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TEXAS STATE ORGAN DONOR REGISTRY REACHES 7 MILLION

Donate Life Texas organ, eye & tissue donor registry celebrates 7 million sign ups.

Dallas, TX (January 2015) – Donate Life Texas is celebrating having registered 7 million organ, eye and tissue donors. Donate Life Texas was created to help save lives by making more organs available for thousands of patients awaiting lifesaving transplants.

The Donate Life Texas registry provides a convenient and legal method for individuals to record a desire to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. Established in 2006, the registry is growing and producing lifesaving results. Last year, the number of registered organ donor cases in Texas rose to an all-time high of 226 donors, an increase of nearly 63% from the previous year. The organs donated by these heroic people made nearly 800 transplants possible in 2014.

“Donate Life Texas has reached this new milestone thanks to the active support of individuals and organizations across the state,” says Donate Life Texas board chair Patricia Niles. “Of the 7 million Texans now registered, 98% of them joined the registry by saying yes to donation while applying for an ID or driver’s license through our partners at the Texas Department of Public Safety. Together, we celebrate how far we have come and together, we will continue the lifesaving work.”

The Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS) is one of the registry’s most engaged supporters. In 2014, nearly 760 TxDPS staff members in driver’s license offices from El Paso to Longview, from Harlingen to Sherman hosted Donate Life Texas volunteers for sessions designed to help increase awareness about donation and to thank them for their critical role in the process.

However, with more than 13,600 Texas patients currently on the national transplant waiting list, demand continues to outstrip the availability of organs. Though statistics reveal 96% of Americans support organ donation, continued public education vital for dispelling troubling myths that can prevent donation.

“The staff and volunteers of Donate Life organizations statewide are integral to community outreach,” says Suzy Miller, executive director for Donate Life Texas. “Donor families, transplant recipients, medical professionals and others touched by donation have dedicated countless hours to education and awareness. In so many ways, they are the very heart of what we do.”

Donate Life Texas is the only official state donor registry, is a member of the Donate Life America registry network and is supported by all three Texas-based organ procurement organizations, LifeGift, Southwest Transplant Alliance and Texas Organ Sharing Alliance.

Joining the registry takes only a few minutes online at DonateLifeTexas.org or can be done conveniently when applying for a Texas state ID card or driver’s license. Donation information and resources can also be found on the registry’s website.

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