

Emergency Professionals

Connection

A newsletter published by Donate Life Arizona

Donation Comforts Grieving Husband



Craig Church, an avid cyclist, wears a Donate Life jersey to honor his wife Alisha, who was an organ donor.

On May 2, 2014, a tragic car accident took the life of Alisha Church while she was out for a jog. Her husband Craig received the news early in the morning. He rushed his four young children to the hospital to say goodbye. Alisha was a registered organ, eye and tissue donor and her wishes were honored at the time of her death. Craig, a lifelong supporter of donation, was able to find comfort knowing that his wife of 20 years was able to heal others through her generosity.

Just a few weeks after the funeral, Craig received a letter from Donor Network of Arizona. Alisha's corneas had been donated to a 50-year-old and a 30-year-old, and her tissue had restored health and mobility for many people.

"I think she would have been happy with how smoothly it went and how she contributed to helping someone," says Craig.

"It's comforting to know that she's going to live on in others."

Craig and Alisha both made careers out of helping people. Alisha was an audiologist. She worked for the Deer Valley Unified School District for 18 years. In her time there, she raised money to provide equipment such as hearing aids to kids who could not otherwise afford them. Many of the students she worked with had also been organ or tissue recipients, so Alisha understood the incredible impact of donation.

"She saw how much donation benefitted the little ones and helped them become functional adults," says Craig. "She always talked about a child who could hear or speak because of donation, so it became a real passion because of her work."

Craig served the city of Phoenix as a police sergeant for 25 years. Prior to that, he worked as a CT scan technician and became familiar with organ donation and the various ways it helps people. Craig had even received donated bone tissue after breaking his neck in a cycling accident. Because they were both passionate supporters of donation, Craig has no doubt in his mind that it was the right decision for Alisha.

"It's all worth it," says Craig. "The grief we went through and continue to go through has become more positive. I can't imagine why anyone wouldn't want to be an organ donor."



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Greetings

From President and CEO, Tim Brown
Donor Network of Arizona

It may be hot in Arizona this summer, but that has not deterred the wave of generosity sweeping across the state. The DonateLifeAZ Registry continues to grow, as more Arizonans embrace the message of donation. Currently, more than 2.8 million people statewide have registered to save and heal lives.

This number means a lot to more than 350 Arizonans who received a transplant in the first half of 2016. These people enjoyed summer break, swimming pools and family time thanks to the generosity of a donor.

Many more lives have been saved by Arizona's first responders, who act fast to give their patients the best chance at recovering from accidents and illnesses. Despite the sweltering temperatures, emergency professionals hit the pavement every day with one goal in mind: to save lives.

In 2016, we have surpassed 100 organ donors earlier in the year than ever before. Many of these gifts are possible because of the heroic efforts of Arizona's first responders. Sometimes it



(l to r) Tim Brown and his wife Cathy wore green to support organ, eye and tissue donation during Donate Life Day at the Diamondbacks on April 10, 2016.

may be hard to see the full impact of what you do. At Donor Network of Arizona, we'd like you to know that your work has far-reaching effects. Every patient you care for who goes on to become a donor has the potential to save eight lives and heal many more. Your efforts give hope to more than 2,300 Arizonans awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant. The care you provide your patients is extended to their families, who find peace in knowing that their loved ones live on in others.

You are heroes to more people than you know. On behalf of Donor Network of Arizona, thank you for sharing the message of donation and championing the gift of life.

DNA's Tissue Department Meets with Arizona Firefighters

Staff members from Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) have been meeting with Arizona firefighters to share information about the organization and discuss the important role first responders play in organ, eye and tissue donation.

Firefighters and paramedics are often the first people to respond to a medical emergency. Their first priority is always to provide excellent care to patients at the scene. However, in the event these lifesaving attempts are unsuccessful, their continued efforts are critical to the organ donation process. Although they may feel removed from the outcome, the potential for donation can be determined in those first moments.

"When they are out working a code or performing resuscitative measures, they may help save a life down the road, even if they can't save that person in the moment," says DNA's Tissue Services Manager Rhiannon Knueven.

