

Resources

Websites

Organ and tissue donation and recovery is a complex, highly emotional process. The potential donor has suffered a sudden trauma, accident or incident. Blood no longer flows through the brain. Family members are grieving, confused and often angry. Their loved one has died.

Some families have discussed donation. Many have not. Unable to talk with the potential donor, family members are often at a loss. Should they consent to organ and tissue donation?

The framework that allows for organ and tissue donation began in 1984. Congress enacted the National Organ Transplant Act and established the Division of Transplant (DOT) as a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that human organs and tissues are distributed in a fair and efficient manner.

On September 30, 1986, DOT awarded a contract to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), located in Richmond, Virginia, to operate the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) and the Scientific Registry. UNOS maintains a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week computer system that helps OPOs and transplant centers equitably match donor organs to transplant candidates. This computer maintains the status of thousands of potential recipients, allowing for up to the minute changes in patient status.

Books

For Children

The Giving Tree.....	Silverstein, Shel
Learning to Say Goodbye: When a Parent Dies.....	LeShan, Eda
The Mulberry Music: Death of a Grandparent.....	Orgel, Doris
Rachel & The Upside Down Heart.....	Douglas, Eileen
Sarah's Journey: One Child's Experience with Death Of Her Father.....	Wolfelt, Alan
When Mommy Died: A Child's View of Death.....	Hammond, Janice
Why Did Daddy Die.....	Alderman, Linda
Donor Banks: Saving Lives with Organ & Tissue Transplants.....	Lee, Sally
Spare Parts for People.....	Facklam, Margery
How Will They Get That Heart Down Your Throat?	Walton, Karen
Precious Gifts, Katie Coolican's Story: Barkley and Eve Explain Organ Donation	Carney, Karen L.
Justin's Journey: My Life as a Kid With Kidney Disease.....	Hill, Justin
*Lizzy Gets A New Liver.....	Ribal, Lizzy
*Red's True Heart.....	Freeman, J.A. and Mary
When Daddy Got Sick: A Story About Organ Transplantation.....	McCreight, Shawn
When Someone Very Special Dies.....	Heegaard, Marge
A New Heart for Hannah.....	Flynn, Jessie
Transplants.....	Beckelman, Laurie
There's A Little Bit of Me in Jamey.....	Amadeo, Diana
The Fall of Freddy the Leaf.....	Buscaglia, Leo
Series by Tony Huesman:	Huesman Heart Foundation

- Cardiac Kids

- There Are Some Things More Important Than Baseball
- His Only Hope
- Heart Smart

* Bilingual: English and Spanish in one book

For Teenagers and Adults

For Those Who Live.....	La Tour, Kathy
The Grieving Child: A Parent's Guide.....	Fitzgerald, Helen
Helping Children Cope With Grief.....	Wolfelt, Alan
How Do We Tell The Children	Schaafer, Dan
How it Feels When A Parent Dies.....	Krementz, Jill
Our Hero, Freebird, An Organ Donor's Story.....	8th grade students in Joy McCaleb's Reading Classes of 1997
Eva.....	Dickinson, Peter
Saving Jessica.....	McDaniels, Lurlene
She Died Too Young.....	McDaniels, Lurlene
Someone Dies, Someone Lives.....	McDaniels, Lurlene
Somewhere Between Life and Death.....	McDaniels, Lurlene
The Nicholas Effect. A Boy's Gift to the World.....	Green, Reg
A Gift of Life: A Page from the Life of a Living Organ Donor.....	Chabot-Long, Lynn
For Those Who Give and Grieve: A Book for Donor Families.....	NKF
Hope From My Heart.....	DeVos, Rich
It Gets Dark Sometimes: My Sister's Fight to Live and Save Lives.....	Marx, Jeffrey LifeLine
How One Night Changed Five Lives, A True Story.....	Schomaker, Mary Zimmeth
Life Row, a Case Study on How A Family Can Survive a Medical Crisis.....	Linz, Ed
Organ Transplants: Making the Most of Your Gift of Life.....	Finn, Robert
Second Chances: Receiving the Gift of Life.....	Lueders, Jeff
The Etiquette of Illness: What to Say When You Can't Find the Words.....	Susan P. Halpern

Loss of a Sibling

Am I Still A Sister?.....	Sims, Alicia M.
Losing Someone You Love: When Brother or Sister Dies	Richter, Elizabeth
Recovering From The Loss of A Sibling	Donnelly, Katherine
Where's Jess?	Johnson, Joy

Books of Religious/Spiritual Nature

Death With Understanding.....	Religious Research
Writers Living With Loss: A Pastor's Memoir	Veal, Ernest
Roses in December: Comfort For The Grieving Heart.....	Heavilin, Marilyn
Roses in December: Finding Strength Within Grief.....	Heavilin, Marilyn
When Bad Things Happen to Good People.....	Kushner, Harold S.
Glimpses of God – a mother chronicles her daughter's death and her own personal grief.....	Peele, Michelle

*NOTES:

1. Please be aware that this is not any sort of official government list, but a list I compiled from suggested works sent to me by some great sharing people.
2. I may well have put some books in the wrong category; please advise if I did, and I will move the title to a more suitable home. If you need publishers identified, call me and I'll look in my paper file. I didn't have time to re-type everything.
3. I have not read most of these books; they were recommended by others in the donation community, and I strongly urge you to preview anything new to you to evaluate its appropriateness for your purpose. Some of the books all of us know and love, but I hope there are some unknown to you that you'll enjoy exploring. I know I am looking forward to 'The Fall of Freddy the Leaf' and "There's A Little Bit of Me in Jamey."

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