

THE BEST OF DONOR NETWORK WEST



March Recap 2026

Written by Maxwell | Designed by Brooke



DONOR NETWORK WEST

This March was National Kidney and Women's History Month, a vital time to raise awareness about kidney health, preventative healthcare, the critical need for organ donation, and to celebrate and honor the incredible women in our communities and lives.

Throughout this month, we have the privilege of educating our communities about kidney organ donation, living kidney donation, the life-saving impact of transplantation, and the everlasting impact women have made in medicine, social work, science, research, transplantation and beyond.

Now, we're jumping right into National Donate Life Month!



"I am here today because in the midst of unimaginable loss, my donor's family chose to give life to someone they'd never met. I don't know who they are, but I carry them with me every day."

- Lauren Martelle, Transplant Recipient



Visit our
shareables page here



Best of Donor Network West
Newsletter Library

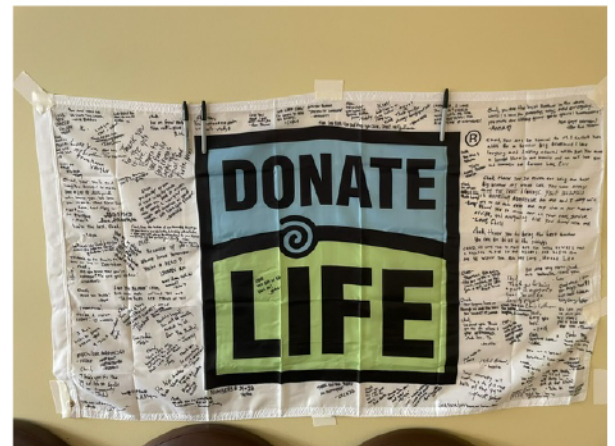
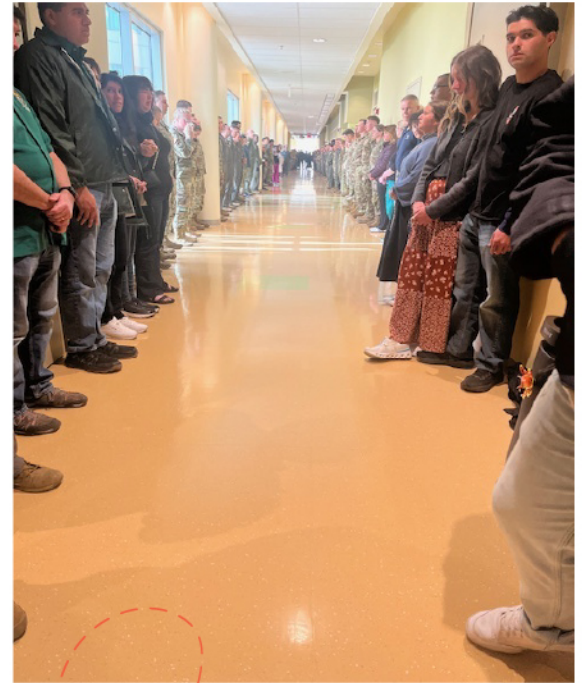
Captain Chad P. Kousky - Patriot & Donor Hero

Following a tragic accident on February 15th, Captain Chad P. Kousky's family traveled to be by his side the very next day. Over the course of the week, all six of Chad's siblings — along with nearly 25 family members were able to spend time with him, pray for healing, and surround him with love.

Chad was honored at a memorial service held at Travis Air Force Base, followed later that day by an Honor Walk back at the hospital. The turnout was so overwhelming that staff created an exceptionally long path — a powerful reflection of the many lives Chad touched.

Chad was known for his incredible sense of humor, his love of the outdoors, and his unwavering dedication to service. A gifted engineer and Air Force pilot, he pursued every opportunity to grow, serve, and uplift those around him. His kindness, positivity, and commitment to others left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.

Although his family did not know Chad had registered as a donor, his decision now becomes part of the legacy he leaves behind — one of courage, generosity, and hope. We are deeply grateful to Chad and to the Kousky family for sharing his story and honoring his life through the gift of donation.



[click the link to view more](#)

Rounding bases in Reno for life

Carson City resident Tina Megasson represented Donor Network West as the Reno Aces' Home Run for Life game participant on March 27th, honoring the life and inspiring legacy of her daughter, Cristy Lea "Cookie" Cook—a grateful organ transplant recipient, longtime organ donation advocate and organ donor whose final gifts saved and healed many lives.

