



National Donor Sabbath ***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. **Almost 107,000 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 12th through Sunday, November 14th. 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 you to use the downloadable resources at DonateLife.net/nds within your local community and house of worship. Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network (the region's organ procurement organization) also provides information for faith leaders on its website at <http://www.donorrecovery.org/awareness/donor-sabbath/>. You can also reach out to Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network if you are interested in hosting an event in your local community, want to find out how to get involved in an existing event and/or want to have a family member of an organ donor, an organ recipient, or someone from Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network speak at your place of worship. Contact Mary Jane Milano at Maryjane_milano@urmc.rochester.edu or call her at (585) 330-4559.

Thank you for your consideration.