**Media Contact:**

[Insert Name]

[Insert Organization Name]

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[State Team or Organization Contact]

**One Voice, One Vision to Save & Heal Lives**

**Honoring Donors and Strengthening Communities**

[Your City, State] – August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month (NMDAM), an annual collaborative effort spearheaded by the National Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation Multicultural Action Group (NMAG) to save and improve the quality of life of diverse communities by creating a positive culture for organ, eye and tissue donation.

National Minority Donor Awareness Month was founded in 1996 by the National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP) and Clive Callender, M.D., to raise awareness about health disparities and the impact of organ donation and transplantation in minority communities:

“We have an urgent need for more organ donors, and nowhere is this need more pronounced than in minority communities that have disproportionately higher rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, which can contribute to organ failure, particularly kidney failure. One of our main goals during National Minority Donor Awareness Month and year-round is to tell these important stories, and bring more attention within multicultural communities about the critical need and the ability to help through donation.” – Clive Callender, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery, Howard University College of Medicine and Founder and President of National MOTTEP

[Insert your organization’s quote here – e.g., from your CEO, community outreach leader, or medical director. Include local context or efforts if desired.]

According to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), Black Americans are more than 4 times more likely to develop end-stage kidney disease than White Americans. The prevalence of end-stage kidney disease among Asian Americans is 1.6 times more likely, and among Hispanic/Latino Americans and Native Americans is 2 times as likely as among White Americans. These healthcare disparities underscore the need for education and outreach during National Minority Donor Awareness Month to help heal and save lives in our communities.

In the United States, the need for lifesaving organs far exceeds the supply. Currently, the national transplant waiting list stands at more than 100,000 people. A majority (60%) of individuals on the waiting list are from racial and ethnic minority groups. Tragically, 13 people die every day waiting for a transplant.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and donor families, and the dedication of donation and transplantation professionals, more than 48,000 people – including more than 23,000 from racial and ethnic minorities – received a lifesaving organ transplant in 2024.

For resources and more information on National Minority Donor Awareness Month, visit [DonateLife.net](file:///C:\Users\JBedekovich\Downloads\DonateLife.net) and [nmag1.org](file:///C:\Users\JBedekovich\Downloads\nmag1.org).

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**National Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation Multicultural Action Group (NMAG)***The mission of NMAG is to save and improve the quality of life in diverse multicultural communities by creating a positive culture of donation. This is achieved with the following goals: increase transplantation through organ, eye and tissue donation; increase the number of living organ donors; reduce the rate and need for transplantation through disease prevention education. nmag1.org**NMAG members: American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB), the American Kidney Fund, Association for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation (AMAT), Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO), Donate Life America (DLA), Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), Heath Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP), National Kidney Foundation (NKF), Student Organ Donation Advocates (SODA), The Links, Incorporated, the Transplant Life Foundation, University of Pittsburgh DEI Health Sciences, and the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).*