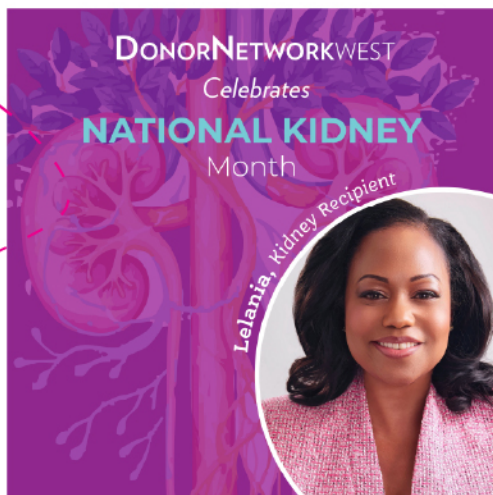


Celebrating Kidney Health and Women's History

To Celebrate Kidney Health and our Lovely Ladies

Take a moment to learn about some of the incredible staff, ambassadors, and community members that we had the privilege of celebrating this March for National Kidney and Women's History Month!

Please visit our observance page to learn more about both National Kidney and Women's History Month



click the link to view more



click the link to view more

REGIONAL PRESS

Reno Arch lights up for Donate Life Month

By Katherine Nowicki | KRXI-TV (Reno, NV)

E'Tiffany Jones with Donor Network West joined Marianna Daniele to talk about lighting the Reno Arch blue and green throughout April to raise awareness organ, eye and tissue donation.



Lauren Martelle Interview

KTVN-TV (Reno, NV) - 2 News

Aimee Arellano of KTVN-TV Reno spoke with Donor Network West Ambassador Lauren Martelle on the significance of the Reno Arch Lighting and what it represents.



Enloe Health raises Donate Life flag in annual ceremony, marks National Donate Life Month

By Hannah Gutierrez | KRCR-TV (Redding/Chico, CA)

April is National Donate Life Month, a time dedicated to educating the community about the significance of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Enloe Health hosted its annual Donate Life Flag Ceremony on Thursday to raise awareness of its impact. The event also highlighted the story of Shasta County resident Danielle Coleman, who reflected on the impact of organ donation. Although he was not registered as an organ donor, Coleman says that she was approached by Donor Network West to consider donation on his behalf.



Aces Celebrate New Extension with the City, Support a Local Baseball Team and More on 2026 Opening Day

Our Sports Central

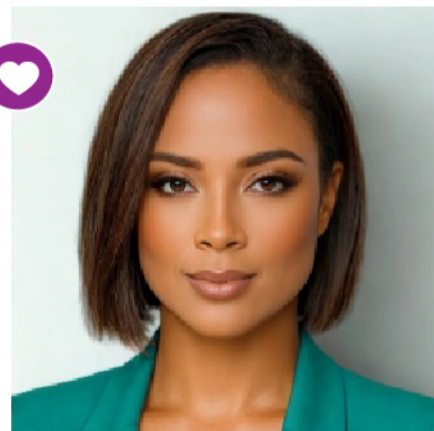
The first "Home Run for Life" of the season will take place during the middle of the second inning on opening day. The Aces will once again partner with Donor Network West to honor a northern Nevada community member who has either received a life-saving transplant, lost a loved one who gave the gift of life through organ donation, or supported those impacted by organ, eye and tissue donation.



The Top 50 Women Chief Operating Officers of 2026

By Charisse Gasulas | Women We Admire

Corina B. Clark is the COO at Donor Network West in San Ramon, California, and president of the California Association of Healthcare Leaders. Her dynamic career spans strategic leadership, operational efficiency and patient satisfaction across some of the nation's top healthcare systems.



Med Watch: Healthcare Heroes

KGPE-TV (Fresno, CA)

Dr. Arash Afshinnik is being recognized for helping families find hope in life's most challenging moments. When recovery is impossible, his team works in close partnership with Donor Network West to help families navigate one of the hardest conversations possible—organ donation. In February, Dr. Afshinnik received the 2026 Industry Partner Award at Donor Network West's Heart of Hope Gala.





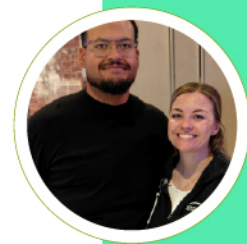
April is National Donate Life Month

DONORNETWORKWEST.org

Reno Arch Lighting

Donor Network West gathered northern Nevada community leaders, partners and ambassadors to turn more than 2,000 lightbulbs on the Reno Arch blue and green for the entire month of April in recognition of National Donate Life Month. The event raises awareness of the life-saving impact of organ, eye and tissue donation.

Marking its sixth annual ceremonial lighting at the Reno Arch, the Donor Network West event paid tribute to northern Nevada's organ donors and their families, and served as a call to action for others to register as organ donors.



