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Governor Doug Ducey declares April Donate Life Month, celebrates organ, eye and tissue donation in Arizona

April brings attention to the more than 123,000 people waiting for the gift of life across the nation

PHOENIX— Arizona Governor Doug Ducey proclaimed April Donate Life Month, a month to recognize the gifts of organ, eye and tissue donation across the country. More than 51 percent of the Arizona's adult population is a registered donor, and April hosts opportunities for everyone who supports the decision to share life to come together and share the message.

On Sunday, April 12, 2015, Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) will be at Chase Field for the ninth annual Donate Life Day with the D-backs. There will be a registration booth in the community corner where Arizonans can sign up as an organ, eye and tissue donors. The D-backs will honor Arizona donor families, recipients and the donation community on the field before first pitch. Last year, more than 800 supporters from across the state attended the event. For tickets, contact jimperial@DBacks.com.

The fifth annual Health Care for Hope challenge kicks off on April 1, 2015, with more than 50 hospitals and health care organizations participating. Participating organizations will hold registration events, flag raisings and more to encourage Arizonans to give the gift of life. Last year, Arizona health care organizations registered more than 5,000 people as donors through this campaign. This year, DNA hopes to exceed that number. More information is available at healthcareforhope.org.

Arizona set a record for tissue donation in 2014 when 1,224 people gave the gift of life and healing. These gifts of tissue will help tens of thousands of people over the next three years. In addition to the gift of tissue, 158 Arizona organ donors saved 427 lives, while 933 eye donors restored sight to many others.

Though these incredible donations saved and healed thousands, currently, more than 123,000 people in the United States are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, and nearly 2,500 of those people reside in Arizona.

Arizonans can sign up as registered organ, eye and tissue donors when they apply for or renew their driver's license or ID at the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD). They can also become donors by signing up online at www.DonateLifeAZ.org or calling 1-800-94-DONOR.

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Donor Network of Arizona saves and heals the lives through our dedicated and passionate work as the state's federally designated, nonprofit organ procurement organization. Our job is to provide organs to save lives, tissues to heal lives and corneas to restore sight. We also provide public and professional education throughout Arizona to teach the community and health care professionals the importance and the need for organ, tissue and eye donation.