

Firefighter Receives Lifesaving Tissue Donation



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

Derek Block loves his job as a firefighter at Phoenix Fire Station 15. The fast-paced profession allows him to serve his community, while raising a family. However, it nearly cost him his life on Nov. 12, 2014.

Derek was responding to a house fire when conditions took a dangerous turn inside the building. 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 his wife, 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."



2015 Donation Numbers

Last year, the U.S. exceeded 30,000 organ transplants for the first time, an increase of 5 percent from 2014. Thanks to the generosity of donors and their families, transplant rates have increased steadily for the last several years. Arizona is no exception to this trend. In 2015, 165 Arizona donors saved 433 lives. This would not have been possible without the support of the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD).

In addition to the lives saved by organ donation, thousands of Arizonans will

receive the life-healing gift of donated tissue, thanks to 1,131 donors. In fact, there were more musculoskeletal tissue recoveries performed statewide in 2015 than any prior year. Thousands of people touched by the gift of sight will see their loved ones again, thanks to the generosity of 1,163 ocular donors.

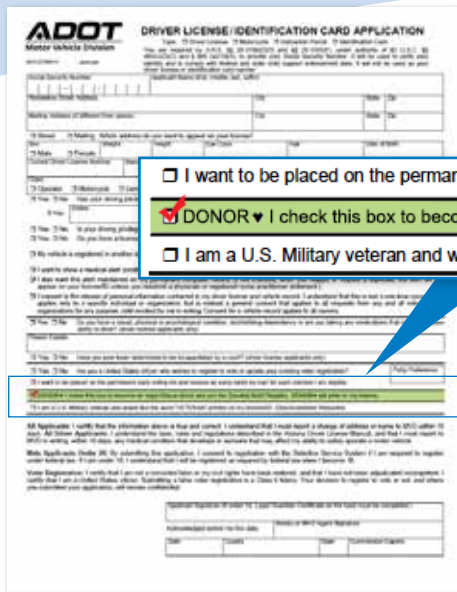
Furthermore, more than 220,000 Arizonans expressed their support for donation by joining the DonateLifeAZ Registry. Statewide, 2.7 million adults have made the decision to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

More than 95% of Arizona's registered donors signed up by checking the box while renewing a driver license or ID card.

Although many lives were saved and healed last year, still more await the gift of life. The decision to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor gives hope to more than 121,000 Americans and 2,300 Arizonans on the national organ transplant waiting list. Thanks to ADOT MVD for its continued efforts to encourage donor registration.

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

Behind the DONOR ♥



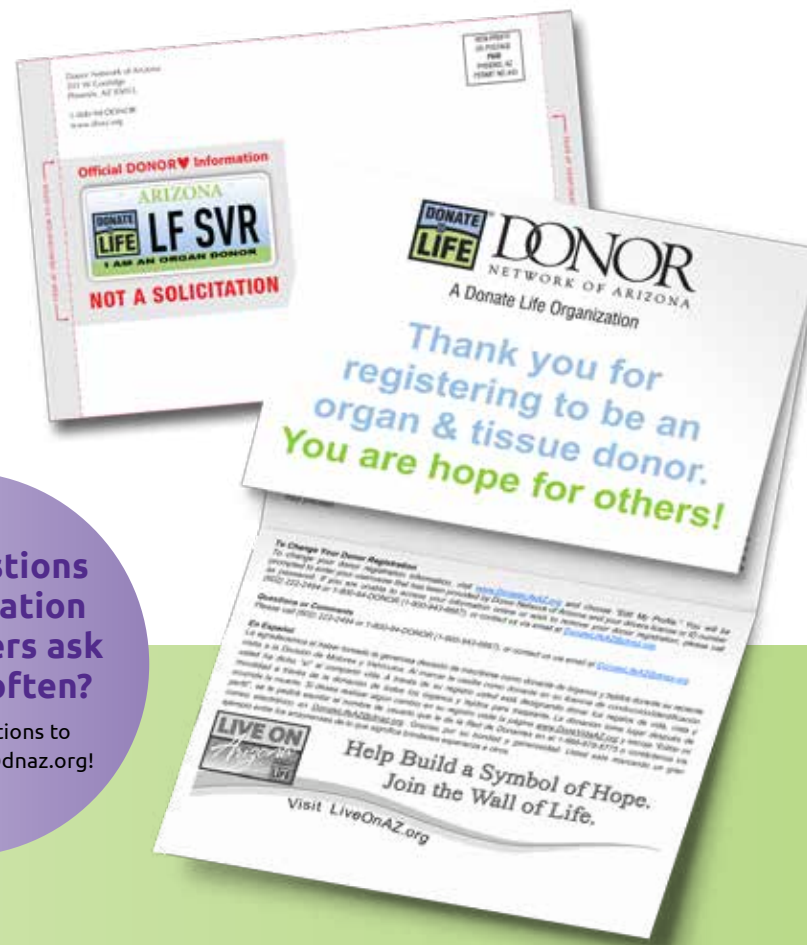
I want to be placed on the permanent early voting list and receive an early ballot by mail for each election I am eligible.