[CLICK HERE TO SEE LAUREN INTERVIEW](#)

LIVING DONOR DAY

**Luis Mayen** 

His donation was altruistic, and he views it “purely as a Gift of Life” to a dialysis patient in dire need of a second chance. Take a look at an interview we were privileged to have with Luis back in 2024, in which he discusses his decision to become a living hero.

**Jason McCluney** 

Jason McCluney’s path to becoming an altruistic, two-time organ donor started with a conversation with a friend about driving past someone stranded on the side of the freeway. His first thought was always the same: “I should stop and help.” But other voices would bubble up in his mind: “They’ll be fine. Help is on the way.”

In 2019, Jason decided to listen to that first voice and began his journey through UCSF’s living kidney donation program.

**Jason Baustista** 

Meet Jason Bautista, a living kidney donor who donated his kidney to his mother in 2018 at the UCSF Medical Center, saving her life. We’re in awe of his bravery and generosity, and we know that his story will inspire others to consider becoming a living donor.

Last year, Jason went above and beyond for his community by inviting the BodyFIT San Ramon squad to our Stride For Hope Run/Walk! Living Donors are great in front of the camera.

Let’s take a moment to recognize Jason and all living donors who have made meaningful sacrifices.



Join Us!

SF City Hall Lights

Turn City Hall Lights Blue and Green!
Celebrating National Donate Life Month

Friday, April 10, 2026

7:30 - 8:00 p.m.

San Francisco City Hall

Doctor Carlton B Goodlett Place
meet across the street from City Hall

Parking/BART: The City Hall is accessible by BART or you can park at the Impark -Civic Center Garage Lot 200 (355 McAllister Street, San Francisco)

Lanica Garcia | LanicaGarcia@DNWest.org | 510.859.6722



Please join us in celebrating
NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

Flag Raising in honor of donor

JAYE YAKSIC

Monday April 13th | 11:00

JOHN MUIR MEDICAL CENTER

1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
(East Entrance)



SAVING LIVES ON THE FIELD

Across Northern California and Northern Nevada, catch Donor Network West at the game! We're partnering with the Reno Aces, Fresno State Bulldogs, San Jose Earthquakes and more to continue educating our communities on why we say "YES" to organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation.

HELP SAVE AND HEAL LIVES. JOIN THE REGISTRY!   DONORNETWORKWEST.org



SHARE A COMMON GOAL

DONOR NETWORK WEST



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JOIN THE REGISTRY!

Heal a life through organ, eye and tissue donation




National Donate Life Month














Shareables Kit 2026



DONORNETWORKWEST.org ▶ [Get Involved](#) ▶ [Shareables](#) ▶ [National Donate Life Month](#)

April is National Donate Life Month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		31	Donate Life Living Donor Day 	2	3	Spirit Week Dress Up Your Pets 
5 Make Blue & Green Treats 	6 Thank Your Healthcare Team 	7 Write a Message of Hope 	8 Donate Life Flag Raising Day 	9 Create Donate Life Art 	10 National Donate Life Blue & Green Day 	11 Share Your Decision Day 
12	13	14	15 DMV Appreciation Day 	16	17	18
19 National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 19-25) 	20 Volunteer Appreciation Week 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Donor Remembrance Day 		

Learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation and register today at DONORNETWORKWEST.org

Donor Network West's 2026 National Donate Life Month Shareables Kit

Dear Donation Community Partner,

Thank you for helping us promote the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation with your audience!

This content sharables kit provides key information and templates to use during the month of April in recognition of Donate Life Month, as well as year round.



















In addition to this document, Donor Network West offers ready-to-share graphics for social media, e-newsletters and other publications. Graphics are available for download at:

DonorNetworkWest.org/shareables/national-donate-life-month/

The Donate Life Month Toolkit includes the following documents:

Page 2	2026 National Donate Life Month Theme
Page 3	Donation & Transplantation Statistics
Page 4	Social Media
Page 5	Social Media Posts
Page 6	Social Media Posts (Continued) , Press Release / Newsletter Copy
Page 7	Social Media Graphic Shareables Menu
Page 8	Digital Graphic Shareables Menu
Page 9	Printable Graphic Shareables Menu

Key Dates to Observe During the Month of April:

 	April 1-30	Donate Life Month
 	April 1	Donate Life Living Donor Day
 	April 4-11	Blue & Green Spirit Week
 	April 10	National Donate Life Blue & Green Day
 	April 15	DMV Appreciation Day
 	April 19-25	Volunteer Appreciation Week
 	April 19-25	National Pediatric Transplant Week
 	April 19-25	Transplant Nurses Week
 	April 30	Donor Remembrance Day



DONOR NETWORK WEST



@mydnwest

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!

