



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.



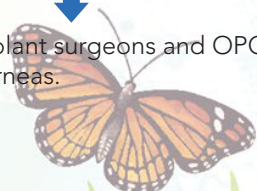
If found to be a suitable candidate, and after authorization has been given (by the individual or his/her family), the OPO works with the donor's family and obtains a medical and social history before proceeding.



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 "To harvest" organs

"Donation" of organs "Harvesting" of organs

"Deceased" donation "Cadaver" donation

"Deceased" donor "Cadaveric" donor

"Mechanical" support "Life" support

"Ventilator" support "Life" support

"Organs, tissues and corneas" "Body parts"

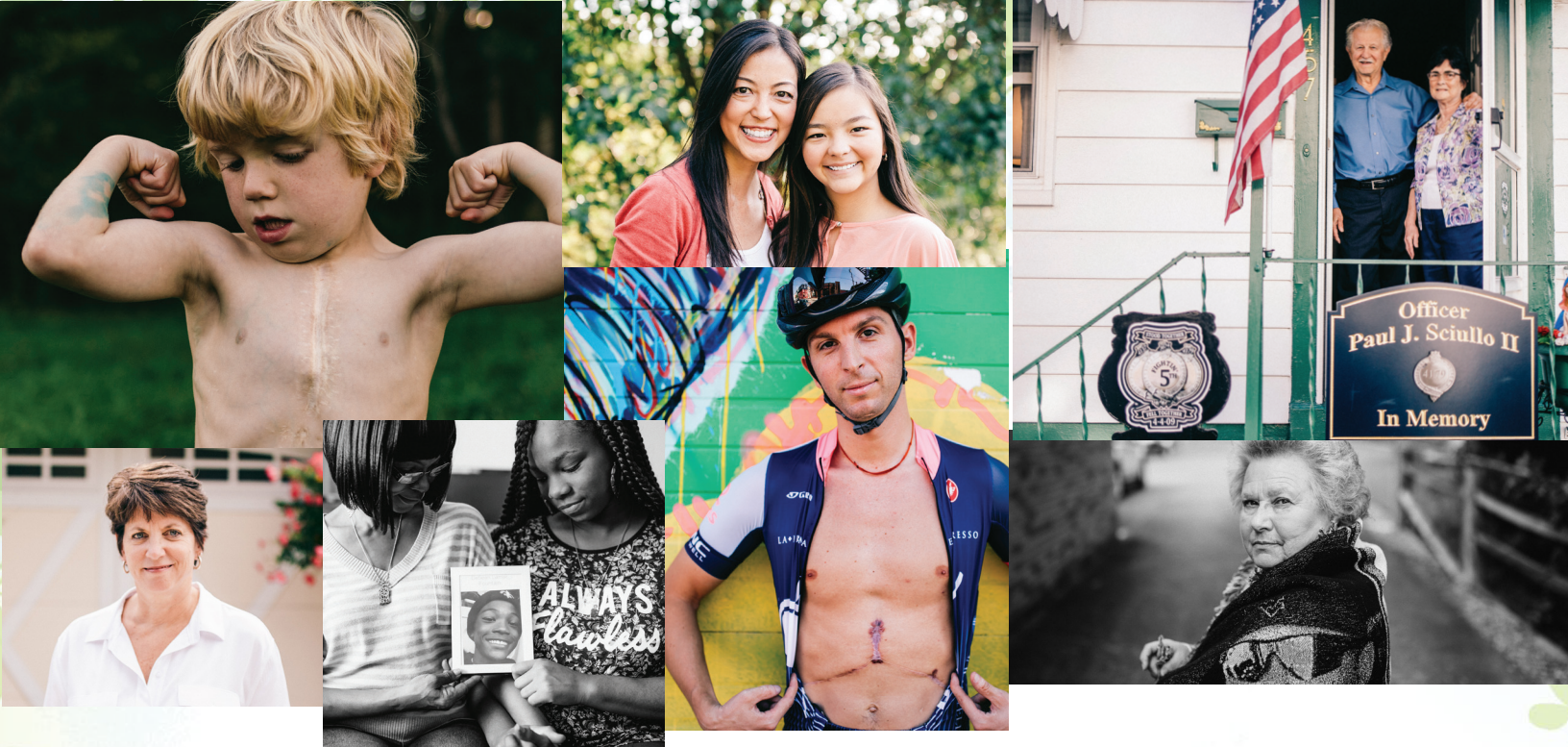
"Donor Authorization" "Got consent" "Did a donation"

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

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organ donation myths

MYTH:

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

MYTH:

I have health issues.
No one will want my organs.

MYTH:

I'm too old to be a donor.

MYTH:

Organ donation is against my religion.

MYTH:

Rich people move to the front of the line when they need a transplant.

FACT:

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.

FACT:

People with diabetes, heart disease, cancer, hepatitis and even HIV have saved lives through organ and tissue donation. Virtually anyone can donate. Don't assume you're not a suitable donor.

FACT:

No one is ever too old or too young to give the gift of life. Once consent is given, the decision to transplant organs or tissue is based on specific medical criteria, not age.

FACT:

All major religions support organ and tissue donation as the ultimate act of charity. If you have questions about your faith's views on donation, consult your religious leader.

FACT:

It may seem that way because their stories make the news, but wealth and celebrity status is never a factor. The matching of organs and recipients is coordinated through the United Network of Organ Sharing, based strictly on medical criteria to ensure the organ goes to the person who needs it most and who is the best match.



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

204 Sigma Drive, RIDC Park
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
p: 1-800-DONORS-7 or 1-800-366-6777

Media Inquiries

Colleen Sullivan
Director of Communications
p: 412-963-3550
e: media@core.org

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