

Emergency Professionals

Connection

A newsletter published by Donate Life Arizona

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Heroes Saving Heroes



Firefighter and skin tissue recipient Derek Block is thankful for each moment with his wife and two daughters after being severely injured fighting a house fire in November 2014. (l to r) Heather, Madison, Brooklyn and Derek Block.

Derek Block always dreamed of a career helping others. When he met his high school sweetheart and future wife Heather, he decided that as a firefighter he could pursue a service-driven career while raising a family.

Derek achieved his dream in 2005 when he was offered a position with the Phoenix Fire Department. He currently works at Phoenix Fire Station 15. Derek enjoys the fast-paced profession that allows him to serve his community. However, it nearly cost him his life on Nov. 12, 2014.

While battling a house fire, Derek and his partner went inside the building to ensure no one was trapped. Suddenly, conditions changed as winds shifted and the fire burned hotter.

Blinded by smoke and deafened by the fire's roar, Derek could not account for his partner's safety. After searching for several minutes, the men located one another and were able to escape the flames.

In just a few moments, Derek had sustained third- and fourth-degree burns on 30 percent of

his body. To save his life, doctors placed 28 skin tissue allografts on his hands, arms, legs and torso. The lifesaving tissue was generously provided by deceased donors.

In cases of severe burns like Derek's, donated skin tissue is used to dress burn sites, preventing infection and hypothermia. Donor grafts also promote healing until the recipient's body is strong enough to permanently accept grafts of its own skin.

Tissue donors offer burn victims an incredible gift in this lifesaving treatment, as there is no synthetic substitute for donated skin tissue.

Derek is now back to work full time and enjoying every moment with Heather and their two daughters, Brooklyn and Madison. He is immensely grateful to his donors and their families, whose selfless gifts saved his life.

"Donation makes such a profound impact on other people," says Derek. "I want my donor families to know how much their gifts meant to my family and me."

Greetings

From President and CEO, Tim Brown
Donor Network of Arizona

Imagine receiving a gift that allowed you to participate in life's most precious moments. Do you envision playing with your children, walking your dog or catching a touchdown pass on the football field? Thanks to 883 generous donors in Arizona last year, thousands of people will receive the life-healing gift of musculoskeletal tissue donation. In fact, there were more musculoskeletal tissue recoveries performed statewide in 2015 than in any prior year. As each tissue donor can heal up to 50 lives, the ripple of this generosity could directly touch 42,250 people. When you consider the impact on the families of these recipients and their donors, the ripple expands exponentially.

Many people are unaware that donated tissue can heal lives by preventing amputation following trauma or disease. It can also help restore mobility after injuries. Musculoskeletal tissue donation has improved quality of life for many Arizonans, including Carson Palmer, Arizona Cardinals' quarterback, who received donated tissue to repair his ACL in 2006. Tissue recipients return to doing what they love, whether leading the Cardinals to a winning season, playing fetch with a furry friend or keeping up with a rambunctious toddler.



Tim Brown, pictured in a yellow jacket, poses alongside donor families and recipients at the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Parade. DNA supporters marched on Jan. 2, 2016 to honor those who have given or received the gift of life.

In addition to the lives healed by donated tissue, 165 organ donors saved 433 lives, and 1,154 ocular donors gave the gift of sight. Donation is life-changing for the recipients of this incredible gift. However, it also serves to honor a donor's wishes and continue a legacy of generosity. Knowing that a loved one gave life to others can be a source of healing for grieving families. By honoring donors and providing ongoing support to their families, DNA carries on the work of emergency professionals. We are grateful to have Arizona's outstanding first responders on our team! On behalf of DNA, I would like to thank you for all that you do to save and heal lives.

Seeing Selflessness

While chaos consumed Los Angeles during the 1992 riots, Detective Stephen Merrin patrolled the streets to protect innocent bystanders. As rioters broke windows and set fires, a flaming ember struck Merrin's eye, burning a hole in his cornea.

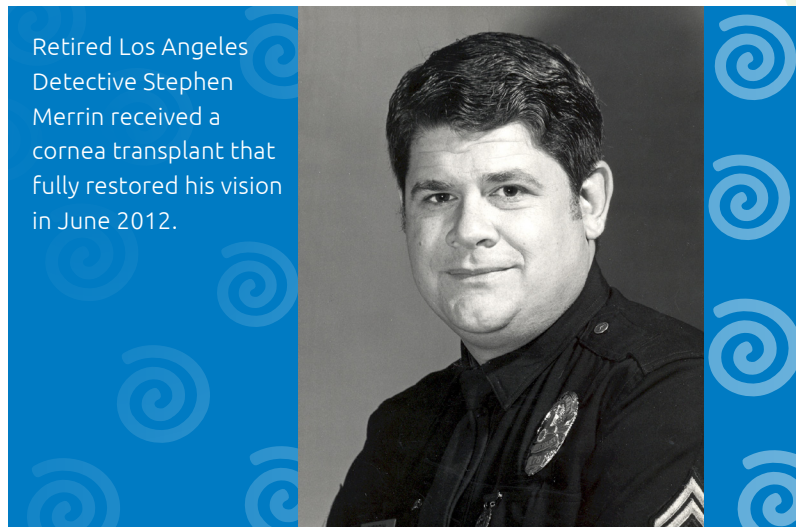
Despite damage to his vision, Merrin expected a full recovery. However, his sight was permanently impaired by a subsequent viral infection.

Merrin struggled with hampered vision for 20 years. Sunny days caused him pain. Routine tasks such as driving became nearly impossible. He decided to retire from the Los Angeles Police Department, and moved to Arizona with his wife.

In Arizona, doctors were able to suppress the virus attacking Merrin's eye. With the virus under control, he became a candidate for corneal transplant.

Merrin received a new cornea in June 2012, a selfless gift from a donor in Seattle.

Retired Los Angeles Detective Stephen Merrin received a cornea transplant that fully restored his vision in June 2012.



Filled with gratitude, Merrin wrote to the donor's family to express his appreciation for the gift of sight. "Thanks to this man and his family, I can see my three grandchildren grow up," says Merrin.

Though Merrin no longer wears a badge, he continues to help others by sharing his story and encouraging people to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

"I cannot express how grateful I am for the generosity of the person who made this donation. After this experience, my whole family registered as donors."

First Responders' Role in Donation



Calvin Mosman became an organ, eye and tissue donor in May 2014 after a severe asthma attack took his life.

Calvin Mosman's Story

On May 18, 2014 at 4:30 a.m., Lisa Mosman drove her husband, John Mosman, to the airport. John was going to Germany on a business trip. Despite the early hour, his son Calvin and daughter Moxie insisted on accompanying him to the airport to say goodbye.

Before John departed, Calvin hugged him tightly in the brisk morning air. John did not know this was the last moment he would see Calvin alive.

The next morning, Calvin suffered a devastating asthma attack. Lisa rushed to get dressed so she could take Calvin to

the hospital. Seconds later, she found her little boy unconscious.

When the Whetstone Fire Department arrived, first responders assumed care of Calvin and were able to revive him.

However, on May 21, 2014, Calvin was declared brain-dead at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson. In honor of his giving spirit, Lisa and John chose to donate Calvin's organs, eyes and tissues.

Without the dedicated care provided by first responders, Calvin may not have been able to share life through donation.

Intubation and Documentation

Steps taken by first responders are critical to ensuring the potential for organ, eye and tissue donation, should the patient pass away. Two important factors are airway control and documentation.

Airway control protects the lungs from infection and injury, and keeps a patient well-oxygenated. Organs deteriorate rapidly when deprived of oxygen, often causing irreversible damage. Lungs are prone to infection from aspiration during resuscitative efforts, leading to poor oxygenation for the entire body. By protecting and managing the patient's airway, paramedics increase the potential for lifesaving donations.

Clarity in documenting resuscitative efforts performed on a patient is also essential, should the possibility of donation arise. Clear documentation of down time, ACLS protocols, and medications and fluids that have been administered helps Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) accurately evaluate a donor's potential to save and heal lives.

It is also helpful to document the name and unit number of the lead paramedic, in case questions arise that require further clarification.

According to DNA's Vice President of Clinical Services PJ Geraghty, "The role of first responders is just as important as anyone else's in the donation process."

"The work of first responders has a direct impact on whether donation is a possibility."

PJ Geraghty, Vice President of Clinical Services

"We routinely look to EMS runsheets to explain the circumstances around the event and initial medical treatment the donor received."

DNA is working on a system to update first responders when a patient they cared for has become a donor. If a report includes first responders' information, DNA informs the crew about how its work has transformed lives.

Calvin's Legacy

Calvin's gift saved four lives, gave sight to two people and restored mobility to several others.

"Knowing he was able to help people is what gets us through so many of the worst moments. His heart is still beating. His eyes are still seeing. Other people are healthy and alive. That's what Calvin would have wanted."

