



## Statistics

- Each year, the lives of approximately 500,000 Americans are saved through organ and tissue donation.
- A single organ and tissue donor can save up to 100 lives.
- More than 1,700 people in Colorado and Wyoming currently await a lifesaving organ transplant. Across the United States, that number totals nearly 100,000.
- Another person is added to the transplant waiting list every 12 minutes.
- Nearly 18 people die each day waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

*What greater gift could there be than to contribute to the transition from death to life for another person?*

—Pat, Donor Wife and Mother



[www.DonorAlliance.org](http://www.DonorAlliance.org)

720 South Colorado Boulevard, Suite 800-N  
Denver, CO 80246  
(303) 329-4747 • Toll Free (888) 868-4747

Colorado Springs residents call:  
(719) 636-3338

Grand Junction residents call:  
(970) 245-9815

Wyoming residents call:  
(307) 577-1700

Donor Alliance saves lives through  
organ and tissue donation and transplantation

# Why Donation?



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## About Donation

Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult experiences a family will go through; yet in the midst of tragedy, many families find comfort and hope knowing the legacy of their loved one lives on through organ and tissue donation.

Organ and tissue donation provides an opportunity to give the ultimate gift — the gift of life. Nearly 100,000 Americans are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant and countless others need donated tissue. Organs that can be donated include the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine. Tissue is needed to replace bone, tendons and ligaments lost to injuries, severe trauma, cancer and other diseases. Corneas restore sight, heart valves repair cardiac defects and skin grafts help burn patients heal.

*Since knowing Nicole has saved so many lives through her gifts, I feel such peace and calmness in my heart.*

—Amy, Donor Mother

## The Donation Process

When a patient arrives at a hospital with a severe brain injury, the hospital contacts the local organ procurement organization (OPO) based on mutually agreed upon clinical triggers and time-frames. While the hospital continues lifesaving efforts, the OPO determines medical suitability and whether the patient is a registered organ and/or tissue donor. The OPO and the hospital staff collaborate to ensure that the family is cared for and offered the appropriate donation option should death be declared.

Unless the family brings up donation first, it is only after the family has been informed of the patient's death and the patient is evaluated for medical suitability is the opportunity to donate discussed.

If the patient is a registered donor, the donor designation document is irrevocable by any person other than the donor. If the patient is not a registered donor, the family considers donation options and the donation process proceeds only after the family has granted authorization. Written authorization for donation must be provided, including a signed form which details the organs and tissues the family wishes to donate.

Donated organs and tissues are recovered from the donor by highly trained professionals in a surgical environment. The donor and family are treated with the utmost care and respect, while every effort is made to honor the donor's wishes.

## How You Can Help

Become one of the 60 million Americans who have registered their decision to be organ and tissue donors! You can register today by doing one of the following:

- Sign-up online through the Colorado or Wyoming Donor Registries at [ColoradoDonorRegistry.org](http://ColoradoDonorRegistry.org) or [WyomingDonorRegistry.org](http://WyomingDonorRegistry.org) or call (888) 256-4386.
- Say “yes” when obtaining or renewing your driver's license at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

*Don't take your organs to heaven.  
Heaven knows we need them here.*

—Connor's favorite quote,

Two-time Heart Recipient

