



North Carolina

You have the power to save lives.

Register Online

Donation Spotlight

We have set an ambitious goal to register 200,000 new donors in 2012. On December 31, 2011, we had 4,169,282 donors. That number has grown to 4,277,722 as of August 31, which means 108,440 people have registered this year.

You Can Help

Visit donatelifenc.org/you-can-help to find out how.

Waiting, and Waiting, and Waiting.....

As part of our Stories of Hope, Mariel Carr shares her testimony of life on the national transplant waiting list as her husband, Scott, waits for a new liver.

It was June 16, 1998. We were healthy 32 year olds and expecting our first baby. All our thoughts and energies were preparing for the next phase of our lives: a family! From out of nowhere, Scott had a serious stomach bleed caused by an undetected autoimmune liver disease, the same one that took Walter Payton's life before a liver became available to him.

We were shocked, especially when the doctors said Scott would likely need a life-saving liver transplant surgery one day. Transplant!?! Such a scary word for such a young man! We had worked so hard to plan our life just right, including relocating to beautiful North Carolina to start our family's new roots! We would give anything to regain that blissful ignorance of the day before June 16 when life was simply looking forward to going to the hospital, to the Labor and Delivery wing, that is. A transplant is a "club" no one wants to be in.



Scott thankfully rebounded and we welcomed our second and third baby within three short years, but always with a declining liver condition looming on our minds. A transplant would be Scott's permanent fix, as medicine could only stabilize Scott for so long. Alas, we prayed modern medicine would somehow spare Scott from that big surgery, while at minimum, allowing our children to grow up and develop a relationship with him, to really know him, just in case.

It was July 26, 2007 and again, from out of nowhere, Scott suffered another massive stomach hemorrhage. After 18 days in ICU requiring three stent surgeries, each carrying a 30% mortality rate, and needing 25 blood transfusions, Scott finally recovered. However, it was apparent that he was in the end stage of liver failure, and this warranted Scott going on the transplant list.

It is now August 2012. Scott is 46 years old, though sometimes he feels like he is 86. Our kids are 11, 12 and 13. It's been nearly five years on the list and we are still waiting. Waiting to feel better. Waiting to resume our lives with full vigor. Waiting for the kids to really, really know their Dad. They don't remember him well and active anymore, only sick and tired. Organ donation doesn't just save lives. It saves families.

Contact Us:

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Inspiring North Carolinians to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

Email: info@donatelifenc.org

Website: DonateLifeNC.org

Facebook.com/DonateLifeNC

Twitter: @DonateLifeNC

Donate Life NC DMV Awards 2012



(Right) Manteo DMV—Highest Donor Designation District A



(Left) Cary DMV—Highest Donor Designation District E



(Left) Siler City DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation District E



(Above) Carrboro DMV—Highest Donor Designation District G



Wilmington (North) DMV—Highest and Most Improved Donor Designation District C

(Right) Durham (East) DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation District D



(Below) Fayetteville (South) DMV—Highest and Most Improved Donor Designation—District F



(Left) Ahoskie DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation District A





Pin! Tweet! Like! Link!

You can find Donate Life NC on multiple social media platforms. Share and like our posts on Facebook. Follow our tweets via Twitter (@DonateLifeNC). We are pinning away on Pinterest (pinterest.com/DonateLifeNC) and linking with others through LinkedIn. Our photos are available through our Flickr account (flickr.com/DonateLifeNC). Please follow us and help to inspire others to register!

Meet the challenge!

Help us to secure 300 applications for the Donate Life license plate.

DonateLifeNC.org

Whole Body Donation

Donating one's body to science for research is noble and generous. We want to emphasize that people cannot donate their organs AND donate their bodies to science. Researchers and medical students need bodies fully intact, and organ donation would limit their educational opportunities. You can still donate some tissues if you want to donate your body to a local medical school. There is more information on Whole Body Donation on our website at DonateLifeNC.org.



