

# EDUCATION CORNER

## April is National Donate Life Month!

### What is National Donate Life Month?

Observed each April, National Donate Life Month (NDLM) features an entire month of local, regional and national activities to encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to celebrate those that have saved and enhanced lives through the gift of donation. Organ procurement organizations, hospital and community partners team up for special events and initiatives to communicate the life-saving and healing power of donation, and the importance of sharing their decision with their families.

### Why should NDLM be important to me and my organization?

While the number of transplants being performed across the U.S. are higher than ever, the need is still ever-present. According to OPTN:

- More than **118,000 people** are waiting for a lifesaving transplant across the country, including many within your own community.
- Every **10 minutes**, a new name is added to the national transplant waiting list.
- On average, **22 people** die each day while awaiting transplant.

The good news: public education initiatives like NDLM are making a difference!

- Last year, more than **33,600** organ transplants were performed, marking a **20 percent increase** in transplants over the last five years.
- Already in 2017, a reported **2,554 donors** have made **5,367 transplants** possible, citing OPTN total donor and transplant data, January through February.

### How can I participate and promote NDLM in my role?

- [Donate Life America](#) carries plenty of resources and implementation ideas, from promo items to print materials and social media graphics.
- Fly a [Donate Life flag](#) to highlight your organization's support for the gift of life.
- Share donation stories on your social media sites and with your online community.
- April 21 is [National Donate Life Blue and Green Day](#). Members and supporters of the donation and transplantation community are invited to wear blue and green in an effort to spread awareness. Share your photos on social media with the hashtag [#BlueGreenDay](#).
- Show your support on Facebook and Twitter by adding an overlay of your profile pic! Visit [Twibbon](#) to learn how!

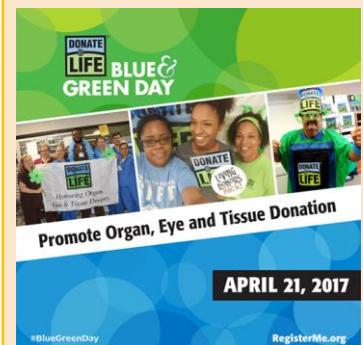


Register as an organ, eye and tissue donor today at [RegisterMe.org](#), or log on to the Medical tab of your iPhone Health App.

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Hospitals and community partners across the country raise Donate Life flags at their facilities to show support for the Gift of Life. *Photo Credit: Donate Life America*



### References:

<https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>  
<https://www.donatelife.net/ndlm/>  
<https://www.donatelife.net/blue-green-day/>

This service is also available on The Alliance blog:  
<http://organdonationalalliance.org/education-corner-ndlm-2017>