

ADOT MVD Connection

A newsletter published by Donate Life Arizona

Donate Life Day at the Capitol



(from l to r): ADOT employees, Javier Ramirez, Kim Phillips and Amanda Lether, met with Reggie and his helper from DNA, Claudia Flaherty, during Donate Life Day at the Capitol.

When the sun rose over the House of Representatives Lawn at the Arizona State Capitol on Wednesday, March 11, its rays illuminated an inspirational array of posters, quilts and large display pieces; all part of Donor Network of Arizona's (DNA) annual celebration of Donate Life Day at the Capitol.

"It's a moving experience when you come to the lawn and see the faces on the posters, the quilts and the people," says Anne Yanofsky, regional manager at the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD). "It makes you stop and think about the generosity and kindness of people in our state."

In honor of the many lives saved and healed through organ, eye and tissue donation, DNA transformed the House of Representatives Lawn into a tangible testament to the gift of life. Along with Arizona donor quilts and large display pieces of the Wall of Life, rows and rows of posters featuring Arizona donors and transplant recipients formed the Garden

of Life. As visitors to the Capitol milled about, they were sometimes greeted by the many recipients and donor families who were there in-person to tell their stories and celebrate the day.

Donate Life Arizona volunteers and DNA staff met with more than 30 legislators to share the importance of donation, to highlight the partnership with ADOT MVD and to put a face to these life-saving and life-healing gifts. Several senators and representatives, inspired by these meetings, recognized the donor families and recipients in front of the entire Arizona Legislature during their respective afternoon assemblies.

"We've grown so much in the state, from being a one-digit registry to seeing more than 50 percent of the state register," says Yanofsky. "The more DNA does to educate Arizonans through events like Donate Life Day at the Capitol, the more people learn and understand how important it is to register, and generosity continues to grow."



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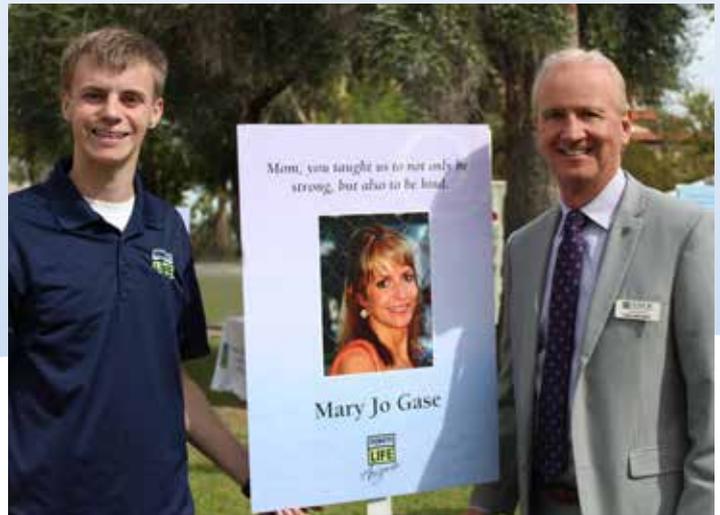
Greetings

From DNA's President and CEO, Tim Brown

As we close in on the one-year anniversary of the release date for the new Arizona credential featuring the donor heart insignia, I would like to call attention to the difference this change to the registration process has made in increasing donor registrations. More Arizonans than ever are checking the box to say "yes" to hope and generosity during their visits to the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD).

To give you an idea of the impact of this change, the average number of people who checked the box to register as a donor while filling out a driver license or ID form at the ADOT MVD increased by ten percent in the six months following the release of the new credential.

In 2014, Arizona reached another noteworthy milestone: more than 50 percent of the state's adult population is now registered as organ, eye and tissue donors. Arizona has reached the point where more people have said "yes" to being a donor than those who have not, and by passing this benchmark, the potential to save and heal lives is greater than ever before. Hope and generosity continue to grow in our state, and I count this in part due to the dedicated registration efforts made on a daily basis by ADOT MVD.



Donor son and NASCAR racer, Joey Gase, meets with Tim Brown at Donate Life Day at the Capitol where his mother was honored in the Garden of Life.

Although great progress has been made, there is still much work to do. Right now, there are more than 123,000 people across the country waiting for a life-saving transplant. More than 2,400 of them live in Arizona.

Donor Network of Arizona has just concluded the observance of Donate Life Month in April. This nationally recognized celebration highlights the ever-present need for life-saving and life-healing transplants, and offers people the opportunity to register as donors at the many events held throughout the month. These events, combined with the registry efforts made at the ADOT MVD, help to provide hope to the many people waiting to receive the gift of life.

National Minority Donor Awareness Week



Members of the Hispanic media attend the Done Vida Desayuno, emceed by DNA's multicultural community relations coordinator, Denise Cavero-Hann (top, center), to celebrate National Minority Donor Awareness Week.

National Minority Donor Awareness Week is a nationally recognized observance that is held every year during Aug. 1-7. This event serves to educate minority communities about the importance of organ, eye and tissue

donation and to dispel any misconceptions that some groups have about the donation process.

Right now, there are more than 2,400 people in Arizona waiting for a life-saving transplant, and 59 percent of those people belong to ethnic minority groups.

Although transplants are not matched according to race or ethnicity, all individuals waiting for an organ transplant will have a better chance of receiving one if there are large numbers of donors from their racial or ethnic backgrounds. This is because compatible blood types and genetic tissue markers, critical qualities for successful transplants, are more likely to be found among members of the same ethnicity.

"It is important that we educate minorities about donation because there are so many myths and misconceptions held by these communities that must be cleared up," says Denise Cavero-Hann, Donor Network of Arizona's (DNA) multicultural community relations coordinator. "By celebrating National Minority Donor Awareness Week, DNA can honor individuals from these groups who have been touched by donation."

Racing for Life



Liz and Peter Cruz and Caitlin Korte pose with Nick Korte's photo on Joey Gase's car at Phoenix International Raceway on March 14, 2015.

When 18-year-old Joey Gase of Iowa lost his mother, Mary Jo Gase, to a brain aneurism in 2011, his world came to a halt. As he faced the most tragic moment of his life, Joey made the decision to donate his mother's organs and tissues as a way to honor her kind and selfless spirit.

Now 22, and a rising star in NASCAR's Xfinity and Sprint Cup Series, Joey dedicates his driving career to his mother and to the Donate Life message. As he races throughout the country, Joey pays tribute to local organ, eye and tissue donors while hosting donor families at the racetrack for the weekend of a lifetime.

On March 14, 2015, Joey celebrated the legacy of Nick Korte from Tucson, Arizona, who saved five lives and healed many more as a registered donor after passing away in 2012.

Joey placed a photo of Nick on the back of his car for the Xfinity Series at Phoenix International Raceway and hosted Nick's sister, Caitlin Korte, and Nick's parents, Peter and Liz Cruz, on race day.

"Nick loved anything that went fast. He would have been ecstatic knowing that his photo was on the back of a race car," says Caitlin.

Nick's family spent the day with Joey getting a behind-the-scenes look at NASCAR while paying special tribute to the young man they all love so dearly.

"Nick gave people the gift of life," says Caitlin. "The last mark he made on this world was giving to others."

A Decision to Share Life

A trip to the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD) doesn't have to be routine; it can be life-changing. When Michael Choppi was 14 years old, he went with his older sister to the ADOT MVD as she got her learner's permit. It was then that he saw her check the box to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor and decided he wanted to register, too, when he was old enough.

In January 2011, shortly after turning 24, Michael passed away unexpectedly. Although this was devastating news for his family, knowing he was a registered donor gave them a sense of hope and light in a time of hurt and darkness.

"It's a comfort to know that if he couldn't be here, at least there are other families

that aren't suffering a loss, and they have extended time with their loved ones," says Kim Choppi, Michael's mother.

Mike Choppi, Michael's father, knows first-hand the importance of making your wishes known. "Registering at the ADOT MVD takes the decision-making out of the family's hands, and they now have one less thing to worry about," Mike says.

The Choppi family is grateful to the ADOT MVD for their dedication to registering Arizonans as organ, eye and tissue donors. Because of Michael's generous decision the day he visited the ADOT MVD, he saved the lives of three people and healed many more through ocular and tissue donation.



Alexis, Mike, Kim and Joseph Choppi remember Michael's decision to save and heal lives through donation.



Watch the Choppi family's story on the DonateLifeAZ YouTube channel.

DonateLifeAZ Registry

2,569,690

(as of June 24, 2015)

158

organ donors
in Arizona...

...saved

427

lives last year.

2,157

tissue and eye
donors healed
thousands more.



More than 475,000
Arizonans have

DONOR ♥

printed on their
driver license or ID!

52%

of adult Arizonans
are registered as
organ, eye and
tissue donors.



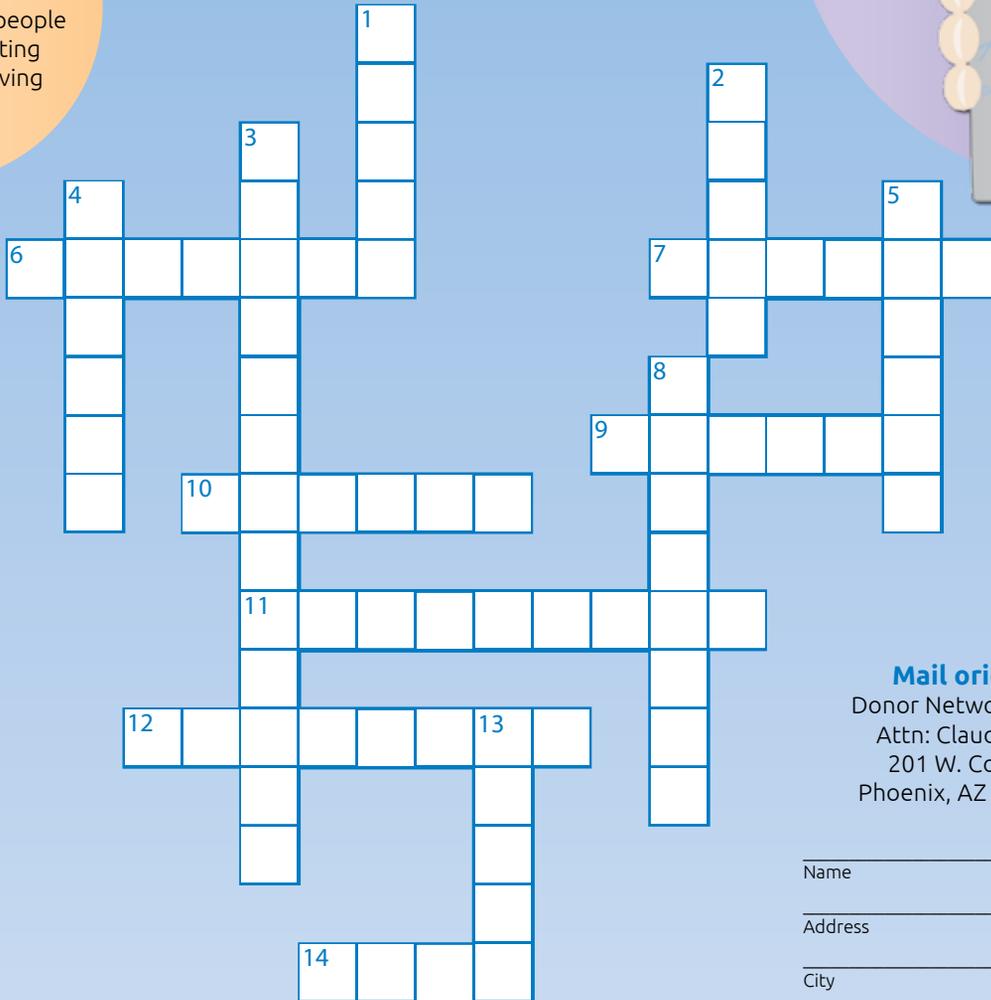
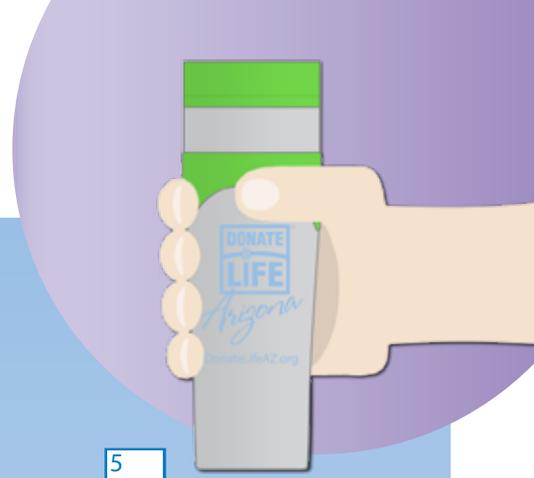
123,000+ people

The number of people waiting nationally for a life-saving organ transplant would overflow seating capacity at Phoenix International Raceway.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 123,000 people in the U.S. are waiting to receive a life-saving transplant.

Mail in your completed crossword puzzle to receive a free Donate Life tumbler!