(Above) New Bern DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation District B



(Right) Louisburg DMV—Highest Donor Designation District D



(Left) Havelock DMV—Highest Donor Designation District B



(Right) Greensboro (East) DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation District G

(Below) Winston-Salem (North) DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation District I



**Continuation:
DMV Awards
Presentations 2012**



Donate Life Champions

Donate Life America has launched an awards program to recognize advocates for donation who use their athletic platform to help spread awareness as part of the 20 Million in 2012 campaign. North Carolina has nominated several athletically connected advocates for this award. Presentations will be made in late October and early November. Stay tuned to find out who will be Donate Life Champions!

Make a Financial Contribution Online

DonateLifeNC.org

Olympic Connection

In case you didn't see it, U.S. Olympic Bronze Medalist Danell Leyva wore his green Donate Life bracelet while competing in London. Leyva wears the Donate Life bracelet in honor of his friend and gymnast Omar Moreno, who was an organ donor. Photos of Danell wearing his bracelet (and his bronze medal) can be found on our Facebook page and Twitter account. Thank you, Danell, for raising awareness and congratulations on your achievements in London!

RECAP: Team Carolinas Strikes Gold, Silver, Bronze at Transplant Games of America 2012 in Grand Rapids

A small but mighty contingency represented North Carolina at the Transplant Games of America 2012 held July 28—31 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The members of Team Carolinas included: Brian Barndt, heart recipient; Al Milek, heart recipient; Rob Newton, kidney recipient; and Jerry Smigelski, Jr., heart recipient. All four received their transplants at Duke University Hospital.

Team Carolinas walked away with 14 medals from the Transplant Games of America in multiple events including swimming, cycling, and track.



(Left to Right): Al Milek, Jerry Smigelski, Jr., Barbara Milek, Brian Barndt; Danielle Newton (holding Eliza) and Rob Newton before the Opening Ceremonies at the Transplant Games of America 2012.

Q. DMV Customers respond to the organ donation question with “I am too sick to donate” or “I’m too old. No one wants any of what I have!” What are the best ways to respond to this?

A. Both of those statements are not uncommon. We know that individuals begin ruling themselves out because of their personal medical history or their age. However, we emphasize that there is no age limit in organ donation. Also, we stress to allow the medical professionals to decide if the person can donate organs and tissues to those in need. Diseases such as hypertension, kidney disease, and diabetes will not prohibit someone from being a donor. Even one kidney, one cornea, or one bone graft can make the difference between a life on dialysis, a life without sight, and a life without mobility. Customers can always find out more information at DonateLifeNC.org.



Did You Know?

More than half of the national transplant waiting list is comprised of people from multi-cultural populations. This is true for North Carolina as well! Of the 3,580 people waiting for an organ transplant in our state during August, 1,882 are African-American (more than half); 100 are Hispanic; 73 are Asian; 37 are Native American; one is a Pacific Islander; and eight are Multi-racial.

Meet the challenge!

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DonateLifeNC.org

Waiting Times

More than 2,000 people in North Carolina have been waiting more than one year for a life-saving transplant. Of those, 995 people have been waiting for more than three years!

The need is greatest for those awaiting kidney transplants. There are 839 North Carolinians who have been waiting for more than three years for a new kidney.

Need for More Minority Donors Throughout U.S.



Arlette Whitaker knows the reality of waiting for an organ transplant well. She works as a dialysis nurse at Fresenius Medical Care ECU Dialysis in Greenville, NC. After working with dialysis patients throughout her day, Arlette becomes one herself at night.

She has been receiving peritoneal dialysis since 2007 and waits for her kidney

transplant to allow her freedom from the nightly routine. "Receiving a kidney transplant would be nothing short of a miracle - after all, you are receiving life. A life for me to continue being a mother of two, a wife, a friend, a sister and a nurse. A transplant will not only bless me, but hundreds of others that are part of my life, or others whose life I will touch in the future," Whitaker shares through her testimony through Stories of Hope from Donate Life NC. The web site features transplant recipients, donor family members, and individuals on the national transplant waiting list.

Minority candidates have become the new majority in North Carolina for those awaiting organ transplants. Of the approximately 3,600 individuals in need of a life-saving transplant, more than 2,000 identify as an ethnic minority. The greatest need is for kidney transplants. Of the approximately 1,800 African-Americans in North Carolina waiting for the gift of life, 95 percent are waiting for a kidney.

