

Bobby Height, Sr.
Heart Recipient

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-wracking wait, Bobby finally received "the call." A heart was available. He's now back to his active lifestyle and has a new mission—campaigning for organ donation—all while continuing to be a husband, father, and grandfather for his family.

"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!"

Did You Know?

- One organ donor can save up to eight lives.
- One eye and tissue donor can enhance the lives of as many as 50 people.
- More than 28,000 lives are saved every year by organ donors.

Are You Registered? Sign Up in Your State Today.

Visit organdonor.gov 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.

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.

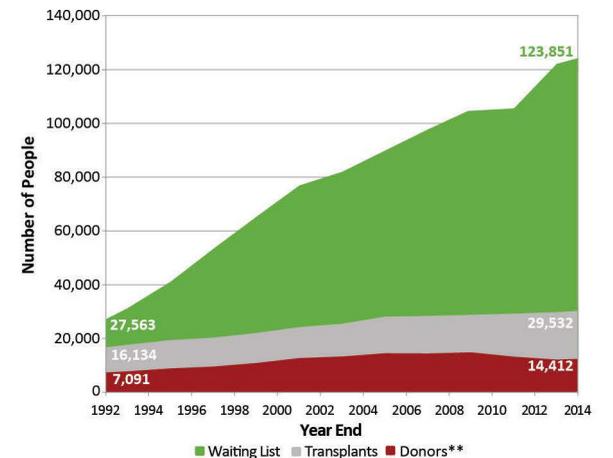
The ability to transplant organs and tissues is one of the greatest success stories in modern medicine. Thanks to organ donation, many people with life-threatening illnesses can look forward to a future and a second chance at life. Many others can experience a better quality of life through donated tissues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

The Need for Registered Donors Is Greater than Ever.

More than 123,000 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, 21 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. At the end of 2014, more than four times as many people were waiting for a transplant than had received one.



www.organdonor.gov
1-866-99DONATE (993-6628)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857



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* Data from optn.transplant.hrsa.gov and OPTN/SRTR Annual Report, as of March 17, 2015. 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.

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

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

What Can Be Donated



What Can Be Donated?

Organs and tissues that can be donated and transplanted include: kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, intestines, hands, face, corneas, skin, heart valves, bone, veins, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments.

How Can You Help?

While more than 120 million people have registered as donors, more are needed – because very few die in a way 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.

1. Who can donate?

People of any age, including the very young and the very old, can be donors. Anyone over the age of 18 can register to be a donor. If a child under the age of 18 dies, parents must decide whether to donate the child's organs to help others and share the gift of life.

Even with a *medical condition*, donation may be possible. When someone dies, donation professionals determine whether any of the deceased's organs can be used for transplantation.

2. How are organs distributed?

There is one national computerized list of every patient waiting for an organ from a deceased donor. When a donor becomes available, the computer identifies the best matched recipient for each organ the donor provides. Some factors considered in matching include compatible blood and tissue types; similar body size; severity of patient illness and time on waiting list; and distance between donor and patient.***

3. 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 specific ethnicities, all individuals have a better chance of finding a match if there are large numbers of donors from all backgrounds.

4. How do I indicate my decision to donate?

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

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

Absolutely yes. If you are sick or injured, the only priority is to save your life, whether or not you are a registered donor.

6. 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.

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, eye, 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. Violations are punishable by prison sentences and fines.



Shutong Hao
Heart Recipient

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."



Matthew Mingin
Organ Donor

***The national waiting list of people waiting for organ transplants in the U.S. is maintained by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) and is administered by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) with oversight by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information about the OPTN, visit optn.transplant.hrsa.gov.

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