

Bobby Height, Sr.
Heart Recipient, NC

A Second Chance at Life, Because Someone Said "Yes."

Bobby Height, Sr., has always been an active guy. He played basketball and baseball in school, and was drafted by the New York Yankees. When his career ended with a knee injury, Bobby taught physical education, coached, and played softball—becoming a member of the Amateur Softball Association of America's National Softball Hall of Fame.

In 2003, Bobby was diagnosed with an "unhealthy heart." Four years later, he learned that he needed a transplant. After a nerve-racking wait, Bobby finally received "the call"—a heart was available. Now he's living a healthy life as a husband, father, and grandfather and campaigns for organ donation.

"Someone said 'yes' to donating life so that I might have a second chance," says Bobby. "You, too, have the power to DONATE LIFE ... PASS IT ON!"

The Need Is Real.

- One organ donor can save up to eight lives.
- One eye and tissue donor can enhance the lives of as many as 50 people.
- Think of the good we could do if everyone signed up.

Are You Registered? Sign Up in Your State Today.

Simply visit organdonor.gov and click on "Become a Donor" for information on how you can register in your state. It's that easy. After you've registered, remember to tell your family members so they can support your wishes.



Learn more about organ, eye,
and tissue donation by visiting
organdonor.gov

THE GIFT OF LIFE

What you need to know
about organ, eye, and
tissue donation
and why you're needed.

There's No Greater Gift than the Gift of Life.

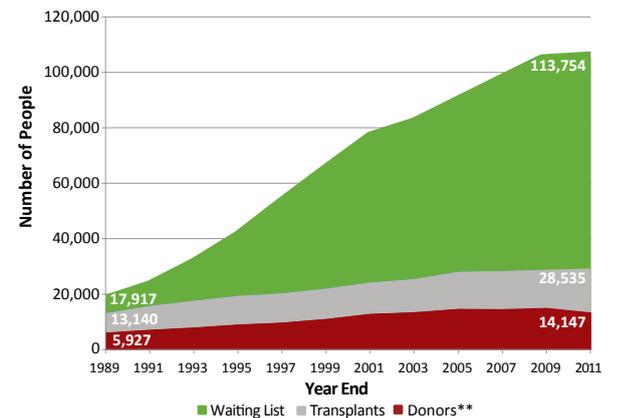
The ability to transplant organs and tissues is one of the greatest success stories in modern medicine. Thanks to organ donation, many people with life-threatening illnesses can look forward to a future and a second chance at life. Many others can experience a better quality of life through donated tissues such as corneas, skin, bone, and heart valves.

The Need for Registered Donors Is Greater than Ever.

More than 116,000 men, women, and children are on the organ transplant waiting list in the United States.* Sadly, for many of them, an organ will not become available in time. On average, 18 people die every day waiting for a generous donor—and the gift of life.

The Gap Continues to Widen.

Every day, more people are added to the U.S. transplant waiting list, while the number of donors grows slowly. In 2011, the number of people waiting for a transplant was nearly four times greater than the number who received one.



* Data from optn.transplant.hrsa.gov and OPTN/SRTR Annual Report. As of October, 2012. Current data are available at optn.transplant.hrsa.gov.
**Data include deceased and living donors. A donor may be able to donate more than one organ.

www.organdonor.gov
1-866-99-DONATE (36628)
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857



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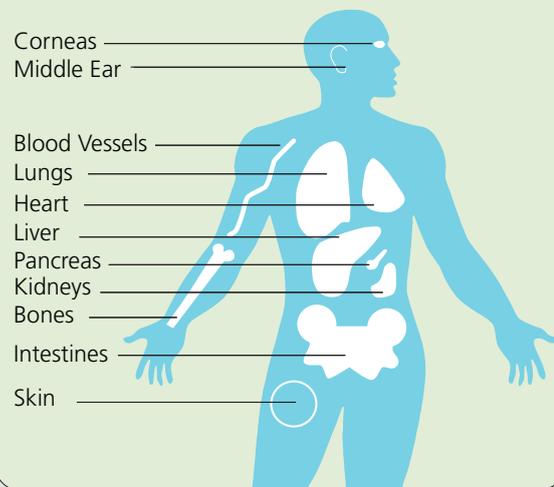
Photo credit: "Cool Spring Grass" © iStockPhoto/ekspanio

What Can Be Donated?

Organs that can be donated and transplanted include: kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, and intestines.

Tissues—including corneas, skin, heart valves, bone, veins, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments—can be donated and used to restore sight, cover burns, repair hearts, replace veins, and mend damaged connective tissue and cartilage.

Through organ donation, one person can save up to eight lives. Those who donate tissue can enhance the lives of many more.



While more than 100 million people have registered as donors, more are needed because very few die in circumstances that make them eligible to donate. Imagine how many lives could be saved and improved if all Americans made the decision to donate the gift of life.

10 Frequently Asked Questions About Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation.

1. Who can donate?

People of *any age* can be donors. Anyone over the age of 18 can register to be a donor. In some states, people under 18 can register and their registration becomes legal when they turn 18. If they die before that, parents have to give consent.

Even with a *medical condition*, donation may be possible. At the time of death, donation professionals determine whether the deceased's organs can be used for transplantation.

2. How are organs distributed?

The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) maintains the national waiting list and matches organs with patients when a donor becomes available. This computerized system considers such issues as blood type, severity of illness, time spent waiting, body size, and geographic location when matching donors and recipients.***

3. Do the rich and famous get priority for organs?

No. A patient's financial or celebrity status does not affect the match; celebrities and the wealthy do not get priority treatment. Thousands of people get transplants each year, but the media more often publicize information about celebrities who receive transplants.

4. Can people of different ethnicities match?

Yes. Organs are not matched according to race or ethnicity, and people of different races frequently match one another. However, a compatible blood type between the donor and recipient is essential for a successful transplant.

Because certain blood and tissue types are more common among some ethnicities, all individuals have a better chance of receiving a transplant if there are large numbers of donors from all backgrounds.

5. Will doctors still try to save my life if they know I'm a donor?

Absolutely yes. If you are sick or injured and admitted to a hospital, the number one priority is to save your life, whether or not you are a registered donor.

6. How do I indicate my decision to donate?

Sign up on your state's donor registry either at the motor vehicle office or online at organdonor.gov. Tell your family of your wishes and save them from making the decision at a difficult time.

7. Do any religions object to donation?

Most major religions in the United States support organ donation and consider it the final act of love and generosity toward others.****

8. Is there a cost to my family for organ donation?

No. There is no cost to donors or their families for organ or tissue donation.

9. What about open-casket funerals?

An open-casket funeral is possible for organ, eye, and tissue donors. Throughout the entire donation process, the body is treated with care, respect, and dignity.

10. Is it legal to pay someone for an organ?

No. Federal law prohibits buying and selling organs in the United States. Violators are punishable by prison sentences and fines.



A New Heart Helps a Young Girl Continue Living and Loving.

At the age of five, Shutong Hao ("Tong Tong") had already undergone one open-heart surgery. Then doctors told her parents that the critically ill girl would need a transplant.

Tong Tong received the heart of donor Matthew Mingin, a four-year-old described by his mother as "a polite and generous boy with a heart of gold." With her new heart, Tong Tong was transformed into an energetic, happy child.

Matthew's gift helped save other lives as well. "One woman made the decision to become a donor when she heard our story," says Shutong's mother. "We are so grateful."

***The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) maintains the only national waiting list for patients waiting for organ transplants in the U.S. This is operated under contract to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). For more information about the OPTN, visit optn.transplant.hrsa.gov.

****A list of religious views on donation is available at organdonor.gov.