Many diseases that cause kidney failure, including hypertension and diabetes, are more prevalent in African-American and Latino/Hispanic communities (over 80 percent of Latinos waiting in North Carolina require kidney transplants). In fact, African-Americans are four times more likely than Caucasians to be on dialysis because of kidney failure, which must often be treated by kidney transplantation.

Barriers to donation do not include race, ethnicity, age or, gender. North Carolinians can register to be organ donors during their next visit to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office by requesting a red heart on their driver's license or identification card. Additionally, individuals can register online by visiting DonateLifeNC.org or by sharing one's decision to donate on their Facebook Timeline.

"Disparities in health status in minority communities have resulted in disparities on the transplant waiting list," according to Sharon Hirsch, Executive Director of Donate Life NC. "One way we can address this critical gap is to encourage more people to register as organ and eye donors at the DMV or online. One person can save up to eight lives and enhance the quality of life for 50 more."

The U.S. recognizes National Minority Donor Awareness Day as August 1 each year. In order to further spread awareness this year, we celebrated National Minority Donor Awareness week with stories, facts, and statistics focusing on minorities within donation and transplantation. Our partner organizations Carolina Donor Services and LifeShare Of The Carolinas shared personal connections through news stories and through multiple social media platforms.



National Donor Sabbath

Established in 1997, National Donor Sabbath encourages faith-based organizations to promote and to educate their members on the importance of organ, tissue and eye donation. Over the upcoming November 9-11 weekend, congregations can include donation information in church bulletins, allow guest speakers to share their personal testimonies and provide methods of joining the NC donor registry. For more information or to receive free materials, contact info@donatelifenc.org.

Make a Financial Contribution Online

DonateLifeNC.org

Which organs and tissues may be donated?

Organs that can be donated include the heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys, and small intestine. Tissues that can be donated include skin, bone, corneas, heart valves, and veins. Corneas are transplanted to give sight and heart valves are used in valve replacement surgery, which is more common in children. Skin grafts are used to promote healing in burn victims. Bone, tendons and ligaments can be used in reconstructive surgeries.

New Campaign to Reach 50-64 Year Old Population

We aim to make strategic decisions for campaigns and programs based on our donor designation data. As we shared with you in the spring, we continually identify trends in our designation rates, which can be sometimes positive and sometimes not as much.

Based on multiple years of data, Donate Life NC created a new goal: to target the 50-64 year old population here in North Carolina. Why? As we review designation rates for the different age groupings, we see a decline in people saying “yes” after the age of 50. To some, this may be surprising. As we get older, shouldn’t we be more comfortable with organ, tissue and eye donation since we have learned more about it?

Unfortunately, we know that many people over the age of 50 begin ruling themselves out as organ donors. Some claim to be too old to donate. That is simply not the case. There is no age limit in organ donation, and donors in their 80s and 90s have been able to give the gift of life to others and reduce the number of individuals waiting for a transplant.

Other adults over the age of 50 begin ruling themselves because of personal medical history and recent diagnoses. Again, you are not too sick to donate! Diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, heart diseases, and arthritis do not automatically rule you out for organ donation.

Over the next year, Donate Life NC’s newest team member, Tammy Dunne, will be investigating best practices, conducting research, seeking partnerships with other organizations, and developing a plan to inspire more of the 50-64 year old population to register. If you are a member of an organization that would be willing to partner with Donate Life NC and share information, offer guest speaking opportunities, or other ways of connecting, please contact us at info@donatelifenc.org.

Share Your Decision on Your Facebook Timeline

If you are on Facebook, you can share your decision to register as an organ, tissue and eye donor. If you are not registered, Facebook can connect you to North Carolina’s donor registry for a quick and easy registration.

How can you share this incredible decision?

- 1) Go to your Timeline
- 2) Click on Life Event.
- 3) Select Health and Wellness.
- 4) Choose organ donor. You can also include a personal testimony on why you registered and why your family and friends should follow in your footsteps!

