



GIVING, RECEIVING AND INSPIRING

2024 IN REVIEW

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2024, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your support and commitment to our shared mission at Gift of Life Michigan.



Together, we've given hope to patients and their families by turning loss and the generosity of donors into renewed life for thousands.

Your dedication — whether as a donor family member, healthcare professional, community partner, financial contributor or volunteer — has been extraordinary.

Thanks to you, we witnessed life-changing milestones, celebrated stories of resilience, and strengthened the bonds of compassion that unite us all.

In 2024, we saw the second-highest number of organ donors give life to others and a record number of tissue donors help thousands in need. The Michigan Organ Donor Registry also grew last year, offering hope for those who still wait.

As we look ahead, I am inspired by the passion and determination that define this community. Thank you for helping us make miracles possible. Together, we will continue to honor life through donation.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorrie Dils".

Dorrie Dils
President & CEO, Gift of Life Michigan

We honor life through donation.SM

2024: STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

ORGAN DONORS **533**

ORGANS TRANSPLANTED **1,119**

TISSUE DONORS **1,960**

A record number gave healing gifts to patients in need

FUNDRAISING **\$407,000**

Second-best year raising money to support education and outreach

NEW DONOR
REGISTRY SIGN-UPS **206,456**

58% of adults in Michigan are registered organ and tissue donors

You can help save and heal lives.

[GOLM.ORG/REGISTER](https://golm.org/register)



**Omar
Garcia,
donor
dad**
– Coldwater

Cecilia Garcia was a creator. The 10-year-old from Coldwater loved making videos demonstrating how to apply make-up and designing bracelets.

Cecilia was one of 533 heroes who gave organs to patients in need last year.

Her heart, liver and kidneys saved the lives of four people after she drowned in Lake Michigan.

“My daughter loved to help people,” her father Omar said. “She was always taking care of her brothers and keeping me on my toes. **I’m so proud to be her dad. I will do anything I can to honor her memory.**”

The generosity of organ donors in Michigan led to 1,119 organs transplanted in this state and beyond last year.

**Jen
Bennett,
tissue
recipient
– Ravenna**



Jen Bennett’s life changed in an instant

after an accidental fire left her with severe burns from her head to her toes.

“The pain and trauma were unimaginable, but thanks to tissue donation, I received skin grafts that gave me hope,” said Jen, who lives in Ravenna, east of Muskegon. **“Today I’m no longer in pain. The donors and their families saved my life.”**

A record number of Michigan donors — 1,960 — gave tissue in 2024. This marks the third consecutive year Gift of Life has helped a record number of donors give tissue.

More than 1.5 million Americans receive a graft each year, helping them heal wounds, ease pain and improve mobility.

“Why not better the world?”

As Lincoln High School senior Kelly Chambers sees it, organ and tissue donation is the most selfless thing you can do.

“Why not better the world?” he said after Gift of Life visited his Ypsilanti classroom to talk about donation.

His school was one of 512 that Gift of Life visited in 2024 to share its award-winning *All of Us* education program with nearly 39,000 students. The module

gives students a chance to see and hold real human organs and learn the facts about donation — many of which bust rampant myths that hinder some from joining the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

Not Kelly. He’s all signed up.



Schools Visited	Classroom Presentations	Students Reached
512	1,111	38,932

Visit golem.org/allofus to find out how to invite the *All of Us* student education program to your school.

Nearly **2,500** people attended Gift of Life's six major events across Michigan last year, helping the organization celebrate the gifts of life, sight and mobility.

Attendees traveled to Lansing, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Ann Arbor and Novi for the Champions Gala, Check Your Heart Rally at the Capitol, Donate Life Night at the Zoo, Detroit MOTTEP LIFE Walk/Run, the Check Your Heart Open House at Gift of Life and the annual Michigan Donor Family Gathering.

The events allowed residents to be honored for championing donation, celebrate the gifts of organs and tissue, remember and honor donors and their families, learn about important legislation, contribute financially to the cause, and recognize volunteers, which total more than 200 statewide.

Learn about this year's events at golm.org/events.

Learn how to volunteer at golm.org/volunteer.



The Donor Registry grew in 2024, with

206,456

people documenting their decisions to save and heal the lives of others.

Much of that growth is attributed to the 2023 Check Your Heart Act, which allows residents to join the Donor Registry when they file their state income taxes. Michigan was the first in the nation to allow residents to sign up as organ, eye and tissue donors this way.



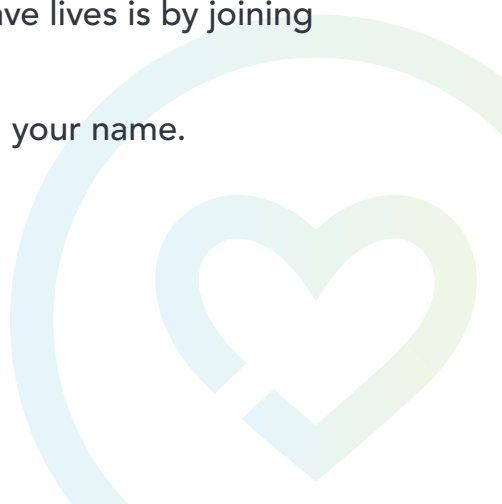
Lansing's Ron Leix was one of 14,455 Michigan residents who checked the box on his tax form.

"It was really easy to do," he said. "I know someone who recently had a kidney transplant, and it made me think, if something happened to me, I would

want someone else to benefit like that. That's what really made me say, 'This is just something I've got to do'."

More than 2,500 Michigan patients are waiting for a lifesaving transplant. More than 100,000 are waiting nationwide. The best way to save lives is by joining the Donor Registry.

Visit golm.org/register to add your name.



Dear Financial Donors and Event Sponsors,

On behalf of Gift of Life Michigan, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your generosity and partnership in 2024. Your monetary contributions were instrumental in advancing our mission to save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation.



Thanks to your support, we raised \$407,000 and experienced the second-best year for fundraising in Gift of Life's 54-year history.

Because of your willingness to give, we were able to expand vital awareness and education programs last year.

Those opportunities allow our teams to bust myths and foster meaningful conversations about donation in schools, at statewide events, and in diverse communities.

Thank you for your commitment to stand with us as we strive to transform life for so many.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Rink". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Rink

Director of Advancement, Gift of Life Michigan

**Memorials and
Community-hosted
Fundraisers**

\$19,760

**Gift of Life
Employee Giving
Program**

\$25,000

If you are considering making a financial gift, visit golem.org/contribute to learn more.



Gift of Life Michigan
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golm.org