

Ambassadors for Life



Rudy and Janice Wallace share the importance of donation as part of the Ambassador Program at the Yuma ADOT MVD office.

In March 2016, Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) launched a new initiative called the ADOT MVD Ambassador Program, designed to build upon and strengthen DNA's valuable relationship with the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD).

On a quarterly basis, trained DNA volunteers venture out to the ADOT MVD offices to give the employees a quick presentation on organ, cornea and tissue donation. The volunteers share their personal connection to donation as well as what the cause means to them. There is also a short Q&A session after each presentation, during which the MVD employees can ask questions they have about donation or DNA. The volunteers will continue to visit the offices throughout the year to see if any promotional materials are needed, as well as deliver newsletters and special gifts to celebrate the exceptional work of the ADOT MVD employees.

Currently, there are ambassadors assigned to 20 of the 51 MVD offices in Arizona, but Claudia Flaherty, DNA's MVD specialist, is optimistic about the future growth of the program. "We hope to expand the program as we get more volunteers in those outlying areas where the offices are located," says Flaherty. "It's an ongoing project, but we are excited to roll it out in phases."

The idea behind the Ambassador Program came nearly two years ago. Flaherty was part of a Donate Life America committee where she learned of the existence of the program in other states. DNA tailored the program to fit Arizona's needs. According to Flaherty, the ultimate goal is to keep the ADOT MVD informed about donation and to show the employees how their work is making a difference.

"I want the staff to feel comfortable with what our organization does, our mission and what we're working toward," says Flaherty. "It's really important for them to know the direct impact of the work that they do, and we want to appreciate them and thank them for it."

Hank and Sue Rausch visit the Coolidge ADOT MVD to present information about donation.



Amazing Year for Donation

2016 marks a year of saving and healing more lives than ever before. Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) saw a record-breaking year for donation. This progress is due in large part to the help of the ADOT MVD with registering an increasing number of Arizonans. This year, 55 percent of Arizona organ donors were registered, and approximately 95 percent of all Arizonans register by checking the box at the ADOT MVD. This speaks volumes about the important work the ADOT

MVD does every day to save and heal more lives than they know.

Our hope is that every family would have the opportunity to discuss their feelings about donation before tragedy strikes. The ability to register at the ADOT MVD also gives families a reminder and opportunity to have that discussion about donation. Checking the box is just the first, albeit important, step. This year approximately 270,000 people were added to the DonateLifeAZ registry. That impact is magnified as families continue

the conversation about organ, cornea and tissue donation at home.

DNA had 225 organ donors give the gift of life in 2016, which means 614 lives were saved.

The ADOT MVD is invaluable to this growth because they bring donation to their communities and spark donation conversations.

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

Behind the DONOR ♥

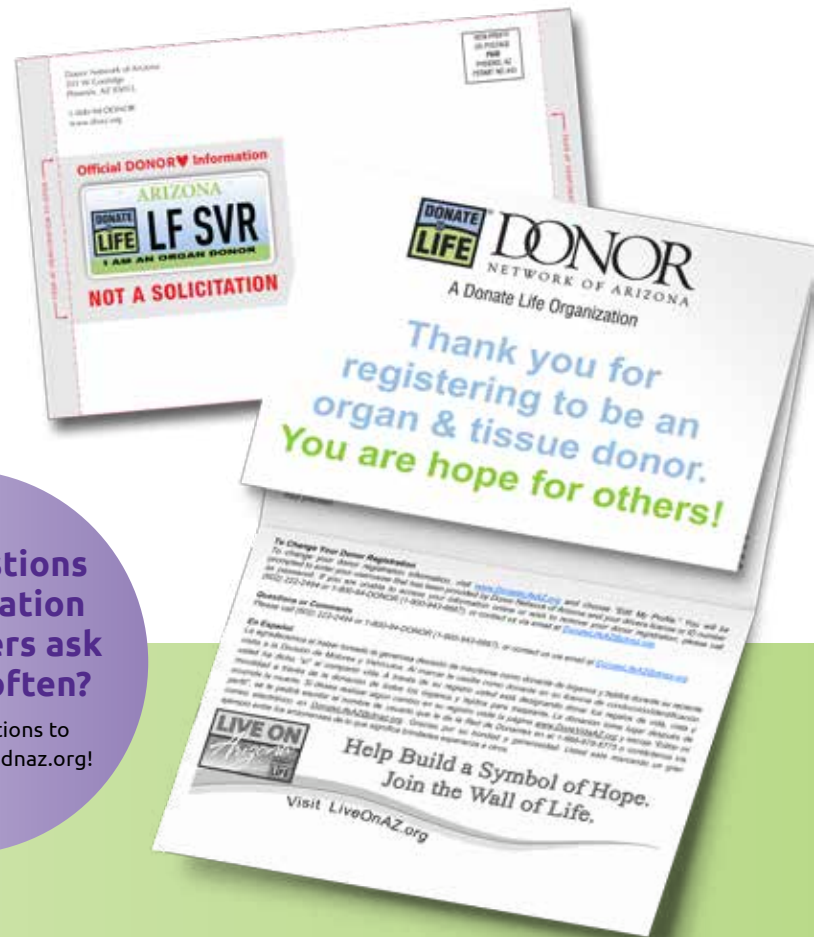
I want to be placed on the permanent early voting list and receive an early ballot by mail for each election I am eligible.

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 a couple 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



Mom Hears Her Daughter's Heart Beat Again



Heart recipient Mark Wilson and donor mother Traci Helms met for the first time at Mayo Clinic Hospital on Monday, June 27. Wilson gave Helms sunflowers and Helms gave Wilson a picture of her daughter.

Mark Wilson's life was turned upside down when he was diagnosed with congenital heart failure. He had been living with the disease for four years until, following a near-death experience in 2014, Wilson was placed on the transplant waiting list. He was given a mechanical heart pump to keep him alive while he waited for his gift of life.

That same year, 17-year-old Sunni Goddard tragically passed away in a car accident. A girl whose name suited her perfectly, Goddard was a ray of sunshine to everyone she encountered.

Goddard registered to become an organ, cornea and tissue donor at the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD) just months before her death. Goddard's mother, Traci Helms, recalls that it wasn't a topic that they had discussed beforehand; Goddard came up with the idea on her own. When Goddard passed, Helms made sure the doctors were aware of her wish to become a donor. Thanks to Goddard and Helms' generosity, Goddard was able to save four lives, including Wilson's.

On June 27, 2016, Helms was once again able to hear her daughter's heart beat. She had an emotional meeting with Wilson at Mayo Clinic Hospital, where his transplant occurred. When they saw each other for the first time, barely a word was spoken before they tearfully embraced. As she listened to her daughter's heart beating in Wilson's chest, she smiled sadly and quietly acknowledged, "That's my girl."

Donor Network of Arizona captured this beautiful meeting on film and the story was picked up by multiple media outlets. Helms and Wilson shared their story with the world in the hope that it would inspire more people to register as organ donors.

Today, Wilson is able to resume his normal, active lifestyle and can fully enjoy spending time with his wife and two kids. Helms takes comfort in the fact that this is all possible because of her daughter.

"There are a million things that went through my head (the day my daughter died)," says Helms, "a million things that I could have done differently, but the one thing I never questioned was donating her organs."



Contributors:

Tim Brown
Robbie Glazner
Sara Pace Jones

Writers and Editors:

Irasema Celis
Claudia Flaherty
Alexa Haynes
Kris Patterson
Ariana Peery
Miranda Reddy

Greetings

From DNA's President and CEO Tim Brown

The Arizona community continues to show its generosