



Register as an organ, tissue and cornea donor at core.org/register

DONATION PROCESS

A person is evaluated for organ donation only after all life-saving measures have been attempted. The sole purpose of first responders, hospital staff and doctors is to save a patient's life.

The hospital staff working to save a patient's life is completely separate from the transplant team. A patient is not evaluated for donation until after imminent or actual death has been established.

The opportunity for organ, tissue and cornea donation most often results from an individual sustaining an injury that causes brain death, which means the brain has stopped working and will not work again. Common causes of brain death are motor vehicle crashes, head injuries or strokes. Organ donation requires a patient to be in a hospital and on a ventilator when the individual is pronounced brain dead.

If a patient experiences cardiac death, which means the heart has stopped and will not work again, the individual will be evaluated for tissue and cornea donation.

THE RECOVERY PROCESS



Hospital personnel notify the OPO of each death within their hospital.



An initial screening, done by the OPO, determines the donor's suitability for organ, tissue and cornea donation.



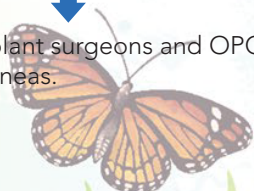
If found to be a suitable candidate, and after authorization has been given (by the individual or his/her family), the OPO works with the donor's family and obtains a medical and social history before proceeding.



The donor's information is entered into a national database, and the computer matches the organs with transplant candidates in most critical need. Following recovery, the donor's family can proceed with funeral arrangements.



A team of organ transplant surgeons and OPO staff recovers the organs, tissues and corneas.



Living Donors

Many individuals with kidney failure know someone who would like to give them a kidney but is not a match. This most commonly occurs because the donor's and the recipient's blood types are not compatible.



CORE's Paired Kidney Donation Program uses a computer database to match donor/recipient pairs with others who are compatible.

Also, CORE operates an Altruistic Kidney Donation Program so that an anonymous kidney donor can have the opportunity to save the life of someone on the national transplant waiting list.



April Is NATIONAL MONTH

ACCEPTABLE DONATION TERMS

To show respect and sensitivity to those who give the gift of life and their loved ones, we request that only appropriate terms be used when referring to organ, tissue and cornea donation.

Appropriate Terms Inappropriate Terms

"Recover" organs "Harvest" organs

"Recovery" of organs "Harvesting" of organs

"Donation" of organs "To harvest" organs

"Deceased" donation "Cadaver" donation

"Deceased" donor "Cadaveric" donor

"Mechanical" support or "Ventilated" support "Life" support

Organs, tissue and corneas "Body parts"

"Brain Death" "Coma"

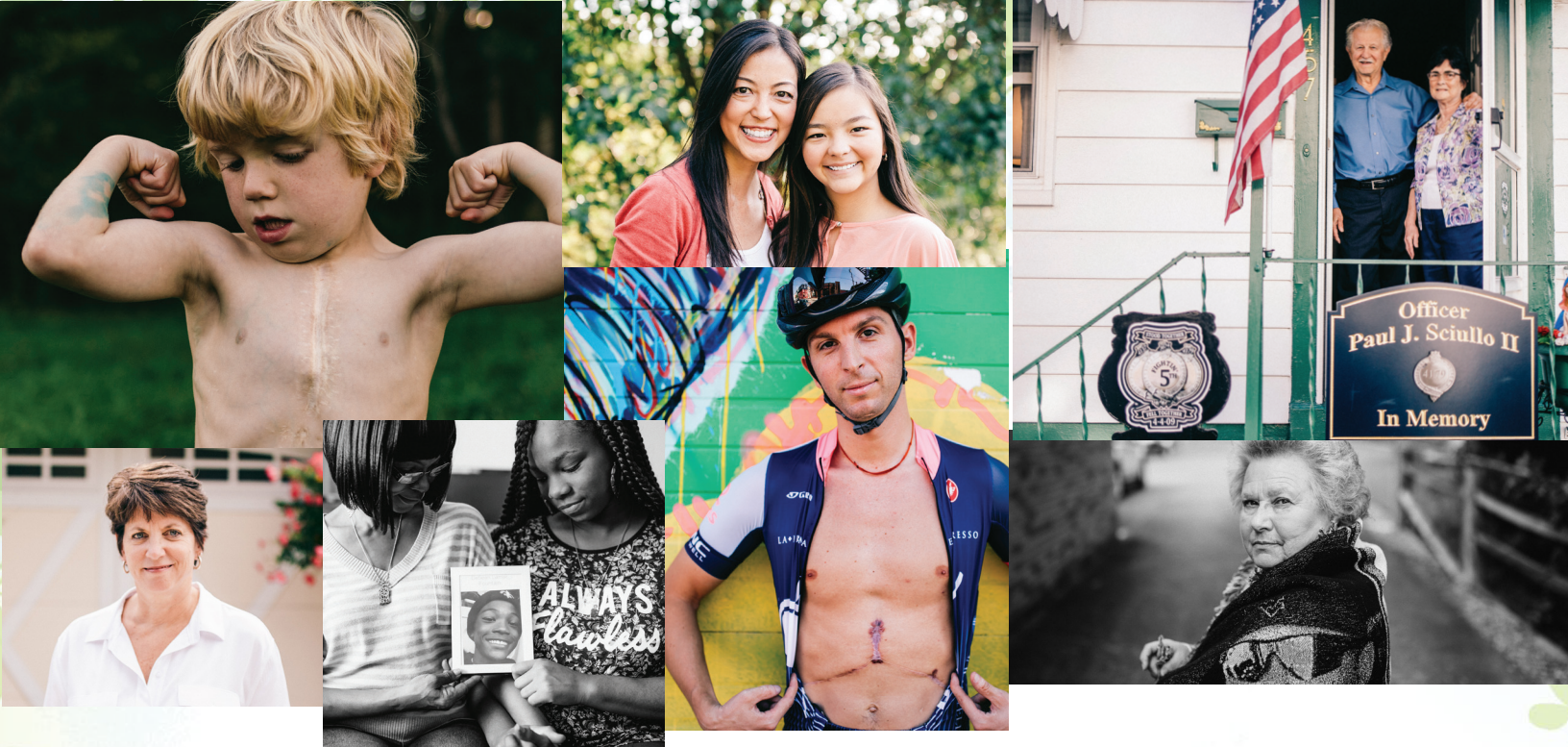
"Enhanced" risk "High" risk

In 2005, the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) standardized appropriate donation terminology.

AOPO reasoned that avoiding words and phrases that cause concern among donor families and the general public would increase both understanding and acceptance of the donation process.

This terminology is unanimously supported and used by the American Society of Transplantation (AST) and American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) and has been adopted by the American Journal of Transplantation.

*Language is very powerful;
it can perpetuate misconceptions or offer a space for awareness.
Help CORE foster a better understanding of donation and save
lives by using the correct donation terminology.*



be a hero. be an organ donor.

Make the pledge for life by registering to become an organ, tissue and cornea donor.

112,000

the number of people awaiting an organ transplant nationally

every 10 minutes

the rate at which someone new is added to the organ transplant waiting list

250,000

the number of people awaiting tissue and cornea transplants each day

20

the number of people who will die each day without receiving a transplant

8

the number of lives one individual can save by donating organs

on average 11,000

the number of people who die annually considered medically suitable to donate organs, tissue and corneas, yet only a fraction actually donate

2,600

the approximate number of people awaiting transplantation in CORE's service region

75

the number of lives one individual can heal through tissue donation



Center for Organ Recovery & Education

Dispelling the Myths

MYTH

FACT

My body will be mutilated and disfigured if I would donate.

Organ and tissue donation will not interfere with traditional funeral arrangements such as an open casket. Doctors maintain the utmost respect for the donor and organs are removed in a routine operation similar to other types of surgeries.

Organs go to people who didn't take care of theirs.

Organs go to people who were born with or developed diseases that have caused organ failure. Less than 5 percent of those waiting need a transplant because of their own behaviors or choices. For those people, they must achieve and sustain sobriety before they can be listed for a transplant.

I am too old to become an organ donor.

No one is ever too old or too young to give the gift of life. Every potential donor is evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the time of their death to determine which organs and tissue are suitable for donation.

I am too sick to donate.

Few illnesses or conditions prevent someone from being a donor. People with diabetes, heart disease, cancer, hepatitis and even HIV have saved lives through organ and tissue donation. At the time of death, CORE reviews medical and social histories to determine suitability for donation. Although someone may not be able to donate blood, it does not always prevent the individual from donating organs and/or tissue.

My family will have to pay for costs related to my donation.

Donors and their families are not responsible for any costs related to donation. All costs are incurred by the organ procurement organization.

My religion does not support donation.

All major religions consider organ donation to be an individual decision, or support it and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

Wealthy people are the only people who receive transplants.

Financial and celebrity status do not determine who receives a transplant. A national computer network, maintained by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), matches organs according to height, weight and blood type, followed by medical urgency and then time accrued on the waiting list. Age, race, gender, religious affiliation or financial status are not factors that determine who receives a transplant.

EMTs and hospital staff members don't work as hard to save your life if you're a

When you go to the hospital for treatment, all staff members are focused on saving your life, not somebody else's. You'll be seen by a medical team whose specialty most closely matches your particular emergency.

Transplantable Organs & Tissues

HEART

The heart is a muscular organ that pumps blood through the blood vessels of our circulatory system. A heart transplant gives patients with congenital heart disease or ailments like cardiomyopathy and myocarditis the opportunity to have a normal heart with normal blood circulation. While a heart transplant is a major operation, chance of survival is good with appropriate follow-up care. A heart must be transplanted within four hours.

LUNGS

Lungs extract oxygen from the atmosphere and transfer it into our bloodstream. Donated lungs save the lives of those afflicted with conditions such as cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary fibrosis and end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Lungs must be transplanted within six hours.

KIDNEYS

These organs are essentially sophisticated trash collectors. Every day, your kidneys process about 200 quarts of blood to sift out about two quarts of waste products and extra water. Donated kidneys replace diseased or damaged kidneys due to conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and polycystic kidney disease (PKD). This is the most frequent and the most successful organ transplant procedure. Kidneys can be transplanted up to 48 hours after being recovered.

TISSUE & CORNEA

Although less widely publicized than organ donation, tissue and cornea donation saves or enhances the lives of more than one million people in the U.S. each year. Donated tissue can be used for up to five years after it's recovered.

