



Information for Faith Leaders

As a respected faith leader, we ask your assistance in educating your congregation and community about donation and the critical need for more registered donors. **Just over 109,000 men, women and children are in desperate need of lifesaving transplants, and thousands more can be helped through tissue and corneal transplants.**

National Donor Sabbath is observed annually, two weekends before Thanksgiving, with this year's taking place Friday, November 13th through Sunday, November 15th. During National Donor Sabbath, faith leaders from many religions, along with donor families, transplant recipients, and donation and transplantation professionals, participate in services and programs to **educate the public about the need** for donation and the **importance of registering one's decision** to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.

We invite you to celebrate National Donor Sabbath, or chose any time of the year to share the message of donation with your congregation and encouraging them to register. **Research has shown that one of the main reasons people hesitate to register is the belief that it is against their religion.** All of the major religions in the U.S. consider organ donation to be a final act of love and generosity. With your help, we can eliminate this all too common misconception and offer this lifesaving and healing opportunity as a true act of compassion.

We invite area faith leaders to contact Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network (FLDRN), the region's organ procurement organization, to assist in coordinating events, group discussions or guest speakers in observance of Donor Sabbath or to plan for these activities anytime throughout the year. Please email FLDRN's Community Development Manager, Mary Jane Milano at Maryjane_milano@urmc.rochester.edu or call her at (585) 272-4930. In addition, resources and information is available at FLDRN's website <http://www.donorrecovery.org/awareness/donor-sabbath/> and at Donate Life America's website at DonateLife.net/nds.

Thank you for your consideration.