



## HOW TO RESPOND TO COMMON QUESTIONS

The following are some of the questions and comments we hear frequently from the public at displays and events. We have provided some sample responses for each to help you when you do an event.

**“You do not want anything of mine. I am too old!”**

ANYONE who would like to be a donor should register. Physicians will determine at that time what can be donated.

Do not worry about your age! You can register, and physicians will determine what can be donated.

One out of three donors are over the age of 50.

**"I have <insert any medical condition/disease here>, so I cannot be a donor."**

Do not rule yourself out! Doctors will determine what can be donated. Most people can donate something to help others.

If you want to help others through donation, go ahead and register. Doctors will determine what can be donated.

**“If I am in an accident and they know I am a donor, they will not try to save me.”**

The medical team treating you is separate from the transplant team. Every paramedic, doctor and nurse I know wants to save the life of everyone they treat!

The truth is that hospitals are there to save lives. Donation is not considered until all lifesaving efforts have failed.

**"If I am a donor, it will change my appearance and interfere with funeral plans."**

Donors are treated with great care, respect and dignity throughout the donation process. After donation, the family can go ahead with funeral plans, including an open casket if desired.

**"My religion does not support donation."**

All major religious denominations support organ, tissue and eye donation as an act of charity and kindness.

All major religions support an individual's choice to help others through organ, tissue and eye donation.

**“My family will be charged for the expenses if I am a donor.”**

All expenses related to organ, tissue and eye donation are paid by the recovering agencies. There is no cost to the family for donation-related expenses.

**“Rich and famous people get moved to the top of the waiting list.”**

The organ allocation and distribution system is blind to wealth and social status. The transplant waiting list is maintained in a database by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). A computer system identifies the recipients in each donor case, not Indiana Donor Network or the transplant team.

