



Transplant Times

Organ Transplant Awareness Program

May 2021

Promoting Organ Donor Awareness; Supporting the Transplant Community

The Support group will be meeting Friday, May 7th from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. please email me for details/directions rioreal@earthlink.net

Greetings,

I hope you are all enjoying some beautiful May flowers. Nothing new to report this month. In this newsletter have included some data regarding the people who are waiting for transplants in New Mexico as well as the informational scholarship winning essay written by Jaleigh Gluhm who will be attending New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs. Congratulations to all the seniors graduating in the next few weeks!

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Transplant Recipient Anniversaries

<i>Kathleen (Kitty) Miller</i>	<i>1st Kidney Transplant</i>	<i>April 26, 1997</i>	
<i>Robert Golding</i>	<i>1st Kidney/Liver Transplant</i>	<i>May 23, 2014</i>	
<i>Venae Warner</i>	<i>Liver Transplant</i>	<i>May 24, 2012</i>	<i>9 years</i>

New Mexico Transplant Candidate Waitlist: Registrations by organ and ethnicity

	All Ethnicities	White	Hispanic	Native American	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander	Multi-Racial
All organs	740	183	370	126	38	16	2	5
Kidney	654	150	330	117	34	16	2	5
Liver	65	27	28	9	2	0	0	0
Pancreas	5	1	2	3	2	0	0	0
Kidney Pancreas	3	0	3	6	0	0	0	0
Heart	11	2	4	0	0	0	0	0
Lung	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Intestine	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Note. Based on OPTN data as of February 9, 2021*

Organ Procurement Transplant Network, 2021.

www.optn.transplant.hrsa.govoptn.transplant.hrsa.gov/data/view-data-reports/build-

"This work was supported in part by Health Resources and Services Administration contract HSH250-2019-00001C. The content is the responsibility of the authors alone and does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government."

More Than an Organ

Informative

by Jaleigh Gluhm

Plain white walls, bright lights, faces of strangers and loved ones praying for a miracle. They pray for an organ, whether it's a heart, a kidney, liver, or maybe even lungs . The crazy thing is, due to the lack of donors so many of those patients don't receive an organ. There is a complicated process that goes along with receiving and giving of organs. Not enough people are donors so the process can take way longer than necessary, and sometimes patients don't have time to wait; too many of them pass before they ever receive an organ.

According to Donate Life America's statistics, 82% of patients are waiting in need of a kidney and 22 people die each day because the organ they need is not available in time. That's roughly 8,000 deaths a year. Let's face it. We need to ask the question of why. Why aren't people registering to be donors when so many agree that the process is morally right? Why are there so many lies made that lead to poorly made choices when it comes to giving medically? Personally, I believe being a donor is not well talked about, a lot of information is missing and too many assumptions are made. So, let's put some light on a few things and bring people to truth. Let's lead them to a responsibility that we all share as an individual and as a community.

I was always taught to give. We are all neighbors, whether we know it or not. If we can give, we should, it's biblical. When a person passes, the case of why doesn't matter, if there is nothing that can be done to bring them back, then why not donate tissues to save another life. A life taken, can be a life given. I don't mean to sound harsh whatsoever, but people need to know that just because they register as a donor does not mean that in a life-threatening situation the professionals are going to let them die. That is not the case and never will be. Life is a priority. It's simply saving what you can and giving your organs, bones, or tissues to someone who is in desperate need of them. There are many myths that go on when it comes to being an organ donor.

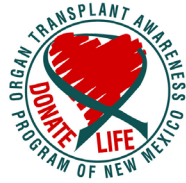
Pretty much all those myths are false; age, previous health issues, and religions rarely keep someone from being an organ donor. Many parts of the human body can be repurposed.

According to American Transplant Foundation, there are 6,000 living donations every year, meaning both the donor and the receiver live. That's just living alone. There are roughly 37,000 organ transplants every year, which may sound like a lot, but sadly it is not enough. Even with these important statistics, it may or may not change anything, but hopefully more people will understand how important it is to register to be a donor.

It's easy to be a donor, so here's a little information about the processes after the donation and why some may not receive the organ they need. First off, it comes to blood type and compatibility. There are certain rules that go along with receiving an organ, if not given the organ with the right compatibility then the patient's body will reject the organ and go into a shutdown. So, doctors have to be very careful to collect organs that contain the same blood type as the patient. There are three main blood types, O, A, AB, and B. Donors with O can give to anyone with the same or different blood type. Blood type A can give to either A or AB patients and the same goes for people who contain B blood type. Then patients who have AB blood can receive from anyone, but cannot give to anyone except other AB's. That's just one part of the very complex process. That's why it is so hard for patients to receive what they need. There's just so many variations.

I hope that some light was shed on the truths of being an organ donor. It is very important to do our part and serve the community. It's more than just a selfless act, it's more than just a responsibility. It's a gift, being able to leave this life and give to another is a reward greater than

anyone could imagine. Be an organ donor, because it's more than an organ, it's a life, it's a miracle, it's an answered prayer.



2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ Cell Phone _____

Email address for organization communications only _____

_____ I would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.

_____ \$15 Individual membership _____ \$25 Family membership _____ donation

All contributions are tax deductible

Please make checks payable and mail to: **OTAP,**
PO Box 37217
Albuquerque, NM 87176

_____ **Candidate:** Organ/Tissue Type: _____ Date Listed _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Recipient:** Organ/Tissue Type: _____ Date Received _____ / _____ / _____

2nd transplant date –month day year: _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Donor/member of a Donor Family:** Name _____ Organ/Tissue Type _____

Recipient _____ Transplant date –month/day/year: _____ / _____ / _____

_____ **Friend of OTAP**

Opportunities - Please check all that apply:

I would like to volunteer: promotional events _____ fundraising events _____

Personal information such as phone number _____ and address _____ may be shared with others.

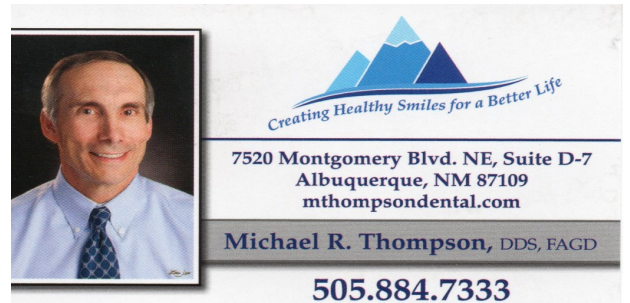
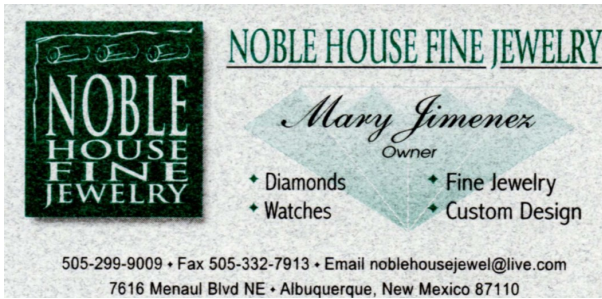
I am interested in working with the scholarship team _____ newsletter team _____ support group _____

I only want to receive the monthly newsletter. _____

Suggestions _____

_____ **Newsletter Sponsor (\$100 Annual Donation)** please send business card for ad in newsletter

Thank You for your support!



Nationally, approximately 107,000

AMAZON SMILE

Sign in to Amazon Smile and select Organ Transplant Awareness Program of New Mexico.

Amazon will make a donation to OTAP quarterly.

Or copy and paste this address to your browser:

Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3654972>

OTAP Mission Statement

The mission of Organ Transplant Awareness Program is to promote organ donation and support transplant community members including transplant candidates, donor families, living organ donors, transplant recipients, and transplant families. We promote organ donation by participating in a variety of community events. Our support group meets one time per month with those who need support or are seeking information about the transplant process.

