

Center for Donation & Transplant Fact Sheet Information for the Media

Media Contact

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Story Tips

Story tips to help you publicize organ and tissue donation:

- The Center for Donation & Transplant has created a donor family quilt composed of patches created by families who's loved one donated organs or tissue.
- Interview a recipient, donor family, or someone currently waiting for a transplant.
- Interview a transplantation or organ procurement professional about the importance of organ and tissue donation and how the process works.
- Tie local donation/transplantation stories into national events such as:
 - Donate Life Rose Bowl Float (January)
 - Donate Life Month (April)
 - National Minority Awareness Day (August 1st)
 - National Donor Sabbath (November, 2 weeks before Thanksgiving)
- Feature CDT's annual events such as the "Nurse of the Year" Education Day & Awards Dinner, the Celebration of Life Donor Family & Recipient Picnic and the Donor Memorial.

Facts on Organ Donation

The Center for Donation & Transplant (CDT) is an organ procurement organization serving 43 hospitals in 30 counties of northern and eastern New York and western Vermont. The center coordinates the procurement and equitable distribution of organs and tissues in accordance with United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) standards.

CDT is the primary source of information about donation in the areas it serves and is dedicated to increasing awareness of organ and tissue donation through public education and community outreach activities. The center also ensures the option of donation is provided to families in a compassionate and informative manner, provides long-term support for families and health care professionals involved in the donation process, and educates the medical community on organ and tissue donation.

- Currently, there are over 100,000 people on the UNOS wait list for an organ transplant. Over 9,500 New Yorkers are included on that list.
- Every 14 minutes, a new name is added to the UNOS waiting list.
- An average of 18 Americans dies every day due to a lack of transplantable organs.
- One donor can help save or enhance the lives of up to 50 people.
- Donated organs can include heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and intestine. Donated tissues can include skin, eyes, bone, veins, cartilage, heart valves and tendons.
- Donors can range in age from newborns to over 90 years old.

The two most important steps in deciding to be a donor are to enroll in your state registry and to discuss your decision with your family.