



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE DONATE LIFE TEXAS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Advocates gather in Austin to celebrate the Texas organ, eye and tissue donor registry.

Austin, TX (March 13, 2015) – In 2014, 739 heroic people in Texas donated organs that made a record number of lifesaving transplants possible. Thanks to those donors and the thousands of medical professionals and donation advocates across the state, the agonizing wait for a second chance at life is over for more than 2,600 transplant recipients. But, for more than 12,000 other Texans, the wait isn't over yet.

On Monday, March 23, 2015, medical professionals, donor families, transplant patients and recipients, volunteers and representatives of organ and tissue procurement organizations will gather at the Texas capitol to help raise Texas legislators' awareness of the rising need for transplants and how the official Donate Life Texas donor registry is helping save more lives than ever before.

Donate Life Texas Day at the Capitol in Austin, Texas

Monday, March 23, 2015

Preliminary Agenda – times subject to change

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<i>Share Your Donate Life Story</i> display in Capitol Rotunda
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast and State of the State's Donor Registry Briefing
9:45 – 10:15 a.m.	Donate Life Texas Resolution read from House Floor
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Donate Life Texas group photo in the Capitol Building
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Donate Life Texas Resolution read from Senate Floor
11:15 a.m. on	Legislative office visits

Established by state law in 2005, the Glenda Dawson Donate Life Texas organ, eye and tissue donor registry provides an easy and secure way for Texans to record legal consent for donation. Because organ and tissue recovery organizations consult the Donate Life Texas registry during every potential donor case, registering ensures that a person's decision to donate is known after death.

The growth of the Donate Life Texas registry to more than 7 million registrants is due in large part to partnerships with the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Transportation, which allow Texans to sign up conveniently while applying for or renewing their driver's license, ID card or vehicle registration. Additionally, a partnership with the City of Austin to promote donation among city employees has been instrumental in boosting registration in Travis County to include more than 50 percent of adults.

Growing the Donate Life Texas registry is vital to making more transplants possible. When surveyed, 96% of Americans favor donation. But, when asked under the grief and distress of loss, actual family-provided consent hovers closer to 70-75 percent and even lower among minority communities. The registry lifts the decision-making burden from grieving families by letting the individual's own choice to donate be made known. In 2014, 226 people registered through Donate Life Texas donated 805 organs for transplant.

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DONATE LIFE TEXAS DAY AT THE CAPITOL (cont.)

About Texas Transplant Society

Texas Transplantation Society is a 501c6 non-profit organization that seeks to advance transplantation and organ donation throughout Texas, promoting the savings of lives through organ donation and transplantation. The society is actively involved in supporting both federal and state legislation that improves or saves the lives of transplant recipients, such as the recently passed HOPE Act, legislation that created the Donate Life Texas Registry, the Living Donor Protection Act, and many others. To learn more about donation and transplantation, as well as to sign up to be an organ, tissue, or eye donor, please visit www.transplanttexas.org.

About Donate Life Texas

The Donate Life Texas organ donor registry started in 2006 and celebrated its 5 millionth registration in early 2014, making it among the fastest growing registries in the country. The registry is supported by all three Texas organ procurement organizations, LifeGift, Southwest Transplant Alliance and Texas Organ Sharing Alliance.

Signing up is fast and easy at DonateLifeTexas.org and provides a way for individuals to make their decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor known. It also provides legal, first-person authorization for organs to be donated upon death, which removes the burden of decision-making from the family during an already difficult time.

Donate Life Texas is part of the Donate Life America not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and local partners across the United States, serving as a national voice and inspiring all people to save and enhance lives through organ, eye and tissue donation.

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