About LifeLink

LifeLink® Foundation is a non-profit community service organization dedicated to the recovery of life-saving and life-enhancing organs and tissue for transplantation therapy. The Foundation works in a sensitive, diligent, and compassionate manner to facilitate the donation of desperately needed organs and tissues for waiting patients, support research efforts to enhance the available supply of organs and tissue for transplant patients, improve clinical outcomes of patients post transplantation and works closely with the United Network For Organ Sharing (UNOS) to support its goals.

We are committed to inspiring the public to save lives through organ donation. To make organ transplant a reality, LifeLink Foundation focuses its attention in a number of areas. Please explore the tabs above to learn more.

About the Registries

Patients awaiting lifesaving organ and tissue transplants rely on the generosity of individuals who have chosen to become organ and tissue donors by registering their decision to donate life on their state donor registry. Donor registration in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico can be achieved by:

- Registering when renewing or receiving a driver license or identification card
- Requesting a paper form from LifeLink, filling it out and returning it to the address listed on the form

Donor registration is a legally binding decision that individuals can make for themselves. Recovery organizations work with family members in the event donation becomes an option to carry out the wishes of the potential donor.
Quick Stats & Facts

- Organs & Tissues Recovered: Kidneys, liver, heart, pancreas, lungs, intestines, bone, skin, heart valves, corneas.

- Waiting List: More than 5,800 Floridians, 5,300 Georgians and 450 patients in Puerto Rico are actively awaiting a kidney, pancreas, heart and/or liver transplants. More than 115,000 Americans wait for organ transplants. Thousands could benefit from tissue transplants.

- Number Benefiting: One donor can potentially benefit 70 or more people.

- LifeLink Organ & Tissue Recovery Results: Tens of thousands of organ transplants and hundreds of thousands of tissue transplants have occurred as a result of LifeLink efforts.

- OPO Background: There are 58 federally designated organ procurement providers in the United States. LifeLink has been granted three of the 58 provider designations and collaborates with hospitals, medical professionals, other agencies (such as medical examiners and law enforcement) and the public to increase awareness of the growing need for organ and tissue donation.

- Tissue Bank Background: The LifeLink® Tissue Bank provides an array of services supporting tissue transplantation throughout the United States. Since 1985, LifeLink has provided over 500,000 allografts for neurosurgical, orthopaedic, cardiovascular, and reconstructive surgery. LifeLink maintains exceptional standards to ensure the safety and clinical effectiveness of allograft tissue for patient protection.

- Immunology Laboratory Background: LifeLink Transplantation Immunology Laboratory is known internationally as a reference laboratory and leader in immunology science, providing testing services that match organs with waiting patients. For two decades this highly specialized laboratory has developed procedural and technical breakthroughs.

- Individuals can join the national donor registry at www.RegisterMe.org. In addition, iPhone users can also register via their Health app.

Guide to Sensitive Language:

Appropriate Terms and Inappropriate Terms

- “recover” organs not “harvest” organs
- “recovery” of organs not “harvesting” of organs
- “donation” of organs not “harvesting” of organs
- “determine brain death” not “declare brain death”
- “death” not “legal death”
- “mechanical” support not “life” support
- “ventilator” support not “life” support
- “donated organs and tissues” not “body parts”
- “deceased” donation not “cadaveric” donation or “cadaver” donation
- “deceased donor” not “cadaver” (when used in a donation context)
LifeLink® of Florida Fact Sheet

LifeLink of Florida is an independent, non-profit organ and tissue recovery organization dedicated to serving patients in need of transplant therapy and their families. This organization is one of six divisions of LifeLink® Foundation, located in Tampa, Florida.

Background: There are 58 programs similar to LifeLink of Florida in the United States. LifeLink® collaborates with hospitals, medical professionals, other agencies (such as medical examiners and tax collectors who issue driver licenses and department of motor vehicles and highway safety,) and the public to increase awareness of the growing need for organ and tissue donation. LifeLink medical professionals are on call 24 hours daily. LifeLink operates under the authority of the Social Security Act and in accordance with the National Organ Transplant Act passed by Congress in 1984.

Area Served:

- Fifteen counties in Florida (Hillsborough, Pinellas, Hernando, Highlands, Martin, Pasco, Polk, Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Lee, Manatee, Sarasota), > 4.7 million population, 66 hospitals.

Waiting List:

- More than 5,800 Floridians are actively waiting for a kidney, pancreas, heart and/or liver transplants. More than 115,000 Americans wait for organ transplants. Thousands could benefit from tissue transplants.

Organs & Tissue Recovered:

- Kidneys, liver, heart, pancreas, lungs, intestines, bone, skin, heart valves, corneas and more.

Number Benefiting:

- One donor can potentially benefit 70 or more people.

To register as an organ, tissue and eye donor in Florida, visit www.DonateLifeFlorida.org
LifeLink® of Georgia Fact Sheet

LifeLink of Georgia is an independent, non-profit organ and tissue recovery organization dedicated to serving patients in need of transplant therapy and their families. This organization is one of five divisions of LifeLink Foundation, located in Tampa, Florida.

