

We Make the Most of Life

May 2015 - April 2016

# Connection

*A Year in Review*



## Health Care for Hope

**A Heartfelt Meeting**

**Luz de Joven Hispana Brilla Hoy  
en Dos Personas**

**Glendale Glitters  
with Generosity**



REGISTER TO BE AN ORGAN, EYE & TISSUE DONOR

DonateLifeAZ.org 1-800-94-DONOR

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# Greetings

From President and CEO, Tim Brown

Tim Brown poses alongside donor quilt squares on display at the DNA office in Phoenix. The squares were lovingly crafted by donor family members to honor a loved one who gave the gift of life.

How would you describe organ, eye and tissue donors? At Donor Network of Arizona (DNA), we listen to families before answering this question. Words like selfless, loving, generous and compassionate are often used to describe a loved one who has given the gift of life.

Every year, DNA hosts quilt-pinning ceremonies to create a welcoming environment for donor families to speak about their loved ones. Each quilt square is crafted to encapsulate a lifetime of memories. Together, donor families weave a tapestry of generosity.

Last year was an incredible year for donation. Nationally, the U.S. surpassed 30,000 organ transplants for the first time. In Arizona, 165 organ donors saved 433 lives. Thousands of Arizonans will see their loved ones again, thanks to 1,163 ocular donors. Countless others will receive life-healing tissue from 1,131 generous donors.

The trend of selflessness has continued in 2016. As we reflect on April, National Donate Life Month, it is clear that Arizonans are embracing hope and generosity. DNA's hospital and health care partners shared the message of donation with their communities during Health Care for Hope. Because of their efforts, thousands of people joined the DonateLifeAZ Registry. Still more register each week at the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division.

A quilt unifies the contributions of many into a single work of art. Much like the squares of a quilt, each of us has an important role to play in weaving Arizona's tapestry of donation. Together, we spread the message of hope and generosity and honor those who have given this selfless gift.



Thank you for being a lifesaver and a champion for donation!

## SPECIAL SHOUTOUTS!

**Gonzalo Moreno**  
Radio Host  
1190 AM

**Karla Navarrete**  
Reporter  
CBS 5/Channel 3 Vehicle Division

**Gabriela Jiménez**  
Done Vida Volunteer

**Susan Hebert**  
Donate Life Volunteer

**Brad Dobson**  
Access Management Interim Manager  
HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson  
Peak Medical Center

**Amanda Osborne, RN**  
Banner University Medical Center –  
Phoenix

## Mandy Kubler, RN

Intensive Care Unit | Mountain Vista Medical Center

“Mandy was wonderfully helpful on a recent donation case. She was the bedside nurse for the donor patient. She was friendly, attentive and communicative. She updated the staff frequently and shared needed information about the family. Mandy also stayed with the family for the donation conversation and provided them with tissues and water bottles. She was tremendous throughout the entire donation process and went above and beyond by coming in on her day off to stay with the family until the patient went into the operating room. We cannot thank her enough for her kindness and dedication to the donor family.”

- **Melissa Valmonte**, Hospital Development Coordinator at Donor Network of Arizona

# Valley Vista Students Honor Classmate's Legacy

**O**n 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 toward a racecar 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.



Members of Valley Vista High School's football team pose alongside NASCAR driver Joey Gase's car during an event honoring their former teammate, Andrew Arellanes, on Nov. 12, 2015.

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. 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 our family peace."

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 he competed in the NASCAR 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," says Gase. "I was honored to celebrate Andrew and his family in Phoenix."

## Spring 2016: A Season of Hope

**A**t Donor Network of Arizona (DNA), spring means a full schedule of lively community events and opportunities to share the message of donation.

On March 16, DNA kicked off the season with Donate Life Day at the Capitol. The Arizona House of Representatives lawn was transformed into a Garden of Life, with more than 100 posters honoring donors and recipients. Arizona legislators mingled and met with donor families, transplant recipients and donation advocates to hear stories of generosity and see the incredible impact of donation.

In April, national Donate Life Month, DNA partnered with local hospitals and health care organizations to encourage donor registration and celebrate those who have given or received the gift of life.