Mail original to:

Donor Network of Arizona
Attn: Claudia Flaherty
201 W. Coolidge St.
Phoenix, AZ 85013-2710

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

*Answers to this puzzle can be found throughout the newsletter.

across

6. Legislators listened to the stories of donor families and recipients during Donate Life Day at the _____.
7. Fifty-nine percent of people waiting to receive a transplant in Arizona belong to _____ minority groups.
9. Successful transplants require compatible blood types and genetic _____ markers.
10. _____ driver and donor son, Joey Gase, paid tribute to Arizona donor, Nick Korte, by placing his picture on the Donate Life car.
11. Donate Life Arizona is active on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube and _____.
12. National _____ Donor Awareness Week is observed August 1-7.
14. The donor heart insignia debuted on the new driver license in _____ 2014.

down

1. National Donate Life Month is celebrated in _____.
2. More than _____ percent of Arizona's adult population is registered as organ, eye and tissue donors.
3. Joey Gase raced in the Xfinity Series on March 14 at Phoenix _____ Raceway.
4. The _____ of Life, made up of posters featuring the pictures of Arizona donors and recipients, was displayed on the House of Representatives Lawn in March.
5. Registering as a donor allows a person to make their _____ known to their friends and family.
8. The _____ community makes up Arizona's largest minority group.
13. Through his donation, Michael Choppi saved the lives of _____ people and healed many more.

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

Behind the DONOR ♥

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.

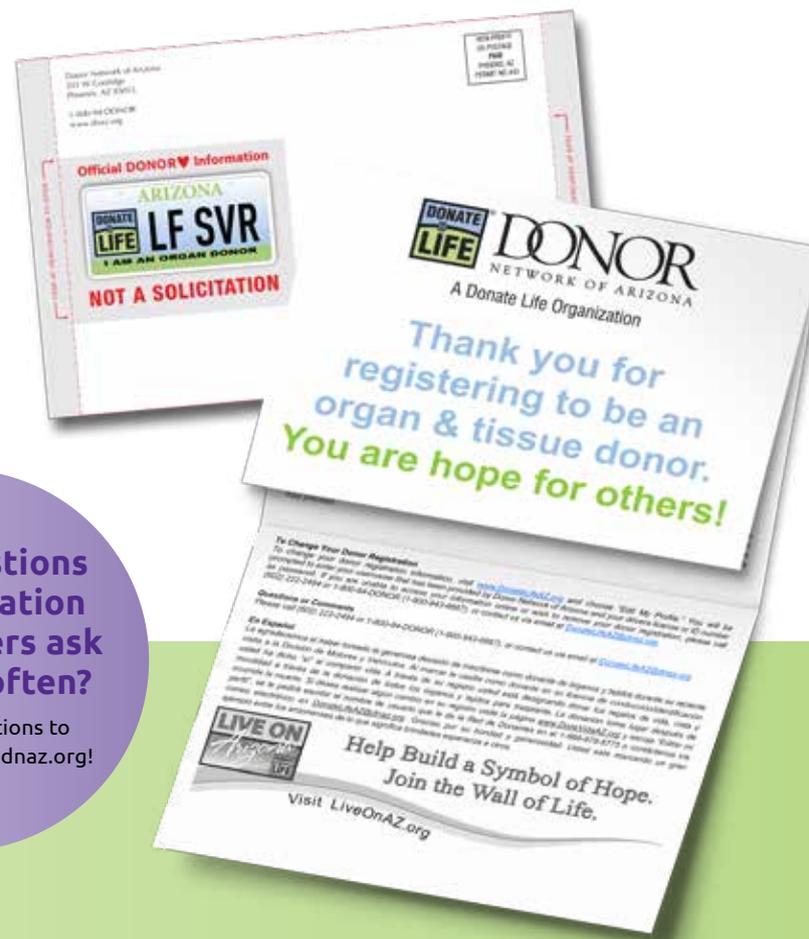
I am a U.S. Military veteran and would like the word "VETERAN" printed on my license/ID. (Documentation Required)

- 1 The client checks the box on their DL/ID application. Their decision is entered into ADOT MVD computer system.
- 2 A temporary credential is issued for the client featuring the **DONOR ♥** insignia. The insignia is also printed on the permanent credential sent to the client in the mail 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 detailing how their decision can save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation.

What questions about donation do customers ask you most often?

Send your questions to Claudia.Flaherty@dnaz.org



Contact Us:
 For more information, please contact:
 Claudia Flaherty at 602-222-2212