



Carmen,
donor mother

Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation **THE FACTS & IMPACT**

LiveOnNY

Caring for New Yorkers
through organ donation



Organ and tissue donation is a wonderful extension of God's abundance and blessings.

Jesus instructs us

“Heal the sick... freely we have received, freely give.”

- Matthew 10:8

There is a great need for organ transplantation in people of African descent. High rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, lupus and heart disease have left many in need of a transplant to survive. In a final act of kindness and generosity, we can share life with our communities.

What is organ and tissue donation?

Deceased organ and tissue donation is the process of surgically removing organs and tissue from a donor after their death and transplanting them into a living person to replace their failing organs and damaged tissues.

Will my decision to donate affect my medical care?

Strict guidelines mean that doctors who treat you have nothing to do with donation and do not perform transplants. Saving their patients' lives is the hospital's priority. Donation is only considered after death and every effort is made to save a patient's life.

Why is it important for all communities to donate?

People of color have a greater need for donation. They make up nearly 58% of people on the national organ transplant waiting list and nearly 75% of people waiting here in the greater New York area. By having more people signed up as registered organ donors, communities can help save more lives.

How are organs matched with potential recipients?

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) manages a national computerized waiting list of transplant candidates. Factors like size, blood type, medical urgency and location are used to see if an organ is a match. Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never a factor.



Organ Donation Saved Roxanne

In 2008 Roxanne's life was put on hold. She was in failing health, hospitalized 17 times, and suffered a silent heart attack. She would need a heart transplant to live.

Michael Bovill, a 23-year-old E3 Fireman with the U.S. Coast Guard, was in an accident that took his life. He was a registered organ donor and in his final act of generosity, Michael saved Roxanne's life and the lives of four others.

ORGAN DONATION FACTS

- ▶ In the greater New York City area there are more than 6,000 people waiting for a lifesaving kidney transplant, 39% of whom are Black.
- ▶ Diabetes and high blood pressure are the leading causes of kidney failure in people of African descent.
- ▶ People of African descent suffer from kidney failure at a higher rate than people of other races - more than 3 times higher.
- ▶ Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of race, age or medical history.
- ▶ There is no cost to a donor's family for donation. A family is only responsible for expenses from before the death and normal funeral costs.

Give the gift of life by saying yes to organ and tissue donation. Leave a lasting legacy and help others live on.



**1 organ donor can save up to 8 lives and
heal up to 75 lives through tissue donation**

Learn more about organ, eye and
tissue donation at LiveOnNY.org

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