

THE BEST OF DONOR NETWORK WEST

APRIL 2025
NEWSLETTER

Written by Maxwell | Designed by Brooke

What It Means to Let Life Sing

Welcome to the annual Donate Life Edition of the Best of Donor Network West, your one-stop-shop for all things focused on the gift of life, organ donation and transplantation. This month, we have the privilege of celebrating National Donate Life Month with our communities across our entire service area, and the celebration has continued all month. Check out what has happened and what is in store this Donate Life Month at Donor Network West!



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Best of Donor Network West
Newsletter Library



"When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive — to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love."

— **Marcus Aurelius**

**DONOR
NETWORK WEST**

Let Life Sing

To become a living organ donor is to become a hero.

We at Donor Network West have the privilege of serving our mission amongst these heroes, and for them, donor heroes, donor families, and transplant recipients everywhere. Donate Life Month hosts Living Donor Day, an opportunity to honor some of the greatest, most selfless heroes in our communities. We have many champions within our service area who have decided to save and heal another life by giving a piece of themselves. Please take a moment to learn about them below.



Kristin Holtsman

Living Donor Hero



Luis Mayen

*Living Kidney Donor & Vice President of External Affairs
and Strategic Partnerships*



Daniel LeRoy

Living Donor & Ambassador



Jason McCluney

Two-Time Organ Donor



Jason Bautista

Living Kidney Donor





April is NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

Let Life Sing

National Donate Life Month is celebrated each April to recognize and honor the generosity of those who have saved lives by becoming organ, eye, and tissue donors. This month-long observance is also an opportunity to encourage more Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors. In honoring the incredible Gift of Life of the selfless donors, we also celebrate the families and friends of donors who have supported their loved one's decision to donate.



Download our
shareables

Be a Champion! - Share With Your Community

In 2025, let life sing! Birds are known across many cultures as one of the most welcomed and visible signs of spring. They represent both new beginnings and visits from loved ones who have passed away. The yearly return of birds and their songs offer us a sense of peace and hope.



More than **100,000** people are waiting on the national transplant waiting list for lifesaving organ transplants.



In 2024, more than **48,000** transplants from 24,000 donors brought renewed life to patients and their families and communities.

More than **78,000** corneal transplants helped to restore sight in 2023.



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.

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

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



Access to Healthcare's Board Member Spotlight

– Dr. Janice F. Whaley

Access to Healthcare Network sat down with our very own President and CEO, Dr. Janice Whaley, for a compelling Q&A session about the importance of donation and transplantation, the intricacies behind the gift of life and how others can get involved! Read all about it in their article.



[Read the full article](#)



A Royal Partnership

For the past ten years, Royal Ambulance crews have supported Donor Network West in their work to make organ donation possible.

This Donate Life Month, we're taking a moment to celebrate that partnership and the people behind it!



[Read the full article](#)



Do What You Love, Love What You Do

It is said that drinking from a mug with a quote that resonates with your personal journey can guide your actions and mindset. What does my favorite mug say? "Do What You Love. Love What You Do."

I have been working in the field of organ and tissue donation since 2010, and it became very personal to me in 2017 when my husband was an altruistic living donor starting a 64-person kidney chain. Over the last 15 years, my family and I have participated in countless outreach initiatives and raised thousands of dollars for the mission.

This April marks my third Donate Life Month with Donor Network West. Working with such a dedicated group of people across the entire organization has been an honor. While our marketing and community teams raise awareness year-round, this month brings our entire organization together to expand outreach further. This month is also when we pause to honor our donor heroes and their families through our Donor Family Ceremonies, serving as a powerful reminder of the lives that are transformed through the gift of life.

Year after year, together, we have raised the bar in making a profound impact across our communities. From our commitment to the Rose Parade and the Transplant Games to our partnership with the Giants and a vast array of community outreach programs, our initiatives educate and inspire diverse audiences, fostering a culture of understanding and support for organ donation. Seeing the Donate Life flag raised at hospitals throughout our service area and the record-breaking achievement of stewarding the gifts from 100 donors in the first two months of this year makes me so proud to be a small part of this life-saving mission.

