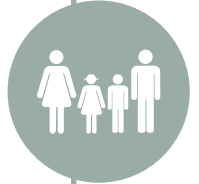




When it comes to organ, eye and tissue donation, there are many commonly asked questions. Get the answers below!

## ANYONE OF ANY AGE, REGARDLESS OF MEDICAL HISTORY, CAN DONATE LIFE

Anyone can be considered for organ and/or tissue donation, regardless of age or medical history. The oldest recorded organ donor in the U.S. was 95 and many people over the age of 100 have donated tissue. Even those with diabetes, HIV, and hepatitis become donors. Never rule yourself out because of age or medical history.



## DONOR REGISTRATION IS LEGALLY BINDING

Registering as an organ, eye, and tissue donor is a legally binding document of gift for anyone over the age of 18 that can't be revoked and does not require the authorization of any other person. If a person is not a registered donor prior to death their legal next-of-kin will have the opportunity to authorize donation on behalf of their loved one. We highly encourage people to talk to their families about their donation decision.



## THERE IS NO COST FOR DONATION

There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ, eye, and tissue donation. The Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) covers all charges related to organ and tissue recovery.



## DONOR REGISTRATION DOESN'T IMPACT MEDICAL CARE

Hospital and emergency personnel are only concerned with saving your life. They do not have access to the confidential donor registry database to even check for donor registration, nor do they make any determination as to whether someone is able to donate. The OPO assesses for donation suitability only after all life-saving measures and treatments have been given and there is no chance for survival.



## ONE DONOR CAN SAVE & HEAL MANY LIVES

A single organ donor can save up to 8 people and a single tissue donor can heal 50-300 people. Register to save lives at [IowaDonorNetwork.org](http://IowaDonorNetwork.org).

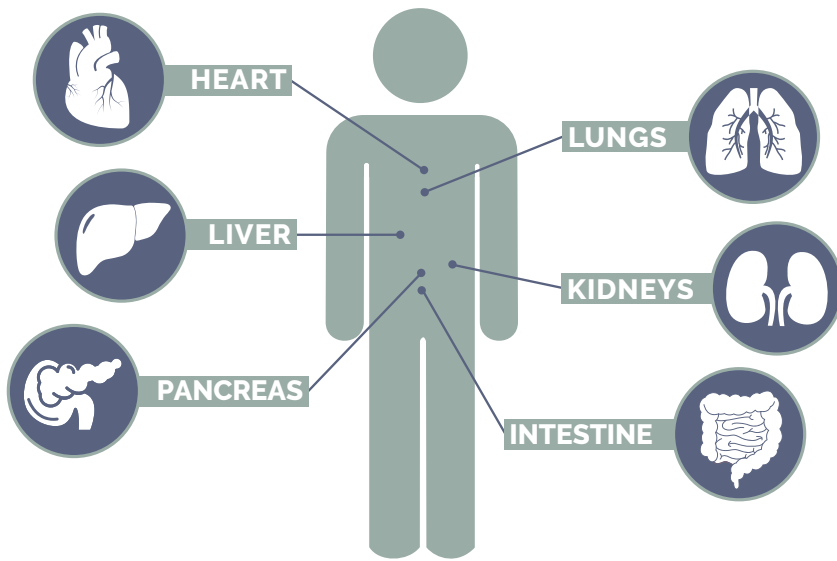


# FACT SHEET: ORGAN DONATION



Organ donation is a selfless decision to share the gift of life. Read below to learn more about this incredible life-saving process!

## WHAT ORGANS CAN BE DONATED?



## LIVING VS DECEASED DONATION

When you register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor you are only agreeing to donate your organs and tissues after death. Another form of donation, known as living donation, allows people to donate certain organs while they are still alive. The most common organ donated via living donation is the kidney. To volunteer as a living donor, people must contact a transplant center.

## ORGAN DONATION BY THE NUMBERS



**100,000+**

PEOPLE IN THE U.S. ARE WAITING FOR LIFE-SAVING ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

**21,000**

BECOME LIVING OR DECEASED ORGAN DONORS EVERY YEAR IN THE U.S.



