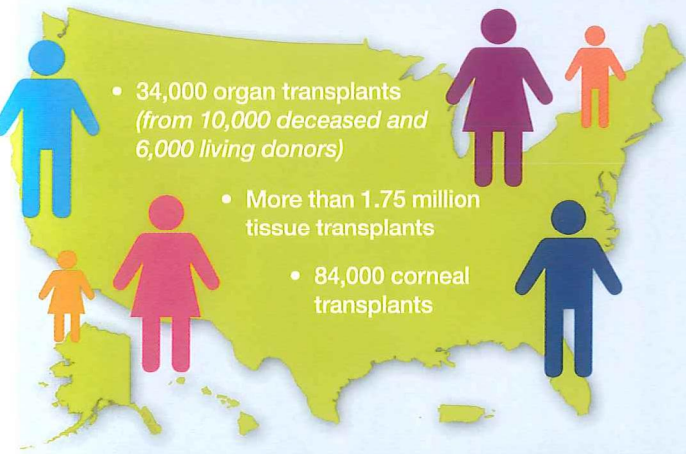




Valerie

A liver transplant when she was a toddler has given Valerie more than 25 years of excellent health. It also made possible a college degree, a great job, a loving marriage and now the joys of motherhood.

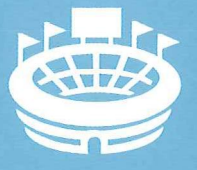
LIVES SAVED AND HEALED EACH YEAR



THE NEED IS GREAT

115,000 men, women and children await lifesaving organ transplants

Even the largest football stadium in the US could not fit the number of patients on the national transplant waiting list



80% of patients waiting are in need of a kidney\*

12% of patients waiting are in need of a liver\*

Another person is added to the waiting list every 10 minutes

Sadly, 8,000 people die each year because the organs they need are not donated in time

\*A living donor is an option for these patients.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

WAITING FOR A TRANSPLANT



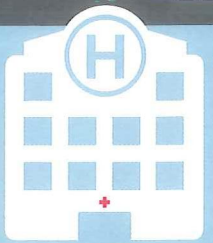
When someone's organ fails, he or she may be evaluated for a potential transplant and placed on the national organ transplant waiting list.

The list is very long and not everyone survives while waiting for a donor.

Donors of all ages are needed.

In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation.

BECOMING A DONOR



A person who has sustained a severe brain injury, such as from an accident, stroke or lack of oxygen, is put on artificial support.

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation.

Doctors work hard to save the patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.



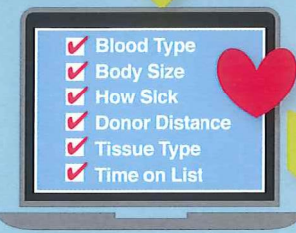
The hospital contacts the organ procurement organization (OPO), which checks the donor registry. If the person is registered, the OPO will inform the family. If not, the family will be asked to authorize donation.

Donation can provide solace to a grieving family.

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.



FINDING A MATCH



A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list.

Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

SAVING LIVES



Once matches are found, the wait-listed patients are contacted by their transplant teams.



Organs are recovered from the donor with care and respect, and sent to hospitals for transplantation.



Transplants restore lives and return patients as active members of their families and communities.



Christine

Christine was an active wife, mother and small-business owner until the sudden onset of an autoimmune disease left her kidney function at only ten percent. Exhausted, even having difficulty carrying a basket of laundry up the stairs, she endured dialysis treatments three times a week. A kidney transplant was Christine's only hope. Her father, Tom, was ready to help but was not a match. Through a kidney paired donation, he was able to donate to another patient whose living donor was not a match for him but was for Christine. Tom's decision to donate made it possible for Christine to regain her life; and he is now pursuing off-the-grid adventures, like his recent trip to the Alaskan wilderness.

Robert

A genetic eye disease left Robert, a dad to three, without sight and unable to participate in activities with his family. A corneal transplant made it possible for him to fully experience life again and to find great joy in the simple things—like driving and helping with homework.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Protect Your Health

The best long-term solution to the organ donor crisis is to avoid the need for transplantation.

- Have your blood pressure checked routinely.
Exercise regularly.
Limit foods high in salt, cholesterol and saturated fats, such as fried foods that can clog arteries.
Visit your doctor at least once a year and get tested for diabetes and other illnesses that can lead to organ failure.

2. Register to be a Donor at RegisterMe.org/campaign/BCH

- Commit now to giving life to others when you die.
Each registration serves as a symbol of hope to every patient awaiting a lifesaving or healing transplant.

3. Consider Being a Living Donor

- Living donation is an opportunity to save a life while you are still living. It is not included in your donor registration.
For more information, visit DonateLife.net.

4. Extend Your Reach

- Share your life-affirming decision to register with family, friends, coworkers and community members. Ask them to consider doing the same.
Get involved with outreach efforts in your community.

Thank you for making LIFE possible.





Register to be an organ,  
eye and tissue donor.

[RegisterMe.org/campaign/BCH](http://RegisterMe.org/campaign/BCH)



**Boston Children's Hospital** | Pediatric Transplant Center  
Until every child is well

Join us in celebrating milestones  
made possible #becauseofadonor.

[BostonChildrens.org/becauseofadonor](http://BostonChildrens.org/becauseofadonor)

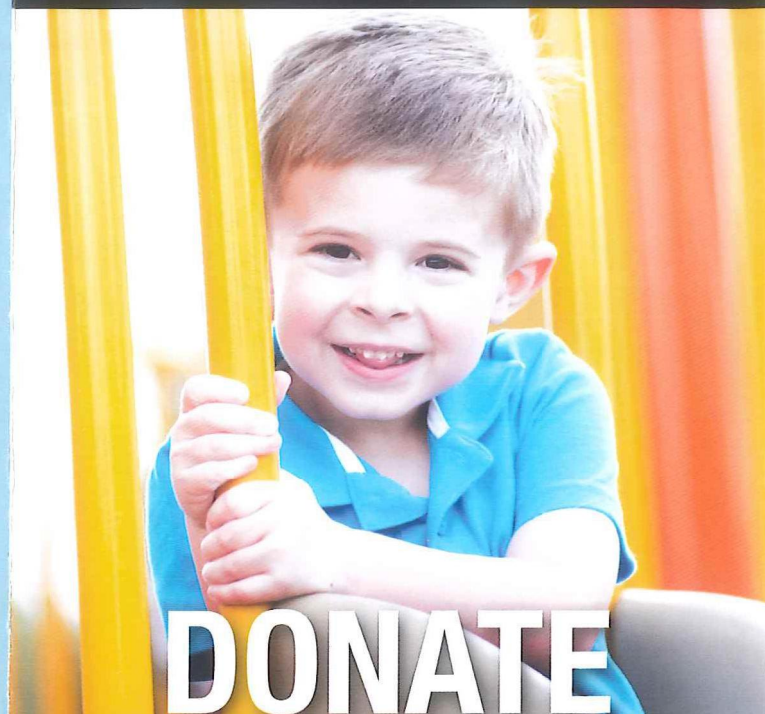
## Hope

When she was 8 months old, Sariah met her adoptive mother at an orphanage in China — and earned the nickname “Hope.” Diagnosed with liver failure and given only months to live, she overcame obstacle after obstacle, ultimately

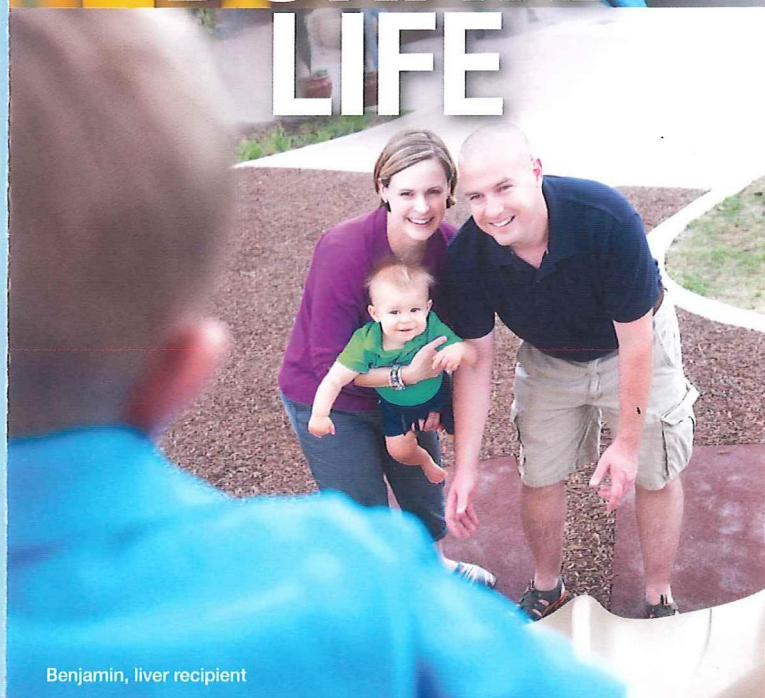
receiving her liver transplant at Boston Children's Hospital nearly one year later. Hope's family — especially her four big sisters, who she loves to chase around — is so grateful for the gift of life that has made every one of her milestones possible.

Donate Life America is a not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and Donate Life State Teams across the United States. It is committed to increasing the number of donated organs, eyes and tissue available to save and heal lives, while continuing to develop a culture where donation is embraced as a fundamental human responsibility.

Organ, eye and tissue  
donors are **LIFE** donors.



# DONATE LIFE



Benjamin, liver recipient

What can **YOU** make possible?

reading teaching parenting  
biking playing walking  
helping **LIFE** drawing  
loving cooking running baking  
learning seeing celebrating driving

## WHY BE A DONOR?

Transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. It offers patients a new chance at healthy, productive and normal lives and returns them to their families, friends and communities.

Transplants rely on the generosity of organ, eye and tissue donors; but there are not enough donors to meet the need. As a result, an average of 22 people die each day because the organs they need are not donated in time.

## Why think about this now?

The vast majority of Americans support donation as an opportunity to let their organs and tissue give life and health to others when they no longer need them.

Unfortunately, many people overlook the important step of registering as a donor. Donors are often people who died suddenly and unexpectedly. Their families are then faced with making the decision at a time of shock and grief. Registering now relieves your family of this burden and serves as a real gift to them, as well as to the grateful recipients of your donation.

*Take a moment to look through the eyes of these featured recipients to see what donors have made possible.*



**Shovon**

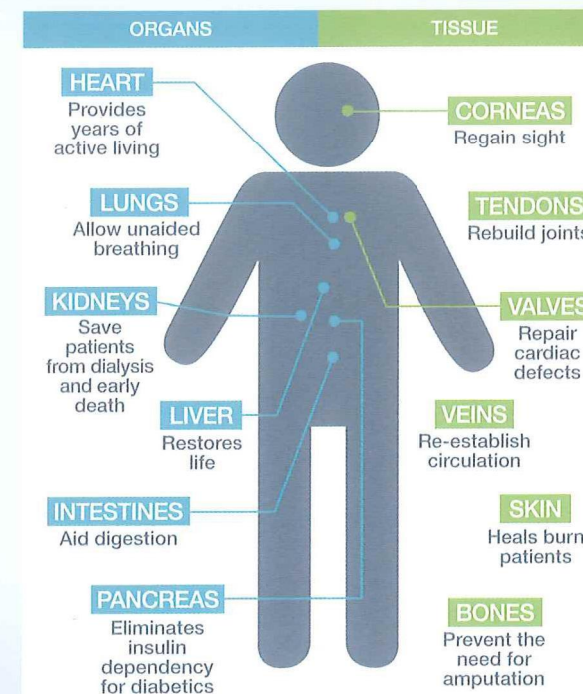
Receiving a new heart at the age of 16 saved Shovon's life. Today, he is doing his part to help others by saving lives as a paramedic, all made possible by a generous donor.



**Jessica**

An ACL tear from a sports injury severely impacted Jessica's life. Donor tissue made it possible for her to come back stronger than before. Now Jessica can do more of what she loves: running, hiking and dancing.

## WHAT CAN BE DONATED?



## What about donation from living donors?\*

The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is 3-5 years. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list. The living donor's remaining kidney will enlarge, doing the work of two healthy kidneys.

A part of the liver may also be donated. The remaining portion will regenerate and regain full function. Partial lung, intestine and pancreas donation is possible as well.

\* Living donation is not included in your donor registration.