



Heart recipient Shelby
with her parents

Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation
THE FACTS & IMPACT

LiveOnNY

Caring for New Yorkers
through organ donation



In the U.S., approximately 100,000 people are in need of transplants; they are husbands, wives, children, neighbors, family members. One organ donor has the potential to save as many as eight lives and improve up to 75 lives through tissue donation.

Q. What parts of the body can be donated for transplant?

A. The heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, intestines, eyes, corneas, bone, skin, heart valves, tendons and veins can be transplanted.

Q. Who can become a donor?

A. Anyone can become an organ donor. A person's medical history or age does not automatically exclude him or her from being a donor. Do not rule yourself out. Medical professionals will determine suitability at the time of death.

Q. How do I become an organ, eye and tissue donor?

A. Individuals can enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry when getting a driver license or non-driver identification (ID) card. Additionally, individuals can enroll when registering to vote, by filling out this form, or by visiting donatelife.ny.gov.

Q. Is there any age restriction on joining the registry?

A. Individuals must be at least 16 years old to register.

Q. Will my decision to donate affect my medical care?

A. Strict legal guidelines mean that doctors who treat you have nothing to do with donation. Donation is only considered after every effort is made to save the patient's life, which is the health care provider's first priority.

Q. Is there any cost to my family for donating my organs, tissues or eyes?

A. No, there is no cost to a donor's family for donation. The family is only responsible for the hospital expenses incurred before death and normal funeral costs.

Q. How are organs matched with potential recipients?

A. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) maintains a national computerized waiting list of transplant candidates. An evaluation of medical compatibility includes size and blood type, medical urgency and location. Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

Meet Shelby. Shelby was born with a rare heart condition called restrictive cardiomyopathy, which limits the heart's ability to pump blood through the body. By the age of ten, she couldn't even walk up stairs. She was admitted to the hospital and listed for a heart transplant. She lived in the hospital for 2 months until she received her lifesaving transplant.

Today, she is a graduate student studying to be a Physician Assistant. Living her dreams wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the organ donor who selflessly gave her the gift of life.



Organ Donation saved Shelby.

Learn more about Shelby's story @ LiveOnNY.org

Q. What does my religion say about organ and tissue donation?

A. Most religions support organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation, and many encourage it as a final act of compassion and generosity. They believe it is the most significant gift one human being can give to another. If you have questions or concerns, you should discuss them with your religious or spiritual leader.

Q. Can there be an open-casket funeral service?

A. Throughout the donation process the body is treated with care and respect. An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors and funeral services can be held.



one donor can save up to 8 lives

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

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