



## **Get the Facts on Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation**

Registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor means you have made the decision to donate your organs, eyes and tissues at the time of your death. Your decision to be a donor takes priority over your family's preferences.

### **FACT: LIFESAVING IMPACT**

Just one donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and save or heal more than 100 lives through eye and tissue donation.

### **FACT: ANYONE CAN REGISTER**

Anyone—regardless of age, lifestyle or medical condition—can register as a donor. Patients with chronic conditions can potentially save and heal lives through donation.

### **FACT: WHAT CAN BE DONATED**

Organs that can be donated include the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine. Tissues that can be donated include bones, skin, tendons, heart valves, veins and corneas.

### **FACT: MEDICAL CARE**

Your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor will not interfere with your medical care. Doctors and nurses caring for you before death are not involved in the donation process.

### **FACT: NO COST**

There are no costs associated with organ, eye and tissue donation. Your family will be responsible for the cost of your care prior to death and any funeral expenses.

### **FACT: DIGNITY AND RESPECT**

Donors and their families are treated with the utmost respect and care. Donation will not delay or prevent funeral arrangements, including an open casket funeral.

### **FACT: FAIR AND EQUITABLE**

Severity of illness, time spent waiting, blood/tissue type, size and distance are the factors that determine a person's place on the organ transplant waiting list.

### **FACT: MINORITY NEED**

Transplant matches made within ethnic groups can be more compatible. That is why it is important for people in minority communities to register their decision to be donors.

### **FACT: RELIGIOUS SUPPORT**

All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation and view it as a final act of love and generosity.



## Stats on Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation

### Local statistics:

- In Colorado and Wyoming 2,716 people are currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant.
- 68% of Coloradans and 59% of Wyomingites are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.
- Of those waiting:
  - 1,876 are waiting for a kidney—the organ most in need (69%)—and 698 are waiting for a liver (26%).
  - 15% of current transplant candidates in Colorado have been on the waiting list for 5 years or more.
  - 32% of those waiting for an organ transplant are under 50 years of age; another 45% are between 50 and 64.
- Colorado has one of the nation's highest-performing state donor registries with nearly 68% of driver's license/ID card applicants registering as organ, eye and tissue donors. Wyoming is also amongst the top 10 nationally at 59%.
- 337 people received lifesaving organ transplants in 2014 thanks to 109 selfless donors in Colorado and Wyoming.
- In 2014, Donor Alliance recovered organs for transplant from 109 donors; of those 64% were on either the Donate Life Colorado or Donate Life Wyoming Donor Registry.
- In 2014, Donor Alliance recovered tissue for transplant from 1,590 donors; of those 65% were on either the Donate Life Colorado or Wyoming Donor Registry.

### National stats:

- Today, 123,219 people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants nationally; on average every ten minutes, someone is added to the national transplant waiting list.
- Of the patients waiting, 101,628 (82%) are in need of a kidney and 15,349 (12%) are in need of a liver transplant. Recoverable organs include the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and small bowel.
- Recoverable tissues include bone, tendons and corneas as well veins, valves and skin.
- One donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and save and heal more than 100 lives through tissue donation.
- Every year, the lives of about 500,000 Americans are saved by organ and tissue donation.
- Every 10 minutes another name is added to the national transplant waiting list.
- Approximately 1,500,000 tissue transplants are performed annually.
- Approximately 6,000 living donations occur each year. One in four donors is not biologically related to the recipient.