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

ADOT MVD Connection

A newsletter published by Donate Life Arizona

ADOT MVD Registrations Change Lives



(l to r) Donor parents Alex Arellanes and Heather Griffin pose with NASCAR driver Joey Gase, DNA's vice president of Development and Referral Services Sara Pace Jones and DNA's CEO Tim Brown at Valley Vista High School on Nov. 12, 2015.

On Nov. 12, 2015, more than 1,000 students funneled into Valley Vista High School's auditorium. As others clamored for a seat near their friends, many chattered excitedly and pointed at the Chevy Camaro parked on the auditorium stage. Displayed prominently on the hood and body of the car was a blue and green logo with the words "Donate Life Arizona."

On a projector screen near the stage, the image of a young man in a Valley Vista High School football uniform came into focus. A hush fell over the crowd as students recognized their former classmate, Andrew Arellanes.

Andrew, a varsity quarterback, passed away after a car accident in 2013. He was just 17 years old. The previous year, Andrew had registered as an organ, eye and tissue donor at the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD). Because of this generous decision, Andrew was able to give the gift of sight to two people. He also restored the health and mobility of countless others as a tissue donor.

Amid total silence, Andrew's parents, Heather Griffin and Alex Arellanes, approached the podium. Bravely, they spoke about their son, a young man who was known and loved by many at the school.

"We are so proud of the decision Andrew made to register as a donor," says Griffin. "Knowing he lives on in others gives us peace, and we are thankful to ADOT MVD for providing people with the opportunity to help others through donation, as Andrew did."

Following an emotional presentation by Andrew's parents, NASCAR driver Joey Gase took the stage to speak about his connection to donation. His mother had also been an organ, eye and tissue donor. Gase announced that he would display Andrew's name and photo on his car while competing in the Xfinity Series at Phoenix International Raceway on Nov. 14, 2015.

"We hope that students saw, just like their friend who was on our car, what an impact donation can have on people's lives," says Gase. "I was honored to celebrate Andrew and his family in Phoenix."



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Greetings

From DNA's President and CEO Tim Brown

Last year was an incredible year for donation, and the trend of generosity has continued in 2016. In January, more lives were saved by Arizona organ donors than any prior month. Of these donors, 57 percent were registered. This is due in large part to the efforts of the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD), as the vast majority of registered donors signed up by checking the donor box while renewing a driver license or ID card. As the message of hope and generosity spreads, the true impact of your work is immeasurable. Each name added to the DonatLifeAZ Registry gives hope to more than 2,300 Arizonans currently awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant.

Thousands of transplant recipients are alive today because someone made the generous decision to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor at an ADOT MVD location. Because of your efforts to encourage donor registration, transplant recipients are able to watch another sunset, listen to their favorite songs, explore the world and kiss their children good night.



(l to r) Tim Brown and donor family members Kellye and Tiffany Pummill admire a poster of Kellye's daughter, Marissa, who saved lives as an organ donor. Marissa's poster was displayed in the Garden of Life during Donate Life Day at the Capitol on March 16.

By providing opportunities for Arizonans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and building a culture of support for donation, ADOT MVD is saving and transforming lives. We are grateful to have Arizona's outstanding MVD on our team! On behalf of Donor Network of Arizona, I would like to thank you for championing the gift of life.

Celebrating Donation at the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Parade



Donor families, recipients and donation advocates marched in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Parade to share the message of generosity.

On Saturday, Jan. 2, Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) staff, donor families, recipients and the Valley Vista High School dance team marched in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Parade to honor those who have given or received the gift of life. This was DNA's seventh year participating in the parade. Valley Vista dancers led the lively procession of blue and green, engaging onlookers with pompoms and streamers. Donor families and recipients proudly carried posters to honor their loved ones and share the message of donation.

The star of the show was DNA's mascot, Reggie the Donor Cactus, who made an appearance as a 20-foot-tall balloon. On several occasions, onlookers burst into cheers as the giant cactus paused to twirl for the crowd. This daring move was choreographed by more than 20 balloon handlers.

The event was a huge success thanks to the enthusiasm of DNA's staff and volunteers. The parade was broadcast on 3TV. As the procession of blue and green made its way onto television screens across the state, announcers shared information about how to register as organ, eye and tissue donors with thousands of Arizonans watching the parade at home.

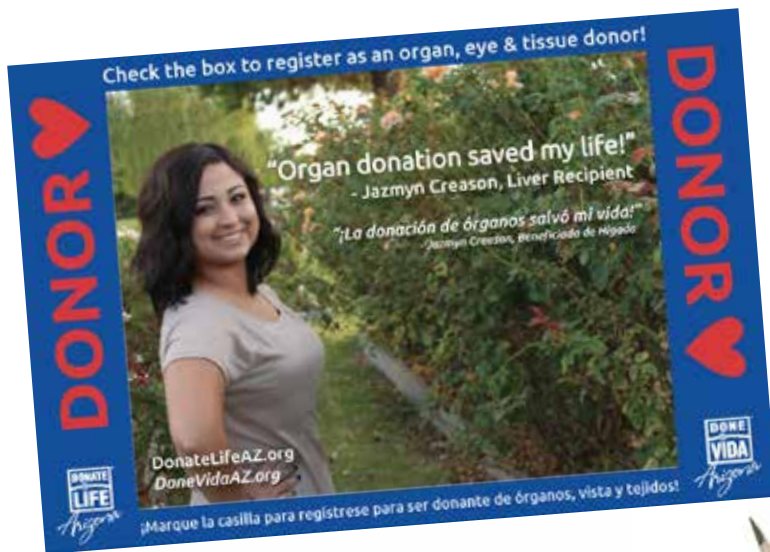
DonateLifeAZ Registry

2,779,498

(as of May 2, 2016)

Proudly display these items in your office!

Ask your customers to put their hearts in the right place by registering as organ, eye and tissue donors.



2015

165 organ donors saved 433 lives.

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

1,163 eye donors gave the gift of sight.

Mail original to:

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

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



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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

across

- 4. In 2015, the United States conducted the highest number of lifesaving _____ ever performed.
- 6. The Valley Vista High School _____ team participated in this year's Fiesta Bowl Parade.
- 7. Donor families who marched in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Parade carried _____ that honored their loved ones.
- 8. Andrew was the varsity _____ at Valley Vista High School.
- 12. More than 220,000 Arizona _____ decided to register as organ, eye and tissue donors in 2015.
- 14. Andrew _____ was a student at Valley Vista High School who gave the gift of sight to two people after he died in a car accident.
- 15. Everyone who marched for organ donation in the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Parade was decked out in blue and _____.
- 16. DNA's mascot _____ the Donor Cactus made an appearance as a 20-foot-tall balloon at the Fiesta Bowl Parade.
- 17. Arizona's total number of adult registered donors is now over 2.7 _____.

down

- 1. This was the _____ year that DNA has marched in the Fiesta Bowl Parade.
- 2. Arizona had a record-breaking number of _____ tissue recoveries in 2015.
- 3. _____ driver Joey Gase spoke about his connection to organ donation to more than 1,000 students at Valley Vista High School.
- 5. Joey Gase's Chevy _____ bears the Donate Life logo.
- 9. Over 95 percent of Arizona's _____ donors sign up at the ADOT MVD.
- 10. The state's 1,131 _____ donors provided gifts that will go on to touch tens of thousands of lives over the next three years.
- 11. Heart valve donations primarily benefit _____ patients.
- 13. Joey Gase has a personal connection to donation because he is the _____ of a donor.