

# HOW ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION WORKS



## The Need

There are nearly 1,300 people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant in Colorado and Wyoming, with more than 100,000 nationally.



## Referral

Organ, eye and tissue donation becomes an option only when all lifesaving efforts have ended and death is declared. When a registered donor passes away, Donor Alliance meets with the family and medical professionals to help honor the donor's decision.



## Matching

A nationwide database quickly identifies the best match for an organ and a transplant recipient.



## Honor the Decision

Donor Alliance helps facilitate the recovery and transportation of donor gifts to transplant centers in a safe and timely manner. Organs must be transplanted within hours of recovery.



## Support

Donor Alliance walks alongside families and honors their loved one's lifesaving and healing gifts.

## TYPES OF DONATION



### Deceased Donation

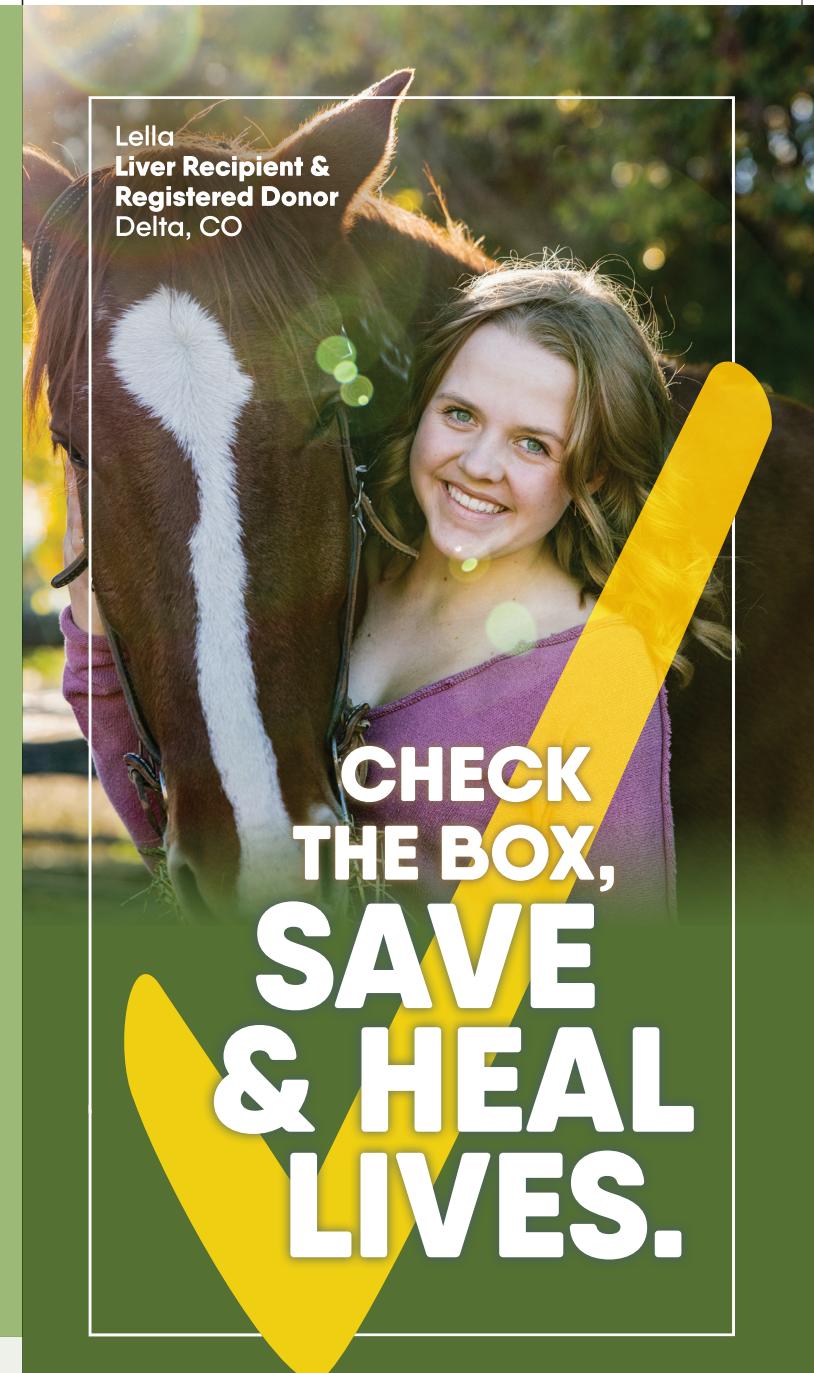
Deceased organ donation is giving the gift of life after you pass away by providing an organ, organs or a partial organ to be transplanted into one or more people. While the list of organs and tissues that can be successfully transplanted continues to grow with advances in technology, eight of the major organs can be transplanted, along with corneas and tissues, including bones, bone marrow, skin and heart valves.

### Tissue Donation

While donated organs have to be transplanted within hours of recovery, tissue donations can be preserved and transplanted for up to five years. Donated tissues can be used to help and heal people in several different and meaningful ways.

### Living Donation

Although Donor Alliance is not involved in the living organ donation process, living donation is an incredible way you can help save the life of someone waiting for an organ transplant. Through living donation, a living person can donate a kidney or part of the liver, lung, intestine or pancreas to another person in need of a transplant.



Register at the DMV or scan this QR code to learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation and how to register online.



200 Spruce St., Denver, CO 80230  
DonorAlliance.org | 303-329-4747

Get the facts about organ, eye and tissue donation.





Cindy  
Donor Mom  
holding photo of  
daughter, Molly  
Colorado

## MOLLY'S STORY



When Cindy lost her daughter Molly, her world shattered. But even in the heartbreak, knowing that Molly saved five lives through organ donation became a source of healing. Molly had proudly checked the box when she got her license at 16. That one decision has kept her memory alive in the most meaningful way. Cindy honors her daughter's selflessness and finds comfort in knowing that Molly's legacy lives on in the lives she saved. One of those recipients is a mother of six. As Cindy puts it, *"I think about those six children who get to wake up each morning with their mom thanks to Molly's gift."*

While the grief remains, knowing Molly saved lives has brought healing to Cindy and hope to the families who now get more time together.



For more Stories of Hope  
scan the code.

## GET THE FACTS ABOUT DONATION

### Will registering as a donor impact the medical care I receive?

No. Medical care is not affected in any way by your status as a registered donor. Every attempt is made to save your life. In fact, patients must receive the most aggressive lifesaving care in order to be potential organ donors to save your life.

### Who is eligible to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor?

Anyone can register—regardless of age, background, or health. In Colorado, individuals 13 and older can sign up. In Wyoming, the minimum age is 15½.

### Can I still register to be a donor if I am older or have a medical condition?

Yes. You are never too old or unhealthy to register to be a donor. In the event you are in a position to be a donor, medical specialists will evaluate your medical history to determine your suitability to donate.



### What is First Person Authorization and how does it relate to an Advance Directive?

First Person Authorization means your decision to be a donor is legally binding and takes priority over Advance Directives. For minors under 18, a parent or legal guardian makes the final decision.

### Have more questions?

Visit our website for answers.  
Learn More at [DonorAlliance.org](http://DonorAlliance.org).

Donor Alliance is a nonprofit dedicated to saving and healing lives through organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Donor Alliance also manages the donor registries in the region—Donate Life Colorado and Donate Life Wyoming.