**For Immediate Release**

March XX, 2024

**Gift of Life Michigan Celebrates National Donate Life Month**

***Honoring the lifesaving gift of organ,*** ***eye and tissue donation***

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Each April, [Gift of Life Michigan](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org) joins [Donate Life America (DLA)](https://www.donatelife.net/) in celebration of [National Donate Life Month](https://www.donatelife.net/ndlm/) (NDLM), an observance focusing national attention on the need and importance of organ, eye and tissue donation. National Donate Life Month is about the importance of registering your decision to be a donor, honoring deceased and living donors, and celebrating the lives they saved. It is the generosity of donors and donor families that makes saving lives through transplantation possible.

More than 2,500 patients in Michigan are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. While Gift of Life knows that 90% of adults approve of donation, only 57% of Michigan adults have documented their decision by registering. When residents don’t sign up, they leave their families with the burden of making that decision, and in that situation, just 33% say yes on behalf of their loved one. That means opportunities to save lives are lost.

“We invite the community to join us this April in supporting this vital cause in making a difference in the lives of those waiting for lifesaving transplants,” said Dorrie Dils, President and CEO at Gift of Life Michigan. “Whether it’s participating in a community event, educating those around you about the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, or letting your family know your decision to be an organ donor, there are many ways to make an impact.”

**Ways to participate in National Donate Life Month 2024:**

Give hope and help save lives by registering your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor by visiting [giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org). Share the Donate Life message by educating others about how their generosity can help save and heal lives. Learn more about living donation as another way to help those waiting for a second chance at life or join [key celebrations](https://www.donatelife.net/celebrations/) throughout April to support the Donate Life cause online and in your community:

[***Donate Life Living Donor Day, April 3, 2024***](https://donatelife.net/how-you-can-help/national-observances-celebrations/living-donor-day/)

Celebrate the lifesaving generosity of living donors and learn more about [living donation](https://www.donatelife.net/types-of-donation/living-donation/).

[***Blue & Green Spirit Week, April 6-12, 2024***](https://donatelife.net/how-you-can-help/national-observances-celebrations/blue-green-day/)

The week leading up to National Donate Life Blue & Green Day has themed days focused on appreciation, outreach and education – [download](https://donatelife.net/blue-green-day/) the full week calendar.

[***National***](https://www.donatelife.net/blue-green-day/) ***Donate Life Blue & Green Day, April 12, 2024***

On Donate Life Blue & Green Day, everyone is invited to show their blue & green colors in support of the Donate Life message and mission – and join the National Donate Life Blue & Green Day Photo Contest!

[***National***](https://www.donatelife.net/pediatric-transplant-week/) ***Pediatric Transplant Week, April 21-27, 2024***

The last full week of National Donate Life Month is dedicated to kids. National Pediatric Transplant Week (NPTW) focuses on ending the pediatric transplant waiting list.

National Pediatric Transplant Week is a collaboration of Donate Life America (DLA), the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), the American Society of Transplantation (AST), the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS), and Transplant Families.

To assist others in sharing the Donate Life Month messaging throughout their own organizations, Gift of Life Michigan has created newsletter, intranet messages and social media templates available at [giftoflifemichigan.org/get-involved/workplace-partners.](http://giftoflifemichigan.org/get-involved/workplace-partners) **(for hospital and workplace partners utilizing release, please include any activities you will be doing to celebrate the month here).**

For more information on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry visit [giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org).

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**About Gift of Life Michigan**
Gift of Life Michigan is a federally designated organ procurement organization that serves the state of Michigan as the intermediary between donors, their families and hospital staff. In collaboration with Eversight, Gift of Life provides all services necessary for organ, eye and tissue donation. For more information, or to sign up on the Donor Registry, visit www.golm.org or call 866.500.5801.

**<<Important Note>>** Please use the word **recovery** **or recovered** instead of **harvest** as the proper terminology referring to organs donated and transplanted. Example: ***The organs were surgically recovered.*** Recover is used nationwide as a matter of accuracy and respect for the generosity and kindness shown by organ donors and their families.

**About Donate Life America**

[Donate Life America](https://donatelife.net/) (DLA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization leading its national partners and Donate Life State Teams to increase the number of donated organs, eyes and tissue available to save and heal lives. DLA owns, manages and promotes *Donate Life*℠, the national logo and brand for the cause of donation; motivates the public to register as organ, eye and tissue donors; provides education about living donation; manages the National Donate Life Registry at [RegisterMe.org](http://registerme.org/); and develops and executes effective multi-media campaigns to promote donation.