

THE BEST OF DONOR NETWORK WEST



June Recap 2026

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Property of Donor Network West*



DONOR NETWORK WEST

Welcome, Donor Network West family, to the Summer of Saving Lives! This past June, we were honored to celebrate our Donate Life community across Northern California and Northern Nevada with a multitude of events and celebrations that you and many other #GiftOfLife advocates attended. We can't thank you enough for your support, but to start, please enjoy this newsletter recapping our June adventures and sharing our upcoming events throughout the summer and into the fall!



We hope you enjoy reading this monthly newsletter as much as we enjoyed creating it to educate the world about the #GiftOfLife



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Best of Donor Network West
Newsletter Library



CALIFORNIA DONOR REGISTRY REACHES



DONOR

REGISTERED DONORS

This June, the State of California hit an incredible milestone of reaching 20 million registered donors on the National Donation Registry.

"Never lose hope, because there are people registering to become organ donors every day, and those people are saving lives," said Delia Sanchez, a kidney and liver transplant recipient. "So don't ever give up. Always stay strong and always be positive."

The milestone followed National Donate Life Month in April, an annual campaign observed since 2003 that encourages people to register as organ donors. This year, it was capped off with a Donate Life flag-raising ceremony at PayPal Park in San Jose, held in partnership with the San Jose Earthquakes before the team's U.S. Open Cup match on April 28.

More than 48,000 transplants were performed in the United States in 2024, according to HRSA. A single organ donor can save as many as eight lives, while tissue donation can improve the lives of more than 75 others.



[CLICK HERE TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

A Father's Day Celebrating the #GiftOfLife in Denver

On Father's Day, at the Transplant Games of America in Denver, we had the privilege of interviewing Arthur Deffaa and his daughter, Alexandrah, on how incredible it is that they can experience these Transplant Games together as a family thanks to the second chance at life that he received, and how after these games, Arthur will get to fulfill a dream every father has for their daughter

Arthur and Alexandrah are excellent reminders of what the Transplant Games of America are all about.



TOGETHER *as* ONE

We Bridge the Gap!

Bridging the Gap for the 2nd Year in a Row

Together as One, every year, every day, and in every action we take, we are bridging the gap.

ICYMI: In June, we had the honor and privilege of bringing together the Donate Life Community and inviting more members into the family by hosting our Together as One Banquet on the Virginia Street Bridge. Our people were amped all afternoon and night as New Wave Crave rocked the stage, Archie and the Reno Aces came to show love, and MC Katey Roshetko of KOLO provided an incredible session of interviews with our community members of donor families and transplant recipients, sharing their stories with hundreds who came across the bridge that day.

It's a yearly celebration we're so grateful for, and seeing it grow to this level has been a remarkable sign of love from the Biggest Little City in the World.



View photos
here!



DONOR
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View video
here!



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Transplant Games

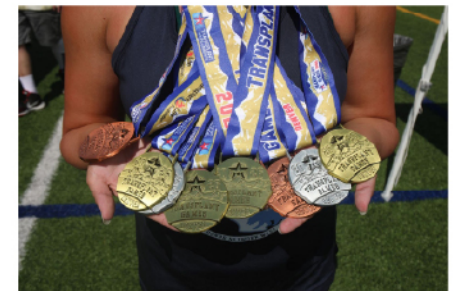
2026 - Denver



TeamCalNev returns home from the Transplant Games of America with the Team Champion Award for the 2nd Transplant Games in a row!

Team Cal Nev put their hearts on their sleeves and extended the legacies of every donor hero & family who has touched their lives and many beyond us, as seen all across Denver this past week.

Every single athlete put together performances that they will never forget, met strangers who became family, and immersed themselves into a community that is so profound, we made our way into the Guinness Book of World Records.