Background: There are 58 programs similar to LifeLink of Georgia in the United States. LifeLink collaborates with hospitals, medical professionals, other agencies (such as medical examiners and law enforcement) and the public to increase awareness of the growing need for organ and tissue donation. LifeLink medical professionals are on call 24 hours daily. LifeLink operates under the authority of the Social Security Act and in accordance with the National Organ Transplant Act passed by Congress in 1984.

Area Served:
- 159 counties in Georgia, 9.8 million population, 193 hospitals in Georgia and two hospitals in South Carolina.

Waiting List:
- More than 5,300 Georgians are actively waiting for a kidney, pancreas, heart and/or liver transplants. More than 115,000 Americans wait for organ transplants. Thousands could benefit from tissue transplants.

Organs & Tissues Recovered:
- Kidneys, liver, heart, pancreas, lungs, intestine, bone, skin, heart valves, corneas and more.

Number Benefiting:
- One donor can potentially benefit 70 or more people.

To register as an organ, tissue and eye donor in Georgia, visit www.DonateLifeGeorgia.org
LifeLink® of Puerto Rico Fact Sheet

LifeLink of Puerto Rico is an independent, non-profit organ and tissue recovery organization dedicated to serving patients in need of transplant therapy and their families. This organization is one of six divisions of LifeLink Foundation, located in Tampa, Florida.

Background: There are 58 programs similar to LifeLink of Puerto Rico in the United States. Since its establishment in September 1994, LifeLink of Puerto Rico has made more than 2,500 transplants possible. LifeLink medical professionals are on call 24 hours daily.

Area Served:
- Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with a combined population base of 4 million.

Waiting List:
- More than 450 people in Puerto Rico are actively waiting for a kidney, pancreas, heart and/or liver transplants. More than 115,000 Americans wait for organ transplants. Thousands could benefit from tissue transplants.

Organs & Tissues Recovered:
- Kidneys, liver, heart, pancreas, lungs, intestine, bone, skin, heart valves, corneas.

Number Benefiting:
- One donor can potentially benefit 70 or more people.
### Tissue Donation Facts

Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans receive tissue transplants to restore or enhance their quality of life. One tissue donor can help up to 70 people. Learn the facts about tissue donation, sign up on the donor registry, and share your decision about donation with your family.

- Transplanted skin assists individuals who have suffered severe burns or other injuries in more than 1,000,000 procedures per year. Three quarters of this usage occurs in life-saving circumstances.
  - With increased donation, skin grafts could be provided to another 500,000 patients.
  - Skin is recovered in a thin, split-thickness layer, generally from the back of the body, allowing donor families the option of an open casket funeral.
- An estimated 200,000 bone grafts are performed each year. Many times, bone grafts prevent the need for amputation as a result of tumors, trauma, and infection. Most frequently, the iliac crests and the long bones of the legs are recovered, and prosthetic devices are placed to ensure the possibility of an open casket funeral.
- Tissue donation does not require intact cardiovascular function. It should be considered in all circulatory deaths.
- Tissues used for transplantation include corneas or whole eyes, skin, bone, heart valves and more.
- Donated corneas restore sight in over 28,000 transplant procedures every year. As with bone donation, prosthetics are used after cornea/whole eye recovery, to permit an open casket funeral.
- Donated heart valves are recovered from individuals whose whole heart is not suitable for transplantation. Patients with valvular disease benefit from these donations, which can be made after brain or cardiac death.
  - Great care is taken during tissue recovery, to ensure the donor may have an open casket funeral.

### Directed Donation Facts

- Generally, if a donor’s family knows someone waiting for an organ transplant, they can request that they direct donate one of their loved one’s organs to that particular person.
- A directed donation typically goes to a family member, friend, member of a church, a classmate, or another person who is held in high esteem by the donor’s family.
- While directed donation is a potential option for all individuals awaiting a transplant, it occurs infrequently.

#### Directed donation can only occur if...

- The organ needed by the patient is functioning well enough in the donor to be recovered and transplanted;
- The patient in need is on the national waiting list for an organ transplant;
- The donated organ matches the patient’s needs for blood type and body size; and in the case of kidneys, appropriate antigen tissue compatibility;
- The patient in need is healthy enough to undergo the operation at the time the organ is available;
- The patient’s surgeon agrees that the donated organ is the best organ for that patient.

#### Directed donation cannot occur if...

- The family requests to donate only to a particular racial or ethnic group; or;
- The family requests to donate only to a particular type of person (police officer, poor person, rich person).
Minority Perspectives on Organ & Tissue Donation

By the Numbers:

• More than 50% of people on the waiting list for organ transplants are members of minority groups.

• 1 in every 3 African Americans has high blood pressure - a leading cause of kidney failure.

• Nationally, 35% of patients listed for a kidney transplant are African American. In Georgia, the percentage is significantly increased to nearly 66%.

According to the American Diabetes Association:

• Minorities suffer higher rates of the diseases which can lead to kidney failure. For example, Native Americans have the highest rate of diabetes, followed by African Americans and Hispanics.

• Matching organs between members of the same racial and ethnic group often enhances successful transplantation.

• An increase in organ donation among minorities can lead to earlier and more successful transplants, especially for African Americans.
Media Contacts

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Puerto Rico

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