On Saturday, April 9, DNA participated in the American Liver Foundation's (ALF) Liver Life Walk at Steele Indian School Park in Phoenix. DNA's team raised money for ALF and hosted a registration table. Furry friends wearing green Donate Life bandanas tagged along on the pet-friendly walk.

On Sunday, April 10, DNA hit it out of the park for donation at Donate Life Day at the Diamondbacks. DNA flooded Chase Field with blue and green to encourage D-backs fans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

On Friday, April 15, DNA participated in the nationally recognized Blue and Green Day. Donation advocates across the country wore blue and green to celebrate the gift of life.



Oliver Crawford (center), one of the nation's youngest heart recipients, admires a poster honoring his transplant journey during Donate Life Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 16. Oliver is accompanied by his mother, Caylyn (l), and his father, Chris (r).

# A Heartfelt Meeting

“She’s coming,” a tearful Esther Gonzalez whispered. Heather Clark, the mother of her daughter’s organ donor, was about to enter the room. When they saw each other, the mothers could not hold back their emotions. They embraced and wept. Over and over again, Gonzalez said, “Thank you.”

Clark, who lives in California, lost her 7-month-old son Lukas in June 2013. After Lukas died, Clark chose to donate his organs, saving the lives of three children.

“I couldn’t save my son, but I knew I could stop other families from going through the pain I felt,” says Clark.

Hundreds of miles away in Arizona, Jordan Drake was fighting for her life.

At just 18 months old, Jordan had undergone four heart surgeries. She suffered seizures, a stroke and brain hemorrhaging due to a congenital heart defect. Having exhausted all other options, doctors told Jordan’s family that a heart transplant was her only hope for survival.

On June 22, 2013, Jordan’s family received a life-changing phone call. A donor heart was available, and Jordan was a match.

“You never fully understand organ donation until you’re watching a loved one slip away,” says Gonzalez, “and the only hope is a gift from another family.”

After months of exchanging letters and text messages, Gonzalez and Clark met at Phoenix Children’s Hospital on Jan. 29, 2016. The footage of their meeting has been viewed online more than 200 million times by people in every corner of the globe.

In Arizona, donor registrations surged in the days following the emotional meeting. Many newly registered donors shared their decision on social media, explaining that they were inspired by Jordan and Lukas.

“We are thrilled that our story has motivated others to become donors,” says Gonzalez. “We hope families are speaking openly about donation because of our message, and make the decision to give this selfless gift.”



Heather Clark (r) listens to her son’s heartbeat inside recipient Jordan Drake’s (l) chest. Jordan is held by her mother, Esther Gonzalez (center). The mothers met for the first time at Phoenix Children’s Hospital on Jan. 29, 2016.

## 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.

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 received the gift of sight, thanks to 1,163 ocular donors. Of the 201 heart valves recovered, 67 percent will go to pediatric patients.

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

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. Visit [DonateLifeAZ.org](http://DonateLifeAZ.org) for more information, or to register.

**103**  
heart valves  
were recovered and  
transplanted in  
Arizona

**67%**  
of recovered  
heart valves  
were transplanted to  
pediatric patients

# Annual Registry Challenge Saves Lives

On April 6, 2016, attendees of Banner Gateway Medical Center's flag-raising ceremony received an impromptu dance lesson to the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive."



well as an employee registration competition at 240 stores throughout Arizona.

Health care professionals are eager to share the message of donation. Shawn Smith, quality coordinator at Western Arizona Regional Medical Center, is enthusiastic about his hospital's participation in the challenge.

"We are pleased to provide the opportunity to our staff, and the community-at-large, to register as organ, eye and tissue donors."

Health Care for Hope creates many opportunities to educate Arizonans about the incredible gift of organ, eye and tissue donation. By building a culture of support for donation and participating in the annual registry challenge, Arizona's hospitals and health care organizations make the most of every opportunity to save and heal lives.

April was National Donate Life Month, and Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) celebrated with its annual registry challenge, Health Care for Hope. This was the sixth year DNA has held the challenge, collaborating with hospitals and health care partners to increase the number of registered donors statewide. By encouraging others to give the gift of life, participants ensure children and adults on the waiting list receive lifesaving organ transplants, while improving quality of life for those in need of donated tissue and corneas.

In 2015, 59 hospitals and health care organizations participated in the challenge, resulting in 4,800 donor registrations and reaffirmations. This year, DNA worked with 58 organizations and anticipates more than 4,000 donor registrations. Results will be announced at DNA's Health Care for Hope breakfast and awards ceremony in June.

Many participating organizations held a "One Big Day" event. The One Big Day may be held at a hospital, or in conjunction with a community event. Health Care for Hope organizations approached the challenge creatively. Banner Gateway Medical Center held an impromptu flash mob during its flag-raising ceremony to the tune of the Bee Gees' "Stayin' Alive." Other hospitals participated in Pat's Run, March of Dimes, Hopefest and the Phoenix Kidney Walk.

Walgreens participated in the challenge for a second year. In anticipation of Donate Life Month, Walgreens held its registry drive in March. The stores hosted more than 30 events, as



Hospital volunteers and Reggie the Donor Cactus encourage donor registration during a Health Care for Hope event in Flagstaff.



DNA staff and volunteers pose with leaders from St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center during a Health Care for Hope event.

# Snapshots of 2015

A year of making the most

Partnerships



**DNA's partnership with ADOT MVD results in more than 95 percent of Arizona's donor registrations**  
DNA is incredibly grateful for the support of its community partners.

## 9 Signature Events

DNA's signature events showcase the incredible gift of organ, eye and tissue donation and draw a large audience.

events



2,779,498

(As of May 2, 2016)

### Nearly 150 Community Events

Community events are held throughout the year to encourage donor registration and educate the public about organ, eye and tissue donation.



outreach

stories of hope



### 119 Media Stories

Many incredible stories of hope and generosity unfolded in Arizona last year.



honoring families

### 45 families attended the 2015 Donor Family Gathering

Throughout the year, DNA honors families who have been touched by the gift of life.



# Conexión

REGÍSTRESE PARA  
SER DONANTE DE  
ÓRGANOS, DE VISTA  
Y DE TEJIDOS

DoneVidaAZ.org  
1-866-678-6775

## Comunidad Hispana de Maryvale le Dice Sí a la Donación de Vida



Gabriela Jiménez, voluntaria de Done Vida Arizona, registrando a personas como donantes de vida.

**E**l 16 de enero del 2016, decenas de personas se registraron como donantes de vida durante el evento comunitario Get it Done, patrocinado por la revista Segunda Mano.

Gracias a la ayuda de nuestros voluntarios, cada persona que visitó nuestra mesa informativa recibió información acerca de la donación y, tras despejar dudas acerca del tema, más de 50 personas le dijeron “sí” al acto de bondad más grande que puede existir: donar vida. La generosidad de estas personas será esperanza de vida para quienes se encuentran en la lista de espera.

## Despejando Mitos: Informando a la Comunidad

**P**ara muchos hispanos el temor de registrarse como donantes se basa en mitos y falta de información. La leyenda más común es pensar que los médicos dejan fallecer a las personas registradas con el fin de recuperar sus órganos; sin embargo, esto es falso.

La labor de los médicos es de salvar vidas. La donación sólo se convierte en opción cuando una persona ha fallecido, y

para llegar a este diagnóstico, los médicos realizan diversos exámenes para confirmar con certeza – o descartar – dicho diagnóstico.

Es importante mencionar que los médicos no tienen acceso al registro de donantes porque es confidencial– sólo la Red de Donantes de Arizona lo tiene.

## Luz de Joven Hispana Brilla Hoy en Dos Personas

**P**az y bondad es lo que la mirada de Andrea (Andy) Linares irradiaba. Sus hermosos ojos verdes un magneto de atracción para quien conocía a la joven hispana de Gilbert, Arizona.

Para Victoria Linares, hermana de Andy, describir a su hermana y mejor amiga se reduce a tres palabras: valentía, generosidad y nobleza. Victoria nunca imaginó su vida sin su hermana, pero eso cambió en el 2013 cuando Andy falleció.

La familia Linares no sabía que Andy estaba registrada como donante, pero no fue sorpresa enterarse ya que ella siempre ayudaba al prójimo.

Hoy día, los bellos ojos verdes de Andy le permiten ver a dos personas gracias a la donación de sus córneas. Un legado de bondad incondicional que enorgullece a la familia Linares.



Andrea Linares donó el regalo de la vista a dos personas.