John Mosman, Donor Father



A memorial to 9-year-old donor Calvin Mosman hangs on the wall of the Whetstone Fire Department.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ocular & Tissue Donation



Blood vessels replace damaged arteries and veins, and increase circulation.

Skin grafts of varying thickness are used in abdominal wall repair and post-mastectomy breast reconstruction. They are also essential in the healing of severe burns.



Corneas restore vision and prevent blindness due to disease or injury.



Heart valves are used to replace damaged or defective valves and improve heart function.

Through various preparatory techniques, bone can be used in reconstructive procedures, to prevent amputation and to improve mobility.



Athletes may receive connective tissue to heal after a sports-related injury. Replacement and reconstruction of tendons restores appearance and mobility. It also decreases pain.

Want to save and heal lives?

Register as an organ, eye and tissue donor today at DonateLifeAZ.org!

Emergency Medical Service & Fire Departments	July - Dec. 2015 *Total Organ, Eye and Tissue Donors	Emergency Medical Service & Fire Departments	July - Dec. 2015 *Total Organ, Eye and Tissue Donors
Air Evac Services Inc.	3	Nogales Fire Department	1
Ajo Ambulance	1	Northwest Fire Department	5
Air Medical	2	Payson Fire Department	1
Arizona Ambulance Transport	2	Peoria Fire Department	2
Avondale Fire Department	2	Phoenix Fire Department	89
Avra Valley Fire Department	1	Picture Rocks Fire District	1
Bisbee Fire Department	1	Pine Top Fire Department	1
Buckeye Valley Fire Department	2	PMT	18
Bullhead City Fire Department	4	Prescott Fire Department	2
Camp Verde Fire District	1	Queen Creek Fire Department	1
Care Flight	2	River Medical Inc.	8
Casa Grande Fire	3	Rural Metro	29
Chandler Fire Department	13	Salt River Fire Department	3
Daisy Mountain Fire Department	1	Scottsdale Fire Department	6
Drexel Heights Fire District	1	SEAZ Fry Fire	3
Gila River Emergency Services	1	Sedona Fire Department	1
Gila River Fire Department	1	Show Low EMS	1
Gilbert Fire Department	7	Sierra Vista Fire Department	3
Glendale Fire Department	9	Southwest Ambulance	7
Golder Ranch Fire Department	3	St. John's EMS-Fire Station	1
Goodyear Fire Department	4	Sun City Fire Department	1
Guardian Medical Transport	2	Sun Lake Fire Department	1
Healthcare Innovations	3	Surprise Fire Department	11
Life Line Ambulance Services	7	Surprise Fire-Medical Department	4
Maricopa Fire Department	1	Tempe Fire Department	5
Mayer Fire Department	2	Tubac Fire Department	1
Mesa Fire Department	19	Tucson Fire Department	30
Mountain Vista Fire District	1	Verde Valley Fire Department	1

*These statistics reflect the number of donor cases directly impacted by EMS involvement during the given time frame.

2015 Donation Statistics

165 organ
donors saved
433 lives.

50 percent of
Arizona donor
heart valves were
transplanted to
pediatric patients.

1,154 eye
donors gave the
gift of sight.

DonateLifeAZ Registry

2,690,919

(as of January 21, 2016)

Registering to be an Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor at the Motor Vehicle Division:

Behind the
DONOR ♥

ADOT
Motor Vehicle Division

DRIVER LICENSE/IDENTIFICATION CARD APPLICATION

Type: ☐ Driver License ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Instruction Permit ☐ Identification Card

You are required by A.R.S. §§ 28-3190(C)(1) and 28-3190(F), under authority of 42 U.S.C. §§ 6802(a)(2) and 6802(a)(3), to provide your Social Security Number. It will be used to verify your identity and to comply with federal and state child support enforcement laws. It will not be used as your driver license or identification card number.

Applicant Name (Last, first, middle initial, last name)

Residence Street Address

City State Zip

Mailing Address (if different from above)

City State Zip

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Weight Height Eye Color Hair Date of Birth

Current Driver License Number

Class: ☐ Operator ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Other

If Yes, ☐ Yes ☐ No Have your driving privileges been suspended or revoked?

If Yes, ☐ Yes ☐ No In your driving privilege?

If Yes, ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have a license?

If Yes, ☐ Yes ☐ No May vehicle be registered as evidence?

☐ I want to avoid a medical alert condition.

