



Katelynn Metz  
Jared Bedekovich  
412\_963-3550 (o)  
[media@core.org](mailto:media@core.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 1, 2026

# **CORE Celebrates National Donate Life Month in April**

*National Observance Raises Awareness and Registers More Organ, Tissue and Cornea Donors*

**PITTSBURGH, Pa. (April 1, 2026)** — National Donate Life Month (NDLM) is a time to raise awareness of the life-saving and healing gifts made possible through organ, tissue, and cornea donation. Nationally, more than 100,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant, including over 6,000 people in Pennsylvania and more than 500 in West Virginia. On average, 13 people die each day waiting for a transplant they desperately need. Someone is added to the transplant waiting list every eight minutes.

Throughout April, the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) will hold events to honor donors, celebrate the lives they've saved, and encourage everyone to register as organ, tissue, and cornea donors. Specifically, flag-raising ceremonies and donor recognition events will take place across CORE's service area, bringing communities together to pay tribute to the generosity of donors and their families. These events are a powerful reminder of the impact of donation and a celebration of the hope and healing it brings to recipients and their loved ones.

"During National Donate Life Month, we honor the donors and families whose generosity saves and heals lives," said Susan Stuart, President & CEO of Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE). "This past year, 485 organ donors made 1,254 life-saving organ transplants possible, while 990 cornea transplants restored sight and 1,840 tissue donors helped heal others. Each yes to donation allows hope to take root and lives to grow. Donate Life Month is a time to recognize the lasting impact of that choice."

## **The Need: There Are More Lives to Save**

- More than 100,000 people are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.
- Every eight minutes, another person is added to the waiting list.
- More than 90,000 people across the nation await a kidney transplant—the organ in greatest demand—followed by liver, heart, and lung transplants.
- Multicultural communities, often at higher risk for conditions like diabetes and hypertension, make up more than 50% of the national transplant waiting list.

**MEDIA RESOURCES (BROLL, DATA POINTS, COPY, PHOTOS) AT**  
**[WWW.CORE.ORG/NEWSROOM](http://WWW.CORE.ORG/NEWSROOM)**

## **The Impact: Saving and Healing Lives**

- 485 organ donors from CORE's service area made 1,254 lifesaving organ transplants possible.
- 1,840 tissue donors provided healing to thousands of people through life-enhancing tissue transplants.
- 990 cornea transplants restored sight because of generous cornea donors.
- Across western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, these donations reflect a growing, life-saving impact rooted in community generosity.

## **National Donate Life Month 2026 Highlights**

**Blue & Green Spirit Week — April 4–11, 2026** A week of themed days leading up to National Donate Life Blue & Green Day, focusing on appreciation, outreach, and education.

**National Donate Life Blue & Green Day — April 10, 2026** Wear blue and green to show your support for the Donate Life message, and participate in the Blue & Green Day Photo Contest.

**National Pediatric Transplant Week — April 19–25, 2026** This week is dedicated to ending the pediatric transplant waiting list. It highlights innovative clinical work, shares patient and donor family stories, and celebrates milestones of young transplant recipients.

**About National Donate Life Month Artwork:** This year's theme uses 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.

**How to Sign Up:** One organ donor can save up to eight lives, and one tissue donor can heal over 75 others. Visit [core.org/register](https://core.org/register) to register and make your decision known to your family.

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, 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. For more information, visit [www.core.org](https://www.core.org) or call 1-800-DONORS-7.

### **About Donate Life America**

Donate Life America (DLA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization leading its national partners and Donate Life State Teams to increase the number of donated organs, eyes and tissue available to save and heal lives. DLA manages and promotes *Donate Life*<sup>SM</sup>, the national brand for the cause of donation; motivates the public to register as organ, eye and tissue donors; provides education about living donation; manages the National Donate Life Registry at [RegisterMe.org](https://RegisterMe.org); and develops and executes effective multi-media campaigns to promote donation.

###