



## Organ and Tissue Donation

Why should you consider this life-saving decision?

Regardless of religious affiliation, congregations and houses of worship across the nation will recognize the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation in honor of National Donor Sabbath, an ecumenical celebration of life that reminds congregations of their faiths' support of organ and tissue donation.

Many individuals have not thought about making a decision about organ and tissue donation. Some people feel they are too old to become an organ donor or their medical history would rule them out as a candidate for donation. Others believe their medical care may be compromised if a doctor knows they are interested in donation. These are common misconceptions about organ and tissue donation, and because of them many people do not make a decision or document their wish to be an organ and tissue donation.

Observation of National Donor Sabbath is an opportunity for religious communities to touch the lives of millions of people. Right now there are over 104,000 people on the national transplant waiting list, more than 4,700 of these individuals are from Tennessee & Virginia. Every year, 40,000 people need a cornea transplant to restore their site. Without this transplant they would not know the beauty of a sunset or the joy of looking into their child's eyes. Hundreds of thousands of people rely on tissue transplants such as bone, skin, and heart valves to save or improve their lives, restore mobility and renew health. The number of individuals in need of an organ or tissue transplant continues to grow while the number of people who register to be a donor is not growing as fast. This means that 18 people will die each day waiting for a transplant. By deciding to be an organ and tissue donor, someday you may be able to *Donate Life* to someone waiting for a second chance.

Sign up today and tell your family you are an organ, eye and tissue donor. In Virginia, sign up on the state registry at [www.save7lives.org](http://www.save7lives.org). Tennesseans may register at [www.tndonorregistry.org](http://www.tndonorregistry.org). On behalf of the many thousands who wait for a life-saving organ transplant, thank you for your Gift of Life.