

THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER

Resources for Hospital Partners

The Legacy newsletter is a monthly communication for CDT's partner hospitals across New York, Vermont and Massachusetts, containing updates, education and inspirational stories about the impactful work we can achieve through collaboration. Every issue of The Legacy is available online at www.cdtnyvt.org/LegacyNews. Scan the QR code with your smart phone camera to visit the page and access other helpful resources related to the donation process.



2023 Summary- A Sincere Thank You To Our Hospital Partners

As we close the chapter on 2023, we at CDT want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped facilitate donation and transplantation during the year.

Your efforts meant that families and donors were able to realize a legacy of helping others. That led to lifesaving transplant for those in most desperate need.

Here's to a year filled with hope, health, and more lives transformed!

THANK YOU
for your
care
YOU ROCK!



137 Organ Donor Heroes

137 patients were able to donate an organ towards lifesaving transplant or research during 2023. The number of donor heroes has nearly doubled since 2020, when CDT facilitated 76 donors.

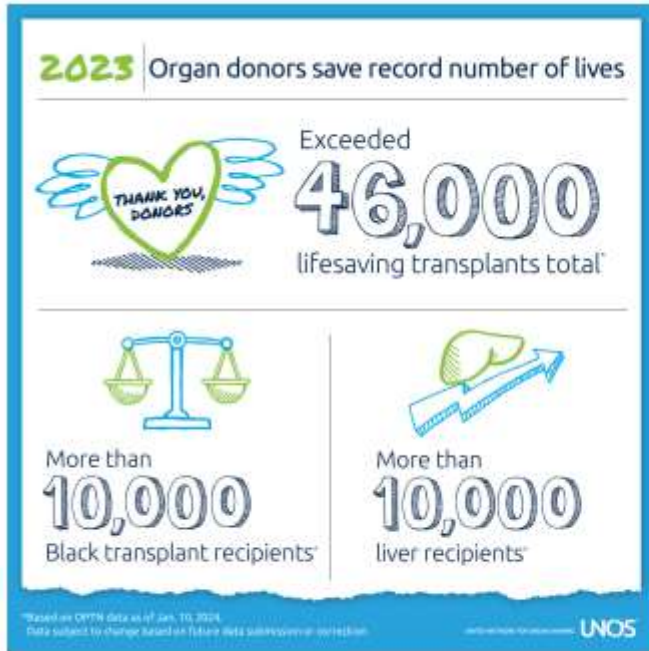
Pictured is one of our donor heroes from 2023, Jaimison Hall. "Jaimo" tragically passed in May 2023 and saved 6 lives through his gift of life. His recipients include a 1 year-old (heart) and 1 month-old (liver). Scan the QR code below to read his story.



361 Transplant Recipients

Our donor heroes provided **361 organs for lifesaving transplant**. This included 187 kidneys, 83 livers, 46 lungs, 31 hearts, 13 pancreas, and 1 intestine.

Pictured above is one of our transplant survivors, Tyler Meorado. He was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis at only 6 years old. He became so ill he needed to go on life support. Tyler ultimately received a transplant and is now in his 20's, attending Fordham University with a dream of going to law school! Scan the QR code above to read his full story.



The U.S. Transplant System

46,632 transplants were performed in the United States in 2023 thanks to the selfless and generous gifts from more than 16,000 organ donors. 2023 marked the 13th consecutive year of record donation increases. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) oversees the national organ donation & transplant system, managing the national transplant waiting list. Visit www.unos.org to learn more

2024 Quality Improvement Initiative Eliminating Missed Organ Donation Referrals

Over 300 Missed Organ Referrals Identified Across NY & VT

CDT's quality improvement team conducts death record reviews on all referrals to determine compliance with medicare's required referral rule. In 2023, CDT found **over 300 cases where organ donation referral was not made when previously indicated**. In these cases, patients were terminally extubated without any prior notification to CDT. Because referral was not made, no organ donation opportunity was available for respective patients and their families.

In reviewing missed referrals with leaders from over 20 hospitals, the **most common reason for missed referral** was the RN/hospital staff did not have **awareness about organ referral criteria**. **Please help us spread awareness so we can identify all referrals and preserve the donation opportunity for all patients and families.**



Contact us with questions, request for education/materials, or other inquiries at 518-262-5606 or at info@cdtny.org. Thank you!

Referral = Preserving the Donation Opportunity for All Patients and Families



Referral Triggers

Medicare law is what mandates referral to Center for Donation & Transplant when death has **occurred** and previously, when death is **imminent**.

The two keywords relate to potential for donation:



Occurred- Once death has been declared, call CDT within 60 minutes. Since perfusion is no longer maintained, only tissue and eye donation can be evaluated for. If a patient qualifies to donate, ConnectLife and Lions Eye Bank will offer tissue donation to the patient's family, with up to 24 hours of time that can pass from the time of death to the time of procurement. **See below for a tissue referral badge card.**







Imminent- If a patient is on a ventilator with an end-of-life injury, $GCS \leq 5$ or anticipated withdrawal of care, referral must be made to CDT as soon as possible, prior to any termination of ventilatory or medical support. Since the **ventilator continues to supply oxygen and perfusion** is maintained, an evaluation for organ donation takes place after an "Organ Donation Referral" has been made. If a patient qualifies, a CDT staff member will offer donation to the patient's family. **See below for a organ referral badge card.**

ORGAN REFERRAL CRITERIA



IMMEDIATELY REPORT ANY VENTILATED PATIENT MEETING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CLINICAL TRIGGERS:

-  GCS < 5 , regardless of sedation
-  Brain death testing discussed, planned or initiated
-  Any consideration of de-escalation of care, DNR or withdrawal of any life sustaining therapies
-  Family initiates conversation about donation

The Gift of Life starts with 1 call to CDT

1 organ donor can save 8 lives

1 tissue donor can enhance 75 lives



1-800-803-6667 or 716-529-4281

CDT DONOR REFERRAL CALL CENTER

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