National Donate Life Month – April 2023

Donation and Transplantation Statistics

- In 2022, more than 42,000 transplants from 21,300 donors brought renewed life to patients and their families and communities.
- More than 100,000 people are waiting on the national transplant waiting list for lifesaving organ transplants.
- 60% of patients awaiting lifesaving transplants are minorities.
- Another person is added to the national organ transplant waiting list every 9 minutes.
- 17 people each day while waiting for a transplant. 6,388 transplant candidates died in 2021 while on the national transplant waiting list.

- 85% of patients on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is 3 to 5 years. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list (the living donor’s remaining kidney will increase in size, doing the work of two healthy kidneys).
- 11% of patients waiting are in need of a liver. Living donation of part of the liver can help these patients (the remaining portion of the donor liver will regenerate and regain full function).
- More than one-third of all deceased donors are age 50 or older; 7% are age 65 or older.

- More than 2.5 million lifesaving and healing tissue transplants are performed each year, offering patients a new chance at healthy, productive, and normal lives.
- A single tissue donor can help more than 75 people.
- More than 85,600 corneal transplants help to restore sight each year.

- More than 170 million people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.*

* Living donation is not included in your deceased donor registration.

Go to RegisterMe.org to register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.
Learn more about organ, eye, tissue and living donation at DonateLife.net.

Data sources:
Based on OPTN data as of March 17, 2023.
National Tissue Recovery through Utilization Survey (INTRUS); https://www.aatb.org/news/intrus-results-reveal-trends-tissue; AATB.org.