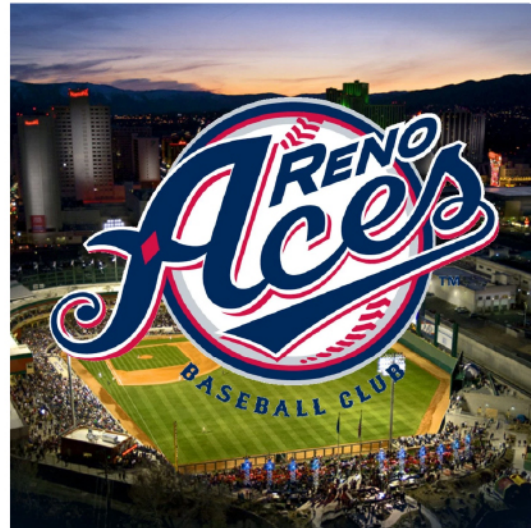
Rounding the Bases for Mark

Home Run For Life always steals the show

Home Run For Life always steals the show! Thank you to Pete and Tatum for running the bases in honor of Mark Anderson during our Home Run For Life ceremony.

Mark's journey to his large, blended family began in Ely, Nevada where two families would ultimately become one. After the loss of his first wife, Mark later married Nancy, the widow of a family friend. The two families had already been connected through the marriage of Mark's son, Peter, and Nancy's daughter, Stacey. What began as friendship and connection through shared loss evolved into a close-knit family united by love and support.

Mark died at the age of 85 after facing numerous health challenges. Because of his medical conditions, he believed he would not qualify to be a donor. When his family learned that donation was still possible, they chose to honor his legacy by saying yes to donation offering hope, healing and the gift of life to others even after his passing.



Recognizing Freedom For All

"Increasing organ donation in minority communities is not just about numbers – it's about saving lives and giving hope to families."

–Dr. Velma Scantlebury, the first African American female transplant surgeon.

On June 19, we recognize Juneteenth, honoring the day in 1865 when freedom finally reached the last enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas. This day is both a celebration of resilience and a call to action.

Donor Network West stands in solidarity with efforts to eliminate disparities in donation and transplantation. Black Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population and account for 27% of those waiting for an organ transplant in the U.S. Your decision to register as a donor can help save lives and bring hope to those waiting for a lifesaving transplant. This Juneteenth, join us in reflecting, uplifting, and recommitting to a future where every life has an equal chance.





3rd Annual CHIPPING AWAY 4 HOPE Golf Tournament

Chipping Away in Honor of Donor Heroes

This June, the Donor Network West Foundation hosted their 3rd annual Chipping Away 4 Hope Golf Classic at the Blackhawk Country Club, celebrating and honoring the life of Tyler Nelson, a courageous young man who had cystic fibrosis, received a life-saving double lung and liver transplant, and dedicated himself to raising awareness for organ donation—embodying the very hope this tournament celebrates.



DONORNETWORKWEST
Proudly celebrates



Pride
MONTH



#ShareTheLove

Celebrating Love for All

Donor Network West joined the San Francisco Bay Area community to celebrate Pride Month in SF!

Inclusivity lies at the heart of our mission. We firmly believe that no matter your gender identity or sexual orientation, everyone deserves equal access to life-saving organ and tissue transplants. Our commitment extends to creating a safe and affirming environment for all, free from discrimination and prejudice. We strive to ensure that every person, regardless of who they are or who they love, has the opportunity to live a full and healthy life.

Pride is about celebrating love in all its forms and who you love doesn't change your ability to save lives through organ donation.



Heal a life through organ, eye and tissue donation

SHARE THE LOVE

DonorNetworkWest.org



[Donor Network West and Team CalNev secure Team Champion Award at Transplant Games of America](#)

PR Newswire

Donor Network West and Team CalNev compete at the 2026 Transplant Games, securing 126 medals and the Team Champion Award.



[Donor Family to Represent Donor Network West at Reno Aces' Home Run for Life Game June 26](#)

This is Reno

Mark Anderson's family will represent Donor Network West as the Reno Aces' Home Run for Life participant Friday, June 26, honoring the life and inspiring legacy of a man whose generosity and commitment to helping others extended beyond his lifetime. Mark's journey to his large, blended family began in Ely, Nevada where two families would ultimately become one. After the loss of his first wife, Mark later married Nancy, the widow of a family friend.



[KKOH-AM \(Reno, NV\)](#)

Dr. Ahmad Salehi discussing the importance of the new VITAL Core technology and how more lives will be saved overall."
6/21/2026



[KKOH-AM \(Reno, NV\) \(VITAL Core Part 1\)](#)

Part 1 of Dr. Salehi interview discussing VITAL Core. Will be some overlap with part 2.
6/21/2026



[Organ donation: One heroic decision can save a life](#)

By Jerry Saliman | J. The Jewish News of Northern California

Op-ed discusses views shared within the Jewish community on organ donation and the positive impact it can have on the community. Article links back to Donor Network West to learn more.



