

April is National Month

2026 National Donate Life Month General Messaging

The following talking points will help you share a message of hope, advocacy, and passion throughout your hospitals and with colleagues, patients, and families.

*The more you know about organ, tissue, and cornea donation,
the more you can share with others.*

Let's build a culture of donation—together.

CORE

- The Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) is one of the more than 50 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the United States.
 - As an OPO, CORE coordinates the recovery and matching of organs, tissues, and corneas for transplantation within its service region and works tirelessly to create a culture of donation in the hospitals and communities it serves.
 - CORE also facilitates the allocation of all donated organs and corneas within its service area.
 - CORE oversees a region in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Chemung County, New York. This region encompasses more than 150 hospitals and health care facilities, including seven transplant centers, and serves a population of more than 5 million people.
 - CORE's mission is to end 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.
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Key Statistics

- **100,000** – The number of people across the nation waiting for a lifesaving transplant.
 - **13** – The approximate number of people who die each day waiting for an organ transplant.
 - **Every 8 minutes** – How often someone is added to the national transplant waiting list.
 - **8** – The number of lives that a single organ donor can save.
 - **75+** – The number of lives that can be either saved or healed by a single organ, tissue, and cornea donor.
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Donation Facts

- Anyone has the potential to be an organ donor, regardless of age, ethnicity, or medical history.
 - Although 90% of Americans say they support organ and tissue donation, only a fraction know how to take the necessary steps to sign up.
 - All major religions in the United States support organ, tissue, and cornea donation as a final act of love and generosity toward others.
 - There are two ways to sign up as an organ, tissue, and cornea donor:
 - Sign up at your state Driver's License Center when receiving or renewing your state-issued license or ID.
 - Visit [**core.org/register**](https://core.org/register) and enter the necessary information online—it only takes about a minute.
 - Learn the facts about organ, tissue, and cornea donation at [**core.org**](https://core.org).
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About National Donate Life Month

- Celebrated in April each year, National Donate Life Month features local, regional, and national activities to inspire Americans to sign up as donors and honor those who have saved lives through the gift of donation.
- For National Donate Life Month (NDLM) 2026, we were inspired by trees as a symbol of life and connection. Just like trees grow and support each other in a forest, donation connects people – donors, recipients, and their families. Like a tree that grows and stands for generations, a donor's gift leaves a lasting legacy of hope and life.
- The "**Leave a Legacy**" theme represents the gift of donation, offering hope and new beginnings to the 100,000 people on the transplant waiting list.
- This National Donate Life Month, we invite the public to become part of this life-sustaining community by:
 - Signing up as an organ, tissue, and cornea donor at [**core.org/register**](https://core.org/register).
 - Learning more about living donation.
 - Championing the Donate Life cause.