# New Credential, New Chance to Check the Box

Starting this year, Arizonans will have the option to choose a new form of identification in favor of driver's licenses and identification cards. In accordance with the REAL ID Act passed by Congress in 2005, the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD) will introduce the Voluntary Travel ID on April 1, 2016. The REAL ID Act was introduced by the federal government as part of an effort to improve national security.

The Voluntary Travel ID will include the same number and personal information as a driver's license or state ID card. For registered organ, eye and tissue donors, a donor heart will be printed on the ID. As the name suggests, the ID is currently optional. Arizonans may continue to use their driver's license or state ID card until Oct. 1, 2020. After that time, a Voluntary Travel ID will be required to board a commercial airplane, or enter restricted federal buildings and military bases.



Check the box to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor when applying for a Voluntary Travel ID at an ADOT MVD location.

The Voluntary Travel ID must be renewed every eight years. Arizonans will have the option to maintain a driver's license or ID card in addition to the Voluntary Travel ID, but all forms of identification must be updated. To purchase a Voluntary Travel ID, simply make an appointment with ADOT MVD. Remember to check the box to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor!

## New Websites Streamline Donation Information

Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) launched updated versions of its two main websites in August 2015. DonateLifeAZ.org and DNAZ.org are vital resources for health care partners, donor families and recipients, donation advocates and the general public. DNA revamped both websites and streamlined information and resources. The sites are now more attractive and user-friendly.

DonateLifeAZ.org is the Donate Life Arizona main page. It features facts on donation, a calendar of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Visitors can read donor and recipient stories, or share their connection to donation by clicking the "Stories" tab, which connects to LiveOnAZ.org. The site also features the Wall of Life, where users can add names to a virtual wall. The Wall of Life was created to express support for donation and honor those who have given or received the gift of life.

DNAZ.org was designed for professional partners and informational inquiries. Its resources include perspectives on donation and links to other organizations that are involved in the donation process. Donor families can find information on honoring a loved one, connecting with recipients and joining a support group. Health care partners can research legal guidelines on donation, as well as online certification programs.

DNA strives to provide current, relevant donation information to stakeholders and the general public. The updates to its websites will help the donation community connect with vital resources, maximizing DNA's potential to save and heal lives.



"It means so much to me to know my loved ones were able to help others through donation."

# Volunteer Hero

Dave Peterson

**D**ave Peterson tells his donation story in two chapters. The first began when his son-in-law passed away from a stroke in 2010, bringing the subject of organ, eye and tissue donation into Dave's life for the first time. Prior to this experience, he had not given it much thought. However, after his son-in-law was able to save three lives, Dave realized the incredible impact that donation can have. In the midst of their grief, Dave, his wife and their daughter made the generous decision to register as donors.

Two years later, Dave's wife tragically passed away in a car accident. Because of their prior experience with donation, Dave had no doubt that she would want to help others as a donor. He was proud that she was able to save a life by donating her liver.



Dave Peterson stands beside a poster of his wife, who saved a life by donating her liver, during Donate Life Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 16.

Because his family received such incredible care during these difficult times, Dave wanted to give back. In 2015, he joined the Donate Life Arizona volunteer team. Some of his favorite registration events include the Tucson Festival of Books and El Tour de Tucson. Whatever the venue, Dave is a tireless advocate for donation.

## Join the Action!

Donate Life Arizona is seeking volunteers to promote organ, eye and tissue donation! Attend one of our volunteer trainings to get started.

Current Donate Life Arizona volunteers are invited to the volunteer meetings listed below for training, education and networking.

June 7, 2016

Volunteer Meeting – Phoenix  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Volunteer Meeting – Phoenix  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Aug. 23, 2016

New Volunteer Training – Phoenix  
6 - 8 p.m.

Sept. 20, 2016

Volunteer Meeting – Phoenix  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Volunteer Meeting – Phoenix  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Sept. 22, 2016

Volunteer Meeting – Tucson  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Volunteer Meeting – Tucson  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Training – Tucson  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Oct. 18, 2016

New Volunteer Training – Phoenix  
6 - 8 p.m.

For more information, please contact [volunteers@dnaz.org](mailto:volunteers@dnaz.org) or visit [DonateLifeAZ.org/Events](http://DonateLifeAZ.org/Events).