Since the launch of our Foundation only 18 months ago, our fundraising events have been growing steadily. In addition to the annual Run/Walk in San Ramon, last year we added a second location in Fresno, attracting nearly 300 attendees while raising \$81,638, and a new golf outing raising \$192,726. As those events continue this year, we have added a community event this May on the Virginia Street Bridge in Reno and a gala in San Francisco slated for the end of the year. The generosity of our community will provide both outreach and resources that will help amplify our mission. However, philanthropy is about more than the dollars raised; it provides the opportunity for families and communities to come together toward a common goal, support one another, and express their gratitude to Donor Network West for offering hope and healing.

This Donate Life Month, I encourage all of us to reflect on our personal connections to organ donation - each story reinforces the importance of our mission. Continue to share stories of hope and life through conversation and social media. You may never fully know how your stories may have an impact down the line.



Women's History Month

This Women's History Month, we were honored to share the stories of the incredible women in our communities. Be sure to take a moment to remember the contributions, sacrifices and achievements the women in our lives and across the globe have reached, and will continue striving towards.



DONORNETWORKWEST

Celebrates

**WOMEN'S
HISTORY**
Month



National Kidney Month

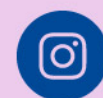
Throughout March, we had the privilege of educating our communities about kidney donation, living kidney donation, the life-saving impact of transplantation.



Vacaville High School Visits Norris Canyon once More

Donor Network West welcomed Vacaville High School students and faculty to our clinical facility in Norris Canyon. These heroes of tomorrow had the opportunity to hear stories from donor hero families, transplant recipients, and Donor Network West professionals who specialize in the multiple aspects of the #GiftOfLife.

These students were ready and avid listeners, excited to be hands-on and learn more about their professional futures within this life-saving healthcare and science sector. It is always a privilege to educate and nurture our communities.



**Check out the awesome day
the students had here:**

Light it Up for Donate Life Month!

The Annual Reno Arch Lighting

On April 1st, we lit the Reno Arch up blue 💙 and green 💚 to kick off National Donate Life Month! Donate Life Month is the opportunity to honor our donors, recipients and our partners. During the event, we presented two of our partners for being powerful advocates for organ, eye and tissue donation.

Check out our award winners for the night:



Outstanding Community Award

🏆 Latino Arte and Culture

Outstanding Hospital Partner Award

🏆 Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center ICU



A Symbol that Doesn't Waver

Donate Life Flag Raisings

The Donate Life Flag is more than a flag — it's a symbol of hope, healing, and legacy. It honors donors, celebrates second chances, and inspires hope for those still waiting. Join us in raising awareness and say 'yes' to organ, eye, and tissue donation. 💙💚



Proclaiming your Support

Donate Life Proclamations

Donor Network West and many of the cities we serve often come together during Donate Life Month to reaffirm their proclamation to honor and observe Donate Life Month. During these events, we recognize the selflessness and generosity of organ, eye, and tissue donors who have saved and enhanced lives. These are heartfelt moments that celebrate the incredible impact of donations on individuals and their families.



Innovation and Hope in Nursing

John Muir Nurse Symposium

Julie Gabbard, Donor Network West's Donation Program Consultant, Leslie Barratt, Donor Mother of Joe Barratt, who donated his heart to Ted Jung, and Ted himself, were all in attendance for John Muir Medical Center's Nurse Symposium. It was an excellent opportunity for the nursing community of John Muir Health to learn more about the gift of life, its importance, and how they can help facilitate successful outcomes in organ and tissue donation, transplantation and research.



Mission Champions Live at DNWest

MarCom Lunch and Learn

Our Marketing department's first Lunch and Learn was a hit, and we're so grateful for our attendees across the organization, both in person and via Zoom. If you showed up, wave those pendants around like you just don't care! Everyone that attended either in person or via Zoom will be receiving their gifts, and we're so glad you had an opportunity to learn more about how you can and will be a mission champion for Donor Network West.