**600**

PEOPLE IN IOWA ARE IN NEED OF LIFE-SAVING ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

**17**

PEOPLE DIE EVERY DAY ON AVERAGE WHILE WAITING FOR A TRANSPLANT MATCH

**8**

LIVES CAN BE SAVED BY A SINGLE ORGAN DONOR



**3 MINUTES**

IS THE AVERAGE TIME IT TAKES TO REGISTER ONLINE TO BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR

# FACT SHEET: TISSUE DONATION



Tissue donations save and dramatically improve the quality of life for people who receive them. Read below to learn more about the incredibly healing gift of tissue.

## WHAT TISSUE CAN BE DONATED?

**BONE TISSUE:** hip, leg or rib tissue for orthopedic and reconstructive treatments

**HEART VALVES:** to repair defective valves and improve heart function

**BLOOD VESSELS:** to restore blood flow; often used for heart bypass, to make continued kidney dialysis possible, to re-establish circulation in a diabetic's limb and to repair aneurysms

**SKIN TISSUE:** for burn patients, trauma, reconstruction and wound-care treatments

**CONNECTIVE TISSUE:** ligaments or tendons to increase or restore mobility



## HOW DOES TISSUE DONATION HELP?

Bone, connective tissues, Heart valves and skin can be utilized for many lifesaving and life enhancing surgeries. Skin can cover burns to prevent infections. Veins and heart valves restore lifesaving circulation to organs and tissues. Tendons and cartilage restore life enhancing mobility to recipients that have suffered life changing injuries.



### TISSUE DONATION BY THE NUMBERS



**2,500,000**

PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM TISSUE  
TRANSPLANTS ANNUALLY IN THE U.S.

**1,000**

PEOPLE ON AVERAGE  
BECOME TISSUE DONORS  
EVERY YEAR IN IOWA

**75**

IS THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
A SINGLE TISSUE DONOR CAN HEAL



**24 HOURS**

AFTER DEATH IS THE MAXIMUM  
AMOUNT OF TIME BEFORE TISSUE  
RECOVERY CAN TAKE PLACE

**5**

YEARS IS HOW LONG TISSUE CAN  
BE STORED PRIOR TO USE ONCE THEY  
ARE RECOVERED AND PROCESSED

# FACT SHEET: EYE DONATION



Did you know that eye donation is actually the most common of all donations? Read below to learn more about the incredible gift of sight!

## WHO CAN BECOME AN EYE DONOR?

Your health history may not prevent eye donation. People of all medical histories should consider themselves as potential eye donors. Those with LASIK surgery, poor eyesight, chronic illness and most cancers can still be potential eye donors.

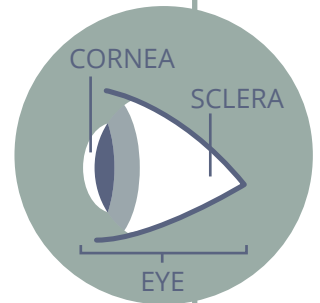


## WHICH PARTS OF THE EYE CAN BE DONATED?

**CORNEA:** The cornea is the clear, dome-like window covering the front of the eye that allows the light to pass through to the retina, and enables us to see. A corneal transplant is a surgical procedure that replaces part of a person's cornea with corneal tissue from a donor. Cornea donation is necessary for the preservation and restoration of sight.

**SCLERA:** While the cornea is the only part of the eye regularly transplanted, the sclera (white of the eye) can also be used in some surgeries to repair disease or trauma to the eye.


**EYE:** The entire eye can be used for education and medical research.



### EYE DONATION BY THE NUMBERS

**2,000,000**  
SINCE 1961, OVER 2 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE HAD THEIR EYESIGHT RESTORED THROUGH CORNEAL TRANSPLANTS

**85,000**  
MORE THAN 85,000 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE RECEIVE CORNEAL TRANSPLANTS EACH YEAR

  
**70,000**  
OVER 70,000 PEOPLE DONATE THEIR EYES EACH YEAR

**10**  
ONE EYE DONOR ALONE CAN HELP HEAL UP TO 10 PEOPLE THROUGH THE CORNEA AND SCLERA



**8**  
THE SCLERA CAN BE DIVIDED INTO EIGHT PARTS AND USED TO REPAIR DISEASE OR TRAUMA TO THE EYE

  
**7 MINUTES**  
EVERY SEVEN MINUTES SOMEONE RECEIVES A CORNEAL TRANSPLANT

**2**  
ONE PERSON'S CORNEAS CAN BE TRANSPLANTED INTO TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE