

Our media kit provides basic and updated information for media interested in donation and transplantation and learning more about the Center for Donation and Transplant.

For questions or to request additional information, please contact the Center for Donation and Transplant at 518-262-5606.

## **ABOUT the Center for Donation and Transplant:**

Donate Life Vermont is a combined social initiative devised of passionate volunteers, advocates and the two federally designated organ procurement organizations – the Center for Donation and Transplant and the New England Organ Bank – that cover the state of Vermont. The mission of Donate Life Vermont is to raise awareness of organ, eye and tissue donation and increase the number of people registered to be an organ donor in the state of Vermont.

## **ABOUT DONATION:**

Organ and tissue transplants offer those in need a second chance at a healthy life and returns loved ones to their family, friends, and communities. State organ and tissue donor registries allow people to document their decision to donate organs and tissues at the time of their passing.

More than 120,000 people in the United States are on the waiting list for a life-saving organ transplant. Every ten minutes, someone new is added to the list.

In New York State alone, 10,000 community members are waiting for their call – the call stating that a matching, transplantable organ has become available and it is their turn on the list. New Yorkers on the transplant waiting list represent the third highest need in the country, lower only than Texas and California in terms of the number of people waiting. Unfortunately, New York State also ranks 51 out of 52 states and territories in terms of the number of eligible people who are registered on the state's organ and tissue registry. At 25% of eligible residents registered, the state is far below the national average of 48%.

In Vermont, hundreds of community members are waiting on the national transplant waiting list as part of the more than 5,000 New Englanders who currently await a lifesaving organ transplant. Out of all eligible residents, 48% percent of Vermonters have registered on the state's organ and tissue registry.

When just one person signs up to be an organ and tissue donor, he or she can save up to 8 lives through organ donation and enhance the lives of 50 others through tissue donation. While the number of registrants on the organ and tissue registry in New York State and Western Vermont has grown over the last few years, the need for donated organs still far outweighs the number of organs available for transplant. Sadly, an average of 22 people dies each day because the healthy organ they need is not made available (through donation) in time.

A growing gap between those who need transplants and those who actually receive them persists, making it more important than ever that community members are aware that they can save lives and offer hope to families by registering to be an organ, eye and tissue donor in their state. When a person signs up on his or her state's registry, the person is giving legal, first-person consent to give the gift of life if donation is a medically viable option at the time of his or her passing.

*There is more than one way to leave a legacy through donation:*

## **Deceased Donation**

After all efforts to save the patient's life have been exhausted, tests may be performed to confirm the absence of brain or brain stem activity, and the progression or potential progression to brain death. A person who has progressed to brain death or has the potential to do so may be a candidate for organ donation. With compassion, care and support for the donor's family, each candidate is clinically evaluated for donor suitability. Deceased donors can give kidneys, pancreas, liver, lungs, heart, and intestinal organs. Deceased donors also can provide tissues (such as bones, skin, heart valves and veins) and corneas.

## **Living Donation**

While the majority of solid organ and tissue donations occur after the donor has died, some organs and tissues can be donated while the donor is alive. Depending on the organ in need, living donation has become an option for discussion amongst transplant candidates. Most living donations happen among family members or between close friends. Some living donations take place altruistically between two strangers. A living donor can donate a kidney, potentially a lobe of their liver, and in rare cases, a portion of the lung, pancreas, or intestines.

## **Statistics (as of April 2016):**

1. More than 122,000 Americans are currently waiting for an organ transplant
2. Of the 122,000+ people waiting for a life-saving transplant, 80 percent are waiting for a kidney transplant
3. Every 10 minutes, another name is added to the national transplant waiting list.
4. An average of 22 people die each day due to the shortage of viable, transplantable organs
5. 50 percent of Americans have now registered as organ donors on their state's respective donor registries
6. 25 percent of New Yorkers have registered to be donors on the New York State Donate Life Organ and Tissue Registry
7. 48 percent of Vermonters have registered to be donors.
8. More than 29,000 transplants were performed in America in 2014
9. More than 14,000 organ donors gave the gift of life in 2014

10. In 2014, more than 1800 New Yorkers received the lifesaving gift of an organ transplant.
11. The average wait for an organ transplant in New York is 3-5 years.
12. More than 1 million tissue transplants are done each year and the surgical need for tissue has been steadily rising.
13. There are approximately 2,100 pediatric patients on the donor waiting list
14. Organs that may be donated (in order of frequency transplanted) include: the kidneys, liver, heart, lungs, pancreas and small intestine.
15. Tissues that may be donated include corneas/eyes, heart valves, skin, bone, tendons, cartilage and veins

## **LANGUAGE**

To show respect for donors, their families and the life-saving and life-healing gifts they have shared with others, Donate Life Vermont recommends the use of specific language when discussing organ, eye and tissue donation.

Below is a list of the sensitive language that Donate Life Vermont encourages media to use when sharing stories about donation:

### **Yes**

Donor  
Deceased donation  
Recover  
Restoration  
Ventilator  
Donation/gifts

### **No**

Cadaver  
Cadaveric donation  
Harvest  
Reconstruction  
Life support  
Parts