

The Truth
An Informative Essay

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February 14, 2019

Why wouldn't one become an organ donor? After doing some research I have found some myths that need to be cleared up. All of these concepts are strongly misconstrued and leave me shocked because one's life could depend on the stroke of a digital pen at an MVD office. Today nearly 115,000 people are on the waiting list for organ transplants and another person is added to that list every 10 minutes in the United States. The facts are simple; people need organs. Let's get more people to become donors.

According to the U.S Department of Health & Human Services, around 95% of adults claim to support organ donation, however, only about 54% become an organ donor. As the statistics show, many people are aware of the best decision, yet are unwilling to sign up due to myths and fears. I must say some of the thoughts I discovered are a bit worrisome. "I'm too old to be a donor", "My family will have to pay for the donation" and even "If they see I'm a donor at the hospital, they won't try to save my life". These thoughts may be in good conscious; however, they are only myths and ultimately lead people to check 'NO' when it comes to the actual decision of becoming a donor.

Diving deeper into myths on organ donation I found that one common belief is that if one has a medical condition, they won't be able to donate; however, anyone, regardless of age or medical history, can sign up to be a donor. A team of transplant professionals will determine at the individual's time of death, whether or not an organ donation is possible. There are very few health conditions that could prevent someone from becoming a donor - HIV infection, active cancer, or a systemic infection, but even with an illness, it's still a good idea to become a donor because you may be able to donate an organ or even tissue after all just depending on the circumstances.

In terms of religion, all major religions in the world view organ donation as an act of love. Catholicism views transplants as moral and ethical as well as acceptable to the Vatican. Christianity encourages members of the church to be donors and pray for those that undergo organ transplant surgery.

In 2017 the MVD signed up 46,721 new organ donors in New Mexico. Just this last April, the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) joined New Mexico Donor Services to encourage New Mexicans to sign up as Organ Donors. Throughout the month of April, MVD offices all over New Mexico displayed various posters which promoted organ donation. "Registering to become an organ donor is easier than ever," said Alicia Ortiz, Acting Director of the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division. This has been a great step forward with getting people to register as organ donors but more needs to be done. At any given time 750 New Mexicans are awaiting an organ transplant that may or may not come.

People of all ages are affected by a lack of available organs, but what touches my heart the most is thinking about the young people that may not get the opportunity to live out their lives if they don't receive a needed organ. As a young person myself, it's crazy to think that one of my friends or even my girlfriend might not have a long life ahead due to not being able to have a critical organ transplant. Death is an absolutely devastating thing and although it is inevitable; it is harder to accept death due to an essential organ not being available. After researching the harsh realities of organ donation, I realize that we need to do a better job of spreading awareness throughout New Mexico as well as the U.S because any of our lives could depend on that surgery. Every second, every hour, and every day is precious, for the moments on earth can

pass by so fast, and so we must cherish our moments and be more willing to help others. Help others to live a full life and reach their full potential. Become an organ donor.

Works Cited

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