☐ I also want this alert maintained on the permanent computer record for non-emergency purposes only or request to suppress the alert from appearing on your license/ID unless you submit a physician or registered nurse practitioner statement.

☐ I consent to the release of personal information contained in my driver license and vehicle record. I understand that this is not a one-time consent. I agree to allow the release of my information for any purpose, until revoked by me in writing. Consent for a vehicle record applies to all owners.

☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have a visual, physical or psychological condition, alcohol/drug dependency or are you taking any medications that may affect your ability to drive (other license applicants only)?

Please Explain:

☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever been determined to be incapacitated by a court? (Other license applicants only)

☐ Yes ☐ No Are you a United States citizen who wishes to register to vote or update your existing voter registration?

☐ I want to be placed on the permanent early voting list and receive an early ballot by mail for each election I am eligible.

☒ **DONOR ♥** I check this box to become an organ/tissue donor and join the DonateLifeAZ Registry. **DONOR ♥** will print on my license.

☐ I am a U.S. Military veteran and would like the word "VETERAN" printed on my license/ID. (Documentation Required)

All Applicants: I certify that the information above is true and correct. I understand that I must report a change of address or name to MVD within 10 days. All Driver Applicants: I understand the laws, rules and regulations described in the Arizona Driver License Manual, and that I must report to MVD in writing, within 10 days, any medical condition that develops or worsens that may affect my ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Male Applicants Under 26: By submitting this application, I consent to registration with the Selective Service System if I am required to register under federal law. If I am under 18, I understand that I will be registered as required by federal law when I become 18.

Voter Registration: I certify that I am not a convicted felon or my civil rights have been restored, and that I have not been adjudicated incompetent. I certify that I am a United States citizen. Submitting a false voter registration is a Class 6 felony. Your decision to register to vote or not, and where you submitted your application, will remain confidential.

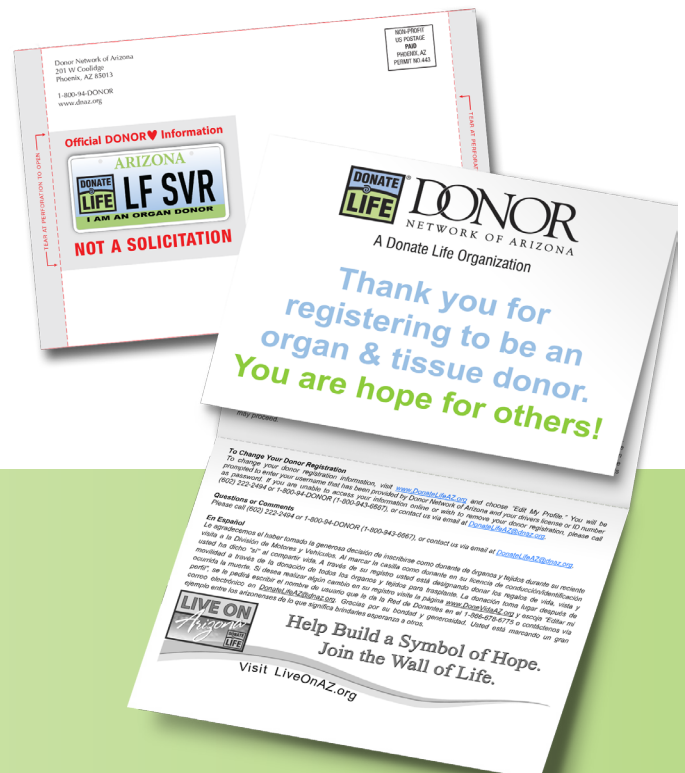
Applicant signature of under 18: Larger, clearer signature on the back must be completed.

Witness or Notary Public signature

DATE COUNTY STATE Commission Expires

- 1 Clients check the box on their DL/ID applications. Their decisions are entered into the ADOT MVD computer system.
- 2 Temporary credentials featuring the **DONOR ♥** insignia are issued. The insignia is also printed on the permanent credentials, which are sent to clients several weeks later.

- 3 Each week, the ADOT MVD computer system provides Donor Network of Arizona with the information of the clients who registered.
- 4 Donor Network of Arizona enters new registrants into the DonateLifeAZ Registry while checking and removing duplicates and updating addresses.
- 5 Within four to six weeks, all new registrants receive a letter from Donor Network of Arizona explaining how organ, eye and tissue donation saves and heals lives.



Contact Us:

For more information, please contact:
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