

National Minority Donor Awareness Day— August 1, 2012

Be a Hero: Be an Organ Donor

August 1 is National Minority Donor Awareness Day. This observance offers everyone the opportunity to make the courageous decision to donate life, and sign up in the Ohio Donor Registry.

Why do we need more people to sign up as organ donors?

- More than 114,000 people are on the national waiting list to receive a transplant.
- Just 13 percent of the U.S. population is African American, yet African Americans make up 34 percent of the national kidney transplant waiting list.
- In Ohio, 37 percent of clients on the kidney transplant waiting list are African American.
- The growth on the waiting list is expected to continue to outpace the number of African American donors.



Common beliefs about organ and tissue donation that are not true:

- Many people believe they won't receive proper care at a hospital if they are a registered organ and tissue donor.
 - * The truth is, the doctors responsible for saving your life at the hospital are not those involved with donation and transplantation. Also, there is no cost to the donor's family for anything related to donation, and you will still be able to have an open-casket funeral if you are an organ and/or tissue donor.
- Another common myth is that religious groups do not support donation.
 - * In reality, the faith-based community is very supportive of donation. All major religions support donation and view it as an act of kindness.

How can people sign up to be an organ donor?

- Just say "yes" at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) when you receive or renew your driver's license or state ID.
- Register online at <http://www.donatelifehio.org>.
- Complete an enrollment form available at the BMV or call 1-800-745-1511 to ask for one.

Contact Info

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Joining the Ohio Donor Registry lets you make the choice to help!

**For more information about minority organ donation
please contact:**

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