DNA also stresses the importance of proper documentation of procedures performed at the scene, including IV lines placed and fluids administered.



DNA staff meet with Gila River Fire Department for a presentation about the role of first responders in organ, eye and tissue donation.

The presentations are tailored to meet the needs of each fire station. They range from 30 minutes to two hours in length. Depending on the station's requirements, attendance may fulfill continuing education credits.

So far, the presentations have received a great deal of positive feedback from participants. Knueven says the open-ended question and answer segment has elicited a lot of thoughtful questions and prompted meaningful discussions about donation.

According to Knueven, "We want them to have a better understanding of DNA and how their role as first responders impacts donation."

To schedule a presentation, or for more information, please contact Rhiannon Knueven at Rhiannon@dnaz.org or call 602-222-3806.

First Responders Find Hope After Tragedy

For Arizona's firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) crews, losing a patient can be devastating. These heroic men and women make every effort to save lives, even in situations that seem hopeless. Unfortunately, some patients succumb to their injuries. This takes an emotional toll on first responders, who care deeply about the people they serve.

Around this dark cloud, however, is a silver lining. Patients who receive excellent care at the scene of a medical emergency may go on to become organ or tissue donors. An organ donor can save up to eight lives, and tissue donors can heal the lives of more than 50 people. The families of donors find comfort in knowing that their loved ones live on. From tragedy, springs hope.

Until recently, Arizona's emergency professionals had no way of knowing when a patient they served went on to

become a donor. This changed in 2016, when Donor Network of Arizona's (DNA) Tissue Department recognized the need to inform first responders of the positive outcomes of their work. The department began sending letters to fire stations and EMS crews when one of their patients became an organ donor. The letters come from DNA's CEO Tim Brown and include specific information about the case, as well as descriptions of the recipients and how the donation changed their lives.

In a recent letter, DNA informed the Glendale Fire Department that a patient had saved the life of a 24-year-old woman who received new lungs, as well as a 7-month-old baby who received a partial liver transplant. The recipients can now enjoy long, happy lives thanks to the generosity of the donor and the incredible efforts of Glendale's firefighters.



In a heartfelt response to the letter, Glendale Fire Chief Terry Garrison explained, "Firefighters don't always know how things turn out after a patient leaves their care, so for you to give them the details of all the lives that have been saved and all the good that came of that tragic event, I promise you, it will brighten their day!"

SPOTTED: Emergency Professionals Supporting Donation

Honoring Lt. Eric Shuhandler at Donate Life Day at the Capitol on March 16, 2016.



Posing with Reggie the Donor Cactus at Donate Life Day at the D-backs on April 10, 2016.

Volunteering at HonorHealth Deer Valley Medical Center on April 20, 2016.