LIVER

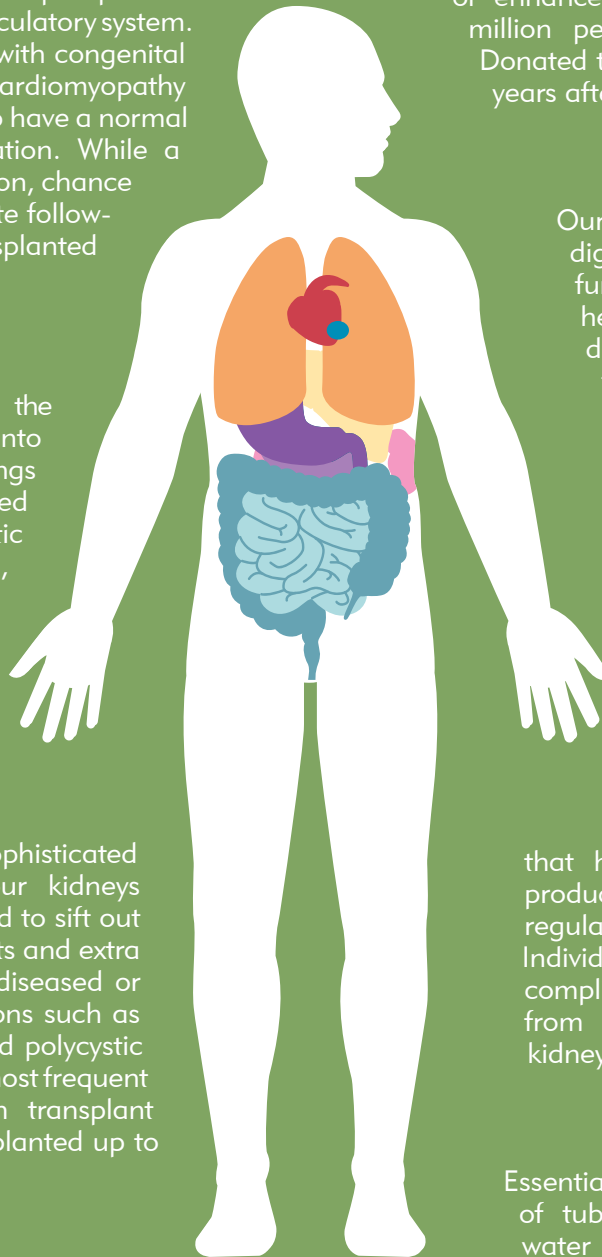
Our liver is the workhorse of the digestive system and performs 500 functions that help keep the body healthy. Donated livers replace diseased or damaged livers due to conditions such as birth defects or bile ducts as well as infections like hepatitis. A liver can be replaced with all or part of a healthy donor liver, from a living or deceased donor. Livers can also be split into two segments for transplantation.

PANCREAS

The pancreas creates digestive juices that help break down food that has left the stomach. It also produces the hormone insulin which regulates the body's sugar level. Individuals who have severe complications from diabetes can benefit from pancreas and/or combined kidney/pancreas transplants.

INTESTINES

Essentially, intestines are a long system of tubes that absorb nutrients and water from the food we consume and processes them in stages. Most intestinal transplants are performed on infants or children to heal conditions such as twisted or blocked intestines, or short gut syndrome (SGS). Intestines are often transplanted with a liver and pancreas. Intestines must be transplanted within 12 hours.





HOW TO REGISTER

be a hero.

be an organ donor.

There are two options in Pennsylvania and West Virginia for those who make the decision to save the lives of others by donating organs:

- Donors can place the designation on their driver's license or state identification card when they receive or renew their license or ID.
- Sign up at anytime online at **www.core.org/register**.

Also, donors should always let their family and friends know of their decision to donate. For more information, please visit **www.core.org**.

*a deceased donor can give
their kidneys, pancreas,
liver, lungs, heart, intestinal
organs, tissue and corneas.*

*a living donor is able to give
a kidney or a portion of a
lung or liver.*

April Is NATIONAL MONTH

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE



Center for Organ Recovery & Education

A Pledge for Life

Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE)

The Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) is one of 58 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the United States, serving more than five million people in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Chemung County, New York. CORE coordinates the recovery and matching of organs, tissues and corneas for transplant within our service region, and works tirelessly to create a culture of donation within the hospitals and communities we serve. CORE's mission is to *Save and Heal* lives through donation, ultimately ending the deaths of those on the transplant waiting list, while maintaining integrity for the donation process, dignity for the donors, and compassion for their families. CORE is a winner of the 2019 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, a presidential award that recognizes nonprofits for their innovation and excellence. In 2019, CORE made possible 661 life-saving organ transplants, a record number, because of the generosity of 253 organ donors. For more information, visit www.core.org or call 1-800-DONORS-7.

Contact Information

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Media Inquiries

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Transplant Centers

Each of the 150 hospitals in CORE's service area act as referral sites for potential donors. Seven of the hospitals also perform organ transplants:

- Allegheny General Hospital
- Charleston Area Medical Center
- UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- UPMC Hamot
- UPMC Presbyterian
- VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
- WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital