



# Transplant Times

Organ Transplant Awareness Program

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April 1, 2023

*Promoting Organ Donor Awareness; Supporting the Transplant Community*

*Support Group: Friday, April 7th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm*

*email rioreal@earthlink.net for directions*

[www.otapnm.com](http://www.otapnm.com)

*Hello everone,*

*I hope you are all enjoying the beginning of spring. The winner of the scholarship essay contest this year is Mackenzie White who will be graduating from Sandia Preparator School in May. She hopes to attend Northern Arizona University Honors College, Texas Tech Honors College or the University of Wyoming. Her well written, informative essay is included in this newsletter. Many thanks to Margaret Lopez for her excellent chairmanship of this committee. Thanks also to our readers: Houston Dougharty, Patricia Pistorio, and Cathy Walters. The "Licenses and Statewide Donor Registry" bill was passed by the New Mexico Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee but did not move forward in the legislature. Senate Bill 71, the "Organ Donation Discrimination" bill was passed in the House of Representatives and Senate and is awaiting the governor's signature. This bill prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in the transplant process. Happy Easter! -Evelyn*



*Congratulations*

Arthur Cordova	Liver Transplant	April 11, 1994	29 yrs
Ellyn Thompson	Liver Transplant	April 11, 1999	24 yrs
Kitty Miller	Kidney Transplant	April 26, 1997	26 yrs

## Informative Essay On Organ Transplants

Just last year, 41,354 people in the US received a life-saving organ donation. The USA has the highest-performing organ donation and transplantation system in the world, and last year more people, alive and dead, were donating than ever. But the need for organ donation is staggering. Every day, 17 people die while waiting on an organ transplant, and there are currently 105,800 people waiting for a life-saving donation, with a new person added to that list every 10 minutes. These are grim statistics, and there are many who wish to help. But for potential donors, this process seems daunting and confusing, and there are many questions that go unanswered during the application process. This essay strives to answer some of the most important questions as well as defining the actual process of organ donation.

Becoming an organ donor is a fairly simple process. Anyone can become an organ donor, living or dead, but the ability to use those organs depends on the health of the individual, and if they have passed away, the condition of the body. Signing up is as simple as placing your wish to be an organ donor on your driver's license or signing up to be an organ donor with your state's donor registry. Organs that can be donated include heart lungs, kidneys, pancreas, liver, intestine, corneas, skin, tendons, bone, nerve, and heart valves. People of all genders and ethnicities are encouraged to donate, as the closer a genetic match to someone, the better chance the organ will be accepted by the rest of the body. Rejections can occur, leading to the necessity of a second donation, but with the addition of rigorous genetic matching and ever-more effective immunosuppressive medicine, transplant patients have at worst a 20% chance of rejection.

Who decides who gets the organs is much more complicated. A national computer system decides who receives the organ based on blood and tissue typing, organ size, medical urgency, waiting time and geographic location. Many people wait until at least 3-5 years to receive their donations, and some may wait even longer than that. Restrictions on receiving a donation are quite minimal. There is no age limit to receiving or donating organs, and there are no restrictions on signing up for donation. The actual process of organ removal is a respectful and delicate process. After organ removal from a deceased individual, open-casket funerals are possible, and there is no cost to the family for tissue and organ donation. It also remains very private, as there is no information about the donor released to the recipient unless the family of the donor agrees or requests it.

Finally, there is the process of donation itself. If you pass away as an organ donor, your medical history is checked, and what organs you qualify to donate for are determined. Your body is taken to an operating room, and your organs are removed and taken to several different transplant hospitals, where recipients are waiting for them. If you make the decision to donate while you are still alive, then there are several different options. Most people, when they are alive, donate to family members, close friends, or people with a very close connection to them. You can donate a kidney, one liver lobe, a lung or part of the lung, part of the pancreas, or part of the intestines. After your donation, transplant centers regularly follow up with their donors. Most live donors do very well over the long term, though as of right now, there is less information than doctors would like on long-term effects.

There is a desperate need for organ donation around the world, and the need increases daily.

Organ donation is a fairly simple process and is incredibly easy to sign up for, and though supply and demand are unbalanced now, more and more people are signing up as donors. Yet, as more and more scientific advancements are made in the field, and more and more people sign up to donate, more and more people will receive life-saving and life-changing donations.



## LIVING DONATION FACTS



A healthy person can become a 'living donor' by donating a kidney, or a part of the liver, lung, intestine, pancreas, uterus, blood, or bone marrow.



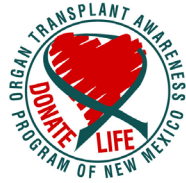
About 6,000 living donations occur each year. One in three donors are not biologically related to the recipient.



Another name is added to the national transplant waiting list every 9 minutes.



On average, 16 people die every day from the lack of available organs for transplant.



## 2023 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: **PO Box 37217**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87176**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Candidate:** Organ/Tissue Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Listed \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Recipient:** Organ/Tissue Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> transplant date –month day year: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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

Transplant date –month/day/year: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Friend of OTAP**

### Opportunities - Please check all that apply:

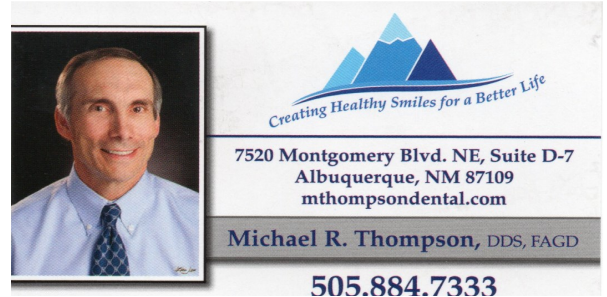
I would like to volunteer: promotional events \_\_\_\_\_ fundraising events \_\_\_\_\_

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

I would like to be a reader for the scholarship award \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You for your support!**



### 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 once a month for those who need support or are seeking information about the transplant process.

