families the ability to create a square for our Donor Family quilts. The quilts travel the country for display in schools, libraries, and community centers in an effort to promote the importance of organ and tissue donation. Instructions on how to create a quilt patch is included in the Donor Family Quilt Program brochure as well as on our website at www.donatelifecdt.org.

CDT Family Support Network Facebook Group

The CDT Family Support Network is a private Facebook group that has been created for the purpose of connecting donor families to one another and to provide all interested donor families with a community of grief support and a trusted avenue to share their thoughts, stories, and feelings. For more information about the group and to sign up, please visit our website at www.donatelifecd.org or contact our family services team at 518-262-5606 or by e-mail at familyservices@cdtny.org.

Gift of Life Stories

The Gift of Life Stories Program is a way to share your loved one's legacy with others. Gift of Life Stories are a collection of personal stories publically shared by donor families and recipients. These stories may be used in publications, at health fairs and community events, on the CDT website and social media outlets, and for hospital staff education. They offer hope and a connection to other donor families, recipients, and those waiting for a life-saving transplant, and are a wonderful way to impact the community and help others learn about the life-saving gifts of organ and tissue donation. We hope you will consider sharing your story with us.



For more information about the events and services listed here and for other resources available in your community, please visit our website at www.donatelifecd.org. To directly speak with a family services coordinator, please call 518-262-5606 or e-mail familyservices@cdtny.org.



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CDT loves connecting through social media. If you do too, you can find us here:



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