



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TENNESSEE COUNTY CLERKS ANNOUNCE RECORD BREAKING YEAR COUNTY CLERK ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS PROGRAM

DONATE \$1 FOR ORGAN DONATION EDUCATION WHEN YOU RENEW YOUR VEHICLE TAGS

Nashville, Tennessee --- The Tennessee County Clerk's are pleased to announce that more than a quarter of a million dollars (\$260,790) was raised by County Clerks across Tennessee this year for organ donor awareness. Tennesseans have given generously when renewing vehicle tags. They have helped educate more people than ever on the importance of organ donation and "Saying Yes" when applying for or renewing one's driver's license.

"The Tennessee County Clerks Organ Donation Awareness Foundation (TCCODAF) provided the funds for the development, implementation, and public launch of the "Donate Life Tennessee" Registry. The Foundation collects money to support statewide donation education through its program that gives Tennesseans the opportunity to "Donate a Dollar" for organ and tissue donation when they visit a County Clerk office. Over two million dollars has been raised since the inception in 1996. We will continue to expand our efforts across Tennessee", said Tom McRedmond, Executive Director of TCCODAF.

"This is great news for the more than 2,164 Tennesseans currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant and the thousands more who need tissue transplants to enhance their quality of life," said Lisa Clark, Senior Public Relations Coordinator for Donate Life Tennessee. "We are proud of the role the citizens of Tennessee played in funding the efforts of the Donate Life Tennessee Registry. This registry will increase the number of registered donors and save lives. We are making it easier for all Tennesseans to join their one million fellow citizens who have already decided to give the Gift of Life." Clark said.

"Today marks a significant historical milestone for the field of organ and tissue donation and transplantation education in Tennessee, thanks to the generosity of Tennesseans." said Clark. "On behalf of Donate Life Tennessee and the thousands of Tennesseans waiting for live-saving transplants, we celebrate the success and thank the County Clerk's and staff across Tennessee. More importantly, action has been taken that will save lives, restore sight, heal burns, and enhance the lives of thousands of Tennesseans."

Tragically, one-third of the more than 100,000 Americans currently waiting for life-saving organ transplants could die due to the critical shortage of donors, but Tennesseans can make a positive impact on that statistic. Anyone who checks "YES" to become a donor when applying for or renewing a driver's license or I.D. card will be registered in the official Donate Life Tennessee registry. A small red heart is placed in the upper right-hand

corner of the driver's license photo to show that person is registered. A donor has the potential to save eight lives as an organ donor and improve up to fifty others as a tissue donor," said Lisa Clark.

Tennesseans can register to be a donor with *Donate Life Tennessee* at www.tndonorregistry.org or at any Tennessee Department of Safety (TDOS) Driver License Center. For those who have previously registered as a donor through TDOS, *Donate Life Tennessee* will help them fulfill their desire to donate by adding them to the Tennessee Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. State law requires that every time an applicant renews a driver license, he or she must also renew their decision to donate by marking "YES" on the application to remain a registered donor.

Donate Life Tennessee is a non-profit, state-authorized organ and tissue donor registry, administered by the state's two organ procurement organizations (OPO) responsible for facilitating the donation process in Tennessee: Tennessee Donor Services and Mid-South Transplant Foundation. The Donate Life Registry assures that all personal information is kept confidential and stored in a secure database, accessible only to authorized OPO personnel.

Check Yes... Get the Heart



YES! I Want to Be an Organ and Tissue Donor

**** This graphic is available upon request*

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FACT SHEET

The number of actual organ donors in Tennessee has held close to the same level over the past five years.

2003	345
2004	337
2005	373
2006	407
2007	369

During this same period, 621 Tennesseans died while waiting for a life-saving transplant.

Source: United Network for Organ Sharing

The Top Ten Counties Reporting the Highest Amounts Collected for December:

County	Amount for December
Davidson	\$26,823
Sumner	\$26,746
Hamilton	\$26,013
Montgomery	\$19,811
Putnam	\$17,107
Cocke	\$15,142
Sullivan	\$14,136
Bradley	\$12,848
Greene	\$10,846
Obion	\$7,898

The Top Ten Counties Reporting Highest Collections Based on Percentage of Population:

County	Percentage of Population Donating \$1
Cocke	45.12%
Polk	27.94%
Putnam	27.45%
Macon	21.20%
Sumner	20.50%
Greene	17.24%
Montgomery	14.70%
Bradley	14.61%
Dickson	9.87%
Sullivan	9.24%