[Northern Nevada Community Gathered as "Together as One" Celebrated the Gift of Life in Reno](#)

This is Reno

Northern Nevada community members gathered on Reno's Virginia Street Bridge for the "Together as One" banquet, hosted by Donor Network West. The event honored organ, eye, and tissue donors, their families, and transplant recipients while raising awareness about the life-saving impact of donation. The celebration featured more than 150 attendees who came together to recognize donor heroes, celebrate second chances for recipients, and inspire more Nevadans to register as donors in a state where hundreds of people are waiting for transplants.



[2 News Nevada at 11:00pm](#)

KTVN-TV (Reno, NV)

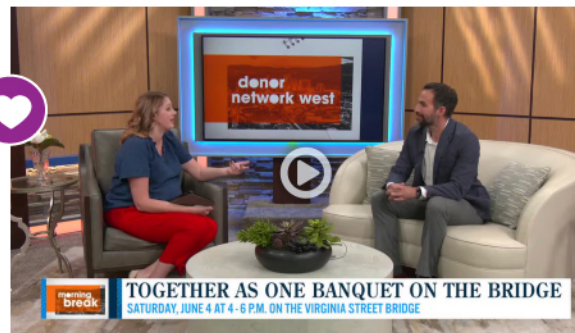
Northern Nevada community members gathered on Reno's Virginia Street Bridge for the "Together as One" banquet, hosted by Donor Network West. Matt Graves, VP of Tissue Operations, shared the importance of the event of recognizing donor heroes, celebrating second chances for recipients, and inspiring more Nevadans to register as donors.



Community invited to Together as One banquet for Donor Network West

By Katelyn Farnsworth | KOLO-TV (Reno, NV)

Matt Graves, Vice President of Donor Operations for Northern Nevada, joined KOLO 8's Morning Break news segment to share the upcoming "Together as One" fundraiser hosted by Donor Network West on June 6 at Reno's Virginia Street Bridge. The event will bring the community together to share a meal and discuss the impact of organ, eye, and tissue donation and will also feature stories from donor families, recipients, and advocates, highlighting generosity and second chances.



KOLO (ABC) - KOLO 8 News Now @ 4PM

KOLO-TV (Reno, NV)

Matt Graves, Vice President of Donor Operations for Northern Nevada, sat down with Denise Wong for an additional KOLO, Channel 8, interview about Together as One. The segment aired in the 4 p.m. broadcast Monday, June 1.



KOLO (ABC) - KOLO 8 Morning Break

Matt Graves, Vice President of Donor Operations for Northern Nevada, joined KOLO 8's Morning Break news segment to share the upcoming "Together as One" fundraiser hosted by Donor Network West on June 6 at Reno's Virginia Street Bridge. The event will bring the community together to share a meal and discuss the impact of organ, eye, and tissue donation and will also feature stories from donor families, recipients, and advocates, highlighting generosity and second chances.



Donor Network West and Team CalNev secure Team Champion Award at Transplant Games of America

Representing "Team CalNev," Donor Network West and 60 athletes recently attended and competed at the Transplant Games of America in Denver earlier this month. Recipients and living donor athletes secured 126 medals (56 gold, 47 silver and 23 bronze) for Team CalNev as well as the Team Champion Award for the second year in a row. The event was attended by organ, eye and tissue donors and recipients, supporters and caregivers from the northern California and northern Nevada area.



Save American Lives this Independence Day!

We hope everyone had a safe and wonderful 4th of July weekend!" Heroes made our freedom and independence possible. Heroes, like registered organ, tissue, and eye donors, can also make life possible!





STRIDE FOR HOPE

Walking to honor organ, eye and tissue donor heroes

**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL STRIDE FOR HOPE RUN/WALKS IN
SAN RAMON, CA AND FRESNO, CA EVERY SEPTEMBER.**

Celebrating our 16th year, this event celebrates the incredible gift of life through organ, eye, and tissue donation. Together we honor and celebrate donors and recipients, while raising awareness and inspiring hope with every stride!



San Ramon, CA

September 12th, 2026



Fresno, CA

September 26th, 2026



REGISTER TODAY!



@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!