## Honorable Mention

Gateway Community College

**I**n 2015, the Student Nurses Association at Gateway Community College (GCC) held two donor days on campus. Members worked alongside Donate Life Arizona volunteers, encouraging students to register as organ, eye and tissue donors. At the first event on April 7, 60 students registered or reaffirmed their commitment to donation. The second event was held on Nov. 4, and an additional 34 students registered to save and heal lives. Be The Match, an organization dedicated to delivering cures for blood cancer, also attended the events to share information about bone marrow donation. GCC's commitment to donation gives hope to more than 2,300 Arizonans awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant.

# Glendale Glitters with Generosity

**D**ecember 2015 truly was a season of giving. Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) staff and volunteers attended Glendale Glitters, Arizona's largest free holiday lights display, to share the message of donation. Passers-by were drawn to the light-up hearts that volunteers gave out as gifts to newly registered donors. They paused to huddle beneath DNA's blue and green tent, bathed in the festive glow of 1.5 million twinkling lights.

The crowd was captivated by incredible stories of hope and generosity, told by DNA volunteers. According to volunteer Olivia Tallabas, "Everyone had so many questions! We had great interactions with everyone there. I enjoyed sharing my father's donation story with so many nice people in the community."

Many attendees who passed DNA booth exclaimed, "I've been meaning to do this!" and hurried over to fill out a donor registration card.



DNA staff and volunteers register organ, eye and tissue donors beneath thousands of twinkling lights at Glendale Glitters on Dec. 11, 2015.

Despite chilly temperatures, nearly 300 people registered or reaffirmed their commitment to donation at the event. These results would not have been possible without DNA's exceptional volunteers. Their passion and commitment to donation truly saves and heals lives.

## My Donation Story

Guest Writer: Robert Scanlan



Robert Scanlan is a three-time transplant recipient and a member of a donor family.

The woman mused, "I received a heart transplant eight years ago. I wonder what was so special about me."

With my hand gently on her shoulder, I explained, "Let me put your mind at ease. You did not receive a transplant because you are special. Think of yourself as most recipients do. We are simply the luckiest people in the world. Whatever is 'special' in this process lies in what we do going forward."

Donor Network of Arizona—through its Donate Life mission and activities—provides a unique opportunity for recipients to express gratitude and reap the fulfillment of an active and meaningful life.

Many Donate Life volunteers are donor family members. This gives further testament to the healing and inspirational effect of these life-changing and lifesaving programs.

Whether volunteers contribute by performing office work, tending a health fair booth or educating a community group, the value and personal satisfaction they receive are unmatched.

For both donor families and organ recipients, loss is an unavoidable tragedy on the transplant journey. Donate Life offers compassionate support and opportunities to give back. Its volunteers both elevate their lives and benefit the community.



A Donate Life Organization

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PHOENIX AZ  
PERMIT NO. 443

**Donor Network of Arizona**

201 W. Coolidge  
Phoenix, AZ 85013-2710

**Address Correction Requested**

REGISTER TO BE  
AN ORGAN, EYE &  
TISSUE DONOR  
[DonateLifeAZ.org](http://DonateLifeAZ.org)  
1-800-94-DONOR



calendar of events

**June 13**

Health Care for Hope Breakfast  
[Katie.Benton@dnaz.org](mailto:Katie.Benton@dnaz.org)

**July 4**

Tempe Town Lake 4th of July Festival  
[Ashley.Siegel@dnaz.org](mailto:Ashley.Siegel@dnaz.org)

**July 8**

Every Community Has Opportunity (ECHO) Breakfast  
[DeniseC@dnaz.org](mailto:DeniseC@dnaz.org)

**August**

Campus Challenge  
[www.YourOrgansLiveOn.org](http://www.YourOrgansLiveOn.org)

**August 8**

Donation Symposium  
[LisaK@dnaz.org](mailto:LisaK@dnaz.org)

**September 16**

30th Anniversary Blue & Green Gala  
[Katie.Benton@dnaz.org](mailto:Katie.Benton@dnaz.org)

**October**

High School Challenge  
[Ashley.Espinoza@dnaz.org](mailto:Ashley.Espinoza@dnaz.org)