

We Speak Life Toolkit



Official Film Website: <https://www.donornetworkwest.org/we-speak-life/>

We Speak Life Trailer: <https://youtu.be/BXM2QSAaiok>

We Speak Life Film: <https://youtu.be/iYAxETThe8>

Organ and Tissue Donation FAQs

Who can be a donor?

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential deceased donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.

What am I signing up for when I register?

When you register as an organ donor, you are authorizing donation of your organs if you die in a hospital and on artificial support. You will remain on the registry unless you remove yourself.

Does registering as a donor change my patient care?

Doctors work hard to save every patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

Is there a cost to be an organ, eye and tissue donor?

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

What organs and tissues can be donated?

- Eight vital organs can be donated: heart, kidneys (2), pancreas, lungs (2), liver and intestines.
- Tissue: cornea, skin, heart valves, bone, blood vessels, and connective tissue.
- Bone marrow and stem cells, umbilical cord blood, peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC).

Why should I register my decision to be a donor?

The vast majority of Americans support donation as an opportunity to give life and health to others. Unfortunately, many people overlook the important step of registering as a donor. Donors are often people who die suddenly and unexpectedly. Their families are then faced with making the decision at a time of shock and grief. Registering relieves your family of this burden.

You can save up to 8 lives and heal the lives of more than 75 people. Your registration serves as a symbol of hope to patients waiting, and sharing it with your family lets them know your decision.

How do I register to be a donor?

To register as a donor, visit your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or go to DonorNetworkWest.org.

For more information about organ, eye, and tissue donation, visit DonorNetworkWest.org.

African Americans and Organ Donation FAQs

- African Americans make up 13 percent of the United States population, however they are the largest group of minorities in need of an organ transplant. More than 32,000 African Americans are on the U.S. transplant waiting list.
- African Americans have higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, diseases which are known to put patients at risk of organ failure, particularly kidney failure.
- Blacks and African Americans suffer from kidney failure at a significantly higher rate than Caucasians – more than 3 times higher, representing 35% of all patients in the U.S. receiving dialysis for kidney failure.
- Almost 30 percent of the total candidates on the organ transplant waiting list are African American, however only 13 percent of organ donors are African American, resulting in longer wait times for African Americans on the organ transplant waiting list.
- There is a significant need to increase the number of registered organ donors in the African American community to help save lives, due to the fact that 22 people die each day waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant.
- One donor can save eight lives through organ donation and heal another 75 others through tissue donation.
- You can make a difference. To register to become an organ donor, visit your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or visit DonorNetworkWest.com

Why is it important for people of every community to donate?

According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), transplants can be successful regardless of the race or ethnicity of the donor and recipient. The chance of longer-term survival may be greater if the donor and recipient are closely matched in terms of their shared genetic background.

What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in my community?

- Register your decision to be a donor at DonorNetworkWest.org.
- Tell your family and friends about your decision to Donate Life.
- Ask others to visit DonorNetworkWest.org to learn more and to register as a donor.

For more information about organ, eye, and tissue donation, visit DonorNetworkWest.org.

***We Speak Life* Pre and Post Event Suggested Discussion Questions**

Pre-Event Discussion Questions

- Before today had you heard about organ and tissue donation for transplantation?
- If yes, where had you heard about organ and tissue donation?
- Are you a registered organ donor?
- Why or why not did you register to be an organ donor?
- What are you looking to learn today by watching *We Speak Life*?

Post-Event Discussion Questions

- What did you think about *We Speak Life*?
- What did you learn from watching *We Speak Life*?
- Based on watching *We Speak Life* do you have a better understanding about organ and tissue donation?
- If not, what questions do you have?
- Based on watching *We Speak Life* has your opinion changed about organ and tissue donation?
- Did you know before watching *We Speak Life* how vital organ donation is to our community?
- Did you know that diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure are all diseases which could lead to you needing an organ transplant?
- Did you know you can help prevent your risk of needing an organ transplant?
- What are you going to do differently to reduce your risk of needing an organ transplant?
- Do you plan to tell your friends and family about *We Speak Life*?
- After watching *We Speak Life* do you plan to register as an organ donor?
- What are some ways Donor Network West can reach more people about organ and tissue donation in the Black Community?

We Speak Life Flyer and Logo

Download the flyer [here](#) or use image below.

Download the logo [here](#).