



Megan, softball player and tissue recipient



Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation Facts

- One donor can save up to nine people through organ donation, provide sight for two people through cornea donation, restore health for more than 150 through tissue donation, and help countless others through medical breakthroughs related to research donation.
- More than 100,000 men, women, and children are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants, according to the Organ Procurement Transplantation Network.
- An estimated 90% of Americans support organ donation, but only about half are registered to donate, according to the National Survey of Organ Donation Attitudes and Practices, a nationally funded representative survey.
- Another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list every 9 minutes, according to Donate Life America.
- In the United States, we saved more lives than ever in 2022 with 42,887 organ transplants – a first in our nation's history, according to the Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network. In all, 36,421 of those transplants were a result of deceased donation from 14,903 donors. The remaining 6,467 transplants were the result of living donation. More than 25,000 lives were saved through kidney transplants, another record. The U.S. also set all-time records for liver, heart, and lung transplants.
- There is a need to improve health equity by increasing access to donation and transplantation for Black patients. While shared ethnicity is not a requirement for matching an organ, more diversity on the donor side helps. People with rare immune system markers are more likely to match someone from a similar ethnic background.
- HIV-positive men and women can donate organs to recipients with HIV, thanks to the 2012 HOPE Act.
- A national system matches organs with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, geographic distance, tissue type, and time on the list. Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, race, income, celebrity, and social status are never considered.
- An estimated one in 20 Americans will need a tissue transplant during his or her lifetime.
- There is no age restriction on donation.
- All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.
- End-of-life donation to support scientific research is an option for many people, especially when clinical transplantation is not possible due to trauma, advanced age, or serious illness. By saying yes to research, donors can support medical breakthroughs that can help thousands of others.