

## For More Information

The Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC) is the federally designated organ procurement organization for the metropolitan D.C. area.

WRTC provides excellence and integrity in organ, cornea and tissue donation and transplantation services. It also works to support donor families.

They can help your place of worship proclaim the good news that organ and tissue donation saves and enhances lives.

**For more information, contact WRTC at:**

**1-866-Be-A-Donor**  
**703.641.0100**

[www.beadonor.org](http://www.beadonor.org)

**Say "Yes" and  
save lives!**

**For more information about dispelling myths visit:**  
[www.beadonor.org/myths\\_facts.cfm](http://www.beadonor.org/myths_facts.cfm)

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Articles in this newsletter are not a substitute for the care and advice of medical professionals. When you have a question or need medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, consult your physician.

This newsletter is produced by Inova Health System in conjunction with your faith community. If you prefer not to receive this newsletter, please notify the appropriate personnel in your faith community.

Inova Health System is a not-for-profit health care system based in Northern Virginia that consists of hospitals and other health services including emergency and urgent care centers, home care, nursing homes, mental health, blood donor services, and wellness classes. Governed by a voluntary board of community members, Inova's mission is to improve the health of the diverse community we serve through excellence in patient care, education and research.

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[www.inova.org/chp](http://www.inova.org/chp)  
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**You have the  
power to  
Donate Life!**

**Be an organ,  
cornea and  
tissue donor.**

*Congregational  
Health  
Partnership  
is a program  
of Inova  
Community  
Affairs Division*



## For Your Health

### The Critical Role of Faith in Donations

Today, more than 102,000 patients are waiting for a life saving organ transplant. More than 2,000 on our local area wait for a second chance at life. Sadly, 18 people die every day waiting for a transplant that will not come.

There is a high degree of certainty that someone in your congregation has a donation or transplantation connection--or knows someone who died while waiting. There is also a likelihood, that you may know of someone who was able to give the gift of life.

Every day, each one of us has the power to donate life. We ask you to become educated about donation and make a decision to become an organ and tissue donor. Most important is that once you have made your decision, that you share it with your family.

There are various reasons why people are reluctant to donate, but many are directly related to myths and misunderstandings. One common myth is that a person's religion prohibits organ and tissue donation. In fact, many religions and faith denominations support donation as charitable acts of love and giving. To learn about different religious views, visit: <http://www.beadonor.org> (click on Resources) or [http://organdonor.gov/donation/religious\\_views.htm](http://organdonor.gov/donation/religious_views.htm).

*You have the power to change someone's world by being  
an organ, eye and tissue donor. It's about living.  
It's about Life.*

## Donation Saves Lives

One organ donor can save the lives of 9 people. One tissue donor can enhance the lives of more than 50 people. Anyone can be considered for donation. There is such a critical need for organs currently in the U.S., the criteria for donation are changing constantly. Many people believe they cannot donate due to a past medical history or age. In most cases anyone can be a donor.



### How to sign up?

You may register your intent at the Department of Motor Vehicles when obtaining or renewing their driver's license. You can also register your decision in your state's online registry:

**DC: [www.DonateLifeDC.org](http://www.DonateLifeDC.org)**

**MD: [www.DonateLifeMaryland.org](http://www.DonateLifeMaryland.org)**

**VA: [www.Save7Lives.org](http://www.Save7Lives.org)**

**For those without internet access:**

**Call 1-866-Be-a-Donor**

**and ask for a paper registration form to mail in.**

## Common Myths



**Myth.** I'm not in the best health. Nobody would want my organs.

**Reality.** Very few medical conditions automatically disqualify you from donating organs. The decision to use an organ is based on strict medical criteria. It may turn out that certain organs are not suitable for transplantation, but other organs and tissues may be fine.

**Myth.** If I agree to donate my organs, my doctor or the emergency room staff won't work as hard to save my life. They'll remove my organs as soon as possible to save somebody else.

**Reality.** When you go to the hospital for treatment, doctors focus on saving **your** life — not somebody else's. You'll be seen by a doctor whose specialty most closely matches your particular emergency.

## Know the Facts

- ♥ Donation becomes an option only after all life-saving efforts have been made and death has been declared. Your commitment to donation will **NOT** interfere with your medical care.
- ♥ There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and for funeral expenses.
- ♥ Donation should not delay or change funeral arrangements. An open casket service is possible.
- ♥ It is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation in the United States.
- ♥ Organs are distributed based upon medical information like blood type, body size, and tissue type matching through a national computer network operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). It is illegal to distribute organs based on non-medical information such as wealth, citizenship, or celebrity status. Tissue is distributed based upon patient need, availability, and medical criteria.