We are halfway through Donate Life Month, and as a whole, we are busy!

A special shout-out to our Chico, Porterville, Reno, and Redding teams. Extra special kudos to the Porterville teams, as that story was also published in Spanish. Amazing job!

Your hard work has made it in the news!! These extraordinary news stories are EXACTLY what we are aiming for to promote our mission, work, and Donate Life Month.

A reminder to SHARE ONLINE and tag @mydnwest to keep the stories going online and in the news! Let's keep up the Donate Life good news!

The below media coverage includes stories published April 5 – April 11, 2025.

Enloe Health awarded Health Resources & Services Administration Donation Campaign Gold Recognition Award

By Will Anderson | KNVN-TV (Chico, CA)

Enloe Health says that the featured speakers for the ceremony were Jennifer Jeffries, the Nurse Manager of the Enloe Health Intensive Care Unit and Neuro-Trauma-Surgical ICU, Mike Underwood, RN, Assistant Nurse Manager of Enloe Health Critical Care, and Lori Singh, the Donation Program Consultant for Donor Network West.

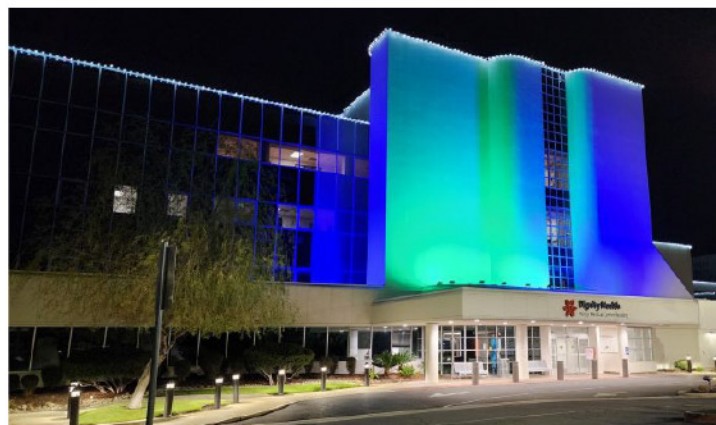


[4/10/2025 | Tweet Share on LinkedIn](#)

Redding's Mercy Medical Center illuminates blue and green lights for National Donate Life Month

Lassen County Times

Through organ, eye and tissue donations more than 9,000 people benefited from these life-saving and life-enhancing gifts from Mercy Medical Center Redding in 2024. According to Donor Network West, there are currently more than 100,000 individuals on the national transplant waiting list. Tragically, 17 people die every day while waiting for a transplant and every 10 minutes another person is added to the national transplant wait list.



Sierra View honors National Donate Life Month

Porterville Recorder

Sierra View Medical Center in partnership with Donor Network West, proudly kicked off National Donate Life Month with a flag-raising ceremony held in front of the hospital on Friday morning. The annual event serves as a symbol of hope for the more than 100,000 people in the United States currently waiting for life-saving organ transplants — including those right here in this community. [This story was also published in Spanish here.](#)

[4/08/2025 | Tweet Share on LinkedIn](#)

Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center Recognized as Outstanding Hospital Partner During National Donate Life Month

Reno

In honor of National Donate Life Month this April, Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center was recognized by Donor Network West for their support in life-saving organ and tissue donation. In 2024, Saint Mary's helped facilitate 18 critical organ transplants and improved the lives of countless others through tissue and eye donations from 32 donor heroes, offering hope and healing to countless families.

[4/07/2025 | Tweet Share on LinkedIn](#)

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and don't miss a beat!



There are plenty of events and celebrations that we're privileged to be a part of! The best way to stay updated on everything we have going on is to follow us on social media @MyDNWest across all platforms! Our Instagram is a fantastic place to start, or maybe you enjoy Facebook. Either way, we're everywhere, and we'll see you there!

