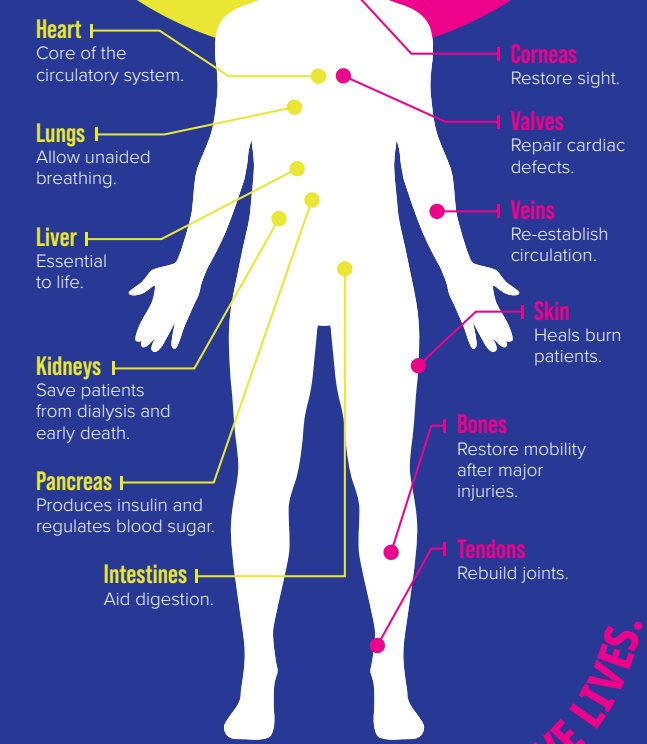


WHAT CAN BE DONATED?



ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION SAVE LIVES.



WES
Heart Recipient



LEARN MORE:



To learn more about organ and tissue donation, scan the QR code or visit DonateLifeIndiana.org.

ABOUT DONATE LIFE INDIANA AND INDIANA DONOR NETWORK

Donate Life Indiana manages the state donor registry. Indiana Donor Network is Indiana's federally designated organ and tissue recovery agency, connecting donors' lifesaving gifts with patients and supporting donor families. Together, they raise awareness about donation and encourage Hoosiers to sign up as organ, tissue and eye donors.

WHERE TO SIGN UP AS AN ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR

- [Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles](#)
- DonateLifeIndiana.org
- [Indiana Professional Licensing Agency](#)
- [Indiana Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [iPhone Health App](#)

YOUR
"YES"
MATTERS !!!

YOU HAVE THE POWER
TO **SAVE LIVES.**

DONOR ♡

JOY
Kidney Recipient



THE NEED:

Over **1,200 people in Indiana**, and more than **100,000 people in the U.S.**, are in need of an organ transplant to live, with more people added to the waitlist every day.

Unfortunately, many people die waiting for a transplant.

Organ donation is rare — only **three of every 1,000 deaths** occur in such a way where organ donation is possible.

THE SOLUTION:

If more people say **"yes"** to being an organ and tissue donor, more lives can be saved and healed.

Anyone can say **"yes,"** regardless of age or medical history.

When someone signs up, organ and/or tissue donation only takes place after that person has been declared legally deceased.

JUST ONE ORGAN
DONOR CAN SAVE
EIGHT LIVES !!!

THE NUMBERS:

One organ donor can **save eight lives** and **heal more than 75 others** through tissue donation.

Over **1,200 lives are saved** each year thanks to organ donors from Indiana who said **"yes."**

Organ and/or tissue donation occurs at no cost to the donor's family.

UNDERSTANDING THE *DONATION PROCESS*



- Someone Says “Yes”**
An individual signs up to be an organ and tissue donor.
- The Unthinkable Happens**
A person arrives at a hospital with a life-threatening injury or condition, such as trauma from an accident.
- All Lifesaving Efforts Exhausted**
Medical teams do everything possible to save a patient’s life before donation is even considered. If those efforts fail, death is declared by a physician independent of the donation team.
- Recovery Begins**
Highly skilled surgeons recover organs and prepare them for their lifesaving journey. Skilled tissue recovery coordinators recover eligible tissues.
- Transplantation**
After recovery, organs are transported by ground or air to their designated transplant center, where someone is waiting for the lifesaving gift.

TWO TYPES OF DECEASED ORGAN DONATION

- Donation after Brain Death**
Organs and tissues may be recovered from a person who has been legally declared brain dead after extensive testing by a physician independent of the transplant team. Brain death is the irreversible loss of all brain function, including the brainstem, and is legally recognized as death. Unlike a coma or vegetative state, brain death is never reversible. If the person remains on a ventilator, oxygen and blood flow maintain the health of organs for donation.
- Donation after Circulatory Death**
Circulatory death occurs when the heart stops beating and blood circulation ends, typically after a severe injury or illness. The decision to withdraw life support is made by the patient’s family, alongside a medical team that is unaffiliated with donation. After the ventilator is removed and the heart stops, an independent physician declares death. Organ and/or tissue donation may then occur.

UNDERSTANDING TISSUE DONATION

One tissue donor can save and heal more than 75 others by donating bone, skin, tendons, veins, heart valves, and/or corneas

After someone has died, a referral is made to Indiana Donor Network to work with the potential donor’s next of kin to approve tissue donation and determine medical eligibility. Tissue donation takes place within 24 hours after a person has died and may be possible whether or not the tissue donor was also an organ donor. Tissue donors are transported to Indiana Donor Network for tissue recovery, in cooperation with hospital, coroner and funeral director partners. Recovered tissues are delivered to partners who process and store them for future medical use to heal burns, restore sight, repair ligaments and bones, restore mobility, and more. Tissue donors are then transported to a funeral home of choice and can have open-casket funerals if desired.

MYTHS VS. FACTS

- MYTH:** Doctors won’t try to save my life if I’m a donor.
FACT: Doctors always prioritize saving your life. Donor status is only considered after all lifesaving efforts have failed.
- MYTH:** I am too old or sick to donate anything.
FACT: Anyone can sign up as an organ and tissue donor, regardless of age or medical history. Doctors determine viability at time of death.
- MYTH:** My family can override my decision.
FACT: In the U.S., a registered donor’s decision must legally be honored if organ donation is possible upon death. Families may only decide if no donor designation already exists. Families can always choose whether to move forward with tissue donation, regardless of donor designation.
- MYTH:** I should just let my family decide for me.
FACT: Donation often follows a sudden or unexpected death. Knowing your wishes ahead of time helps your family during a difficult moment — be sure to share your decision with them.



HONORING THE GIFT

Organ and tissue donors leave lasting legacies, saving and healing lives as their final act. For this reason, they are forever remembered as **DONOR HEROES**, a fitting term for someone who saves and heals lives.

Donor heroes are forever celebrated and recognized in the Indiana Donor Network Donor Memorial in Indianapolis, an interactive experience that honors Indiana organ and tissue donors with a peaceful, immersive area for family remembrance and reflection.

“IF IT **WERE NOT** FOR MY DONOR HERO’S GIFT, I WOULD NOT BE HERE TODAY.”

-TAYTUM
Liver Recipient



SUPPORTING FAMILIES OF DONORS

- Grief Support**
Indiana Donor Network continues to engage with families of donor heroes long after organ or tissue donation occurs. Family members are offered one-on-one grief support, support groups, remembrance opportunities, keepsakes, various resources and more.
- Events**
Remembrance and community are important to promote healing after the death of a loved one. Indiana Donor Network offers multiple events each year, including Donor Family Picnic, Donor Memorial Weekend, the Walk to Save Lives and other more intimate events for the families of donor heroes.