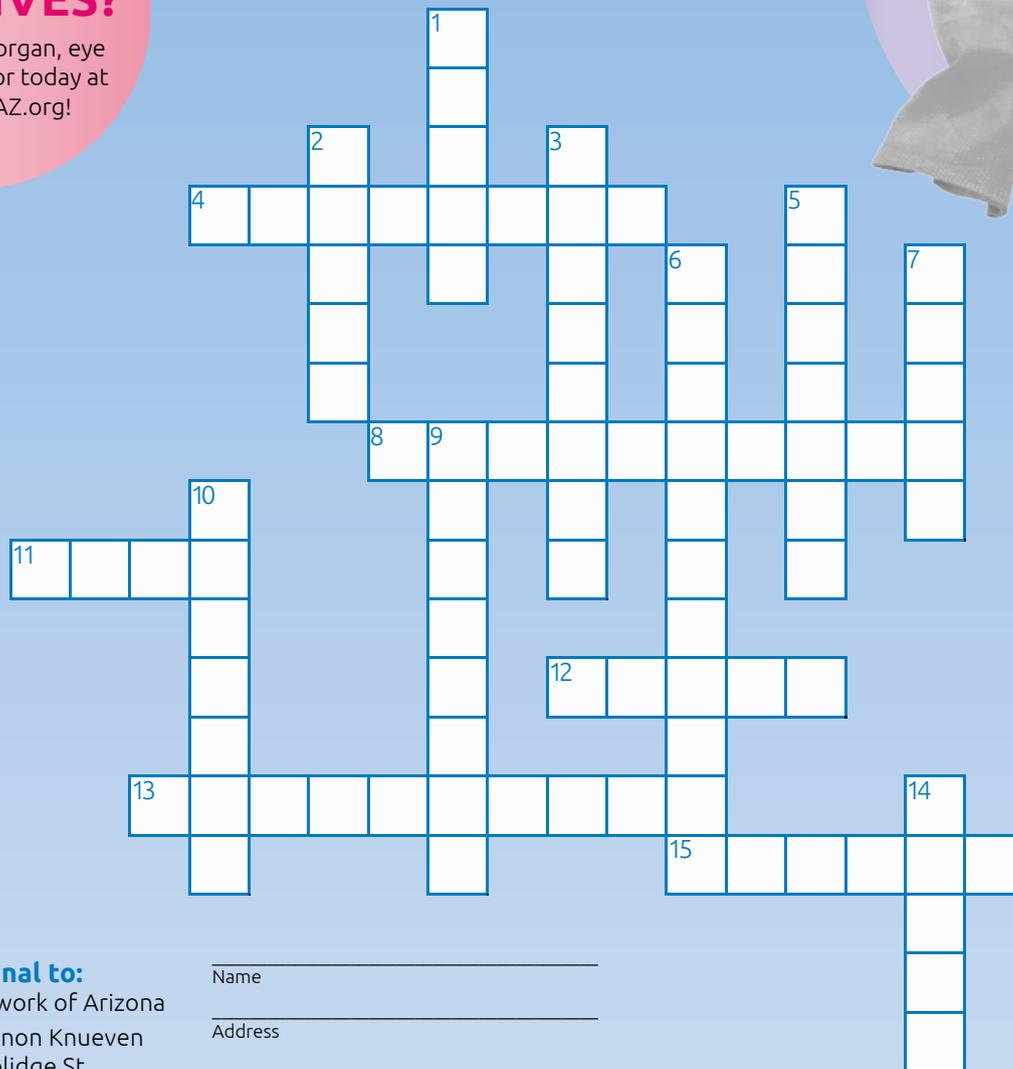


Raising the Donate Life flag at Maricopa Medical Center on April 8, 2016.

WANT TO SAVE LIVES?

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

Mail in your completed crossword puzzle to receive free Donate Life cooling towel!



Mail original to:

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

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

across

4. Last name of Glendale Fire Chief.
8. Many of Alisha Church's students had been organ or tissue _____.
11. Type of tissue Craig Church received after a cycling accident.
12. Number of lives a single organ donor can save.
13. Firefighters and _____ are often the first people to respond to a medical emergency.
15. _____ donors can heal the lives of more than 50 people.

down

1. First name of Alisha Church's husband.
2. Donor Network of Arizona's CEO Tim ____ signs letters to fire stations and EMS crews when one of their patients becomes an organ donor.
3. Type of feedback Donor Network of Arizona's Tissue Department has received about its fire station presentations.
5. City that Craig Church served as a police sergeant for 25 years.
6. Alisha Church's profession.
7. In 2016, DNA's Tissue Department began informing _____ responders of the positive outcomes of their work.
9. Number of years Alisha Church worked for Deer Valley Unified School District.
10. What the 'M' stands for in EMS.
14. DNA informed the Glendale Fire Department that a patient had saved the life of a woman who received new _____.

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

Emergency Medical Service & Fire Departments	Jan. - June 2016 *Total Organ, Eye and Tissue Donors
Air Evac Services Inc.	2
American Medical Response	1
Apache Junction Fire Department	1
Arizona Lifeline	1
Avondale Fire Department	1
Avra Valley Fire Department	1
Bisbee Fire Department	1
Buckeye Fire Department	6
Buckeye Valley Fire District	1
Bullhead City Fire Department	2
Camp Verde Fire District	1
Casa Grande Fire Department	3
Chandler Fire Department	11
City of Tolleson Emergency Services	2
Daisy Mountain Fire Department	2
Douglas Fire Department	2
Drexel Heights Fire District	4
Eloy Fire District	2
Gila River Emergency Services	2
Gilbert Fire Department	11
Glendale Fire Department	17
Golder Ranch Fire District	1
Goodyear Fire Department	3
Green Valley Fire District	2
Guadalupe Fire District	1
Guardian Air Transport	3
Healthcare Innovations Inc.	3
Heber - Overgaard Fire Department	1
Kearny Fire Department	1
Kingman Fire Department	3
Life Line Ambulance Services Inc.	6
Maricopa Fire Department	1
Mesa Fire Department	19
Mohave Valley Fire District	1

Emergency Medical Service & Fire Departments	Jan. - June 2016 *Total Organ, Eye and Tissue Donors
Montezuma-Rimrock Fire Department	1
Mountain Vista Fire District	2
Native Air Ambulance	2
North County Fire and Medical District	1
North Mountain Fire Department	1
Northwest Fire Department	7
Payson Fire Department	3
Peoria Fire Department	11
PHI Air Medical	1
Phoenix Fire Department	75
Picture Rocks Fire District	1
PMT Ambulance	7
Queen Creek Fire Department	2
Rincon Valley Fire District	1
River Medical Inc.	8
Rural Metro	28
Salt River Fire Department	2
San Luis Fire Department	1
Scottsdale Fire Department	9
SEAZ Bisbee Fire	1
SEAZ Fry Fire	3
SEAZ Sierra Vista	2
Somerton Ambulance	1
Southwest Ambulance	10
Sun City Fire Department	1
Sunrise Air Ambulance LLC	1
Superstition Fire and Medical District	3
Surprise Fire-Medical Station	4
Tempe Fire Department	8
Tolleson Fire Department	1
Tri-City FD District	1
Tubac Fire Department	1
Tucson Fire Department	35
Yuma Fire Department	5

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

Major religions support donation as an act of generosity and a **GIFT OF LIFE.**

There are no health requirements or age limits on **HOPE & GENEROSITY.** Anyone can register to be a donor!

Not sure if you're already registered? Reaffirm your decision and **register again!**

DonateLifeAZ Registry

2,862,131

(as of August 12, 2016)

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

Behind the
DONOR ♥

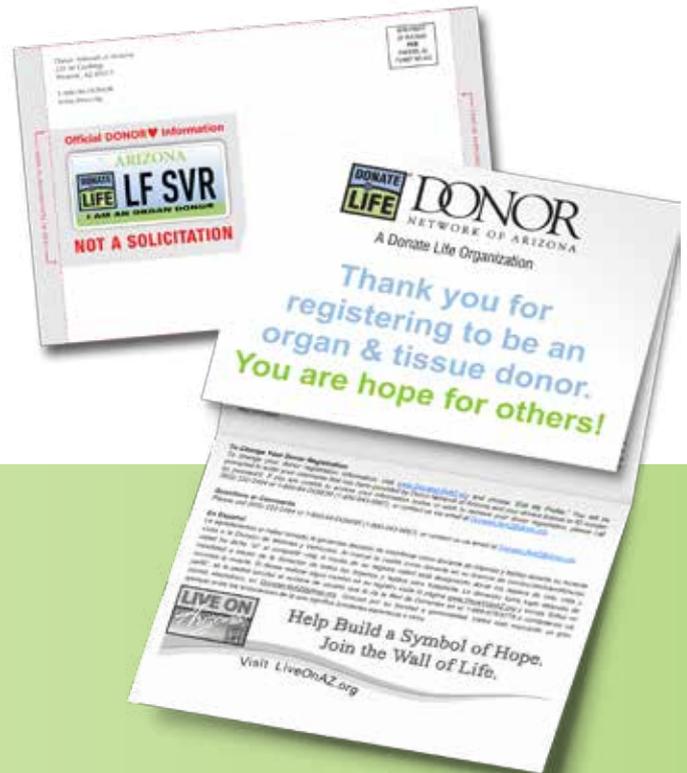
I want to be placed on the permanent early voting list and receive an early ballot by mail for each election I am eligible.

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 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:
Rhiannon Knueven at 602-222-3806