

National Donor Sabbath Newsletter Article

Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation Why should you consider this life-saving decision?

Regardless of religious affiliation, congregations and houses of worship across the nation will recognize the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation two weeks before Thanksgiving – November 9 – 11, 2018. This is in honor of National Donor Sabbath, an ecumenical celebration of life that reminds congregations of their faiths' support of organ, eye and tissue donation.

Many individuals have not thought about making a decision about organ, eye and tissue donation. Some people feel they are too old, or their medical history would rule them out as a candidate for donation. Others believe their medical care may be compromised if a doctor knows they are interested in donation.

These are common misconceptions about organ and tissue donation, and are usually the reasons behind why many people do not make a decision or document their wish to be an organ and tissue donor.

Observation of National Donor Sabbath is an opportunity for religious communities to touch the lives of millions of people. Right now, almost 115,000 people are on the national transplant waiting list; nearly 10,000 of these individuals are in New York State. Every year, 46,000 people need a cornea transplant to restore their site. Without this transplant they would not know the beauty of a sunset or the joy of looking into their child's eyes. Hundreds of thousands of people rely on tissue transplants such as bone, skin, and heart valves to save or enhance their lives.

The number of individuals in need of an organ, eye or tissue transplant continues to outpace the number of people who register to pass life on through donation. Sadly, an average of 20 people die every day waiting for an organ transplant, and another person is added to a waiting list every 10 minutes.

By registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor, you could bring hope and renewed life to others in need. Make your decision today to pass life on through the gift of organ donation.

**For more information, and to join the New York State Donate Life Registry, visit
Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network at www.DonorRecovery.org.**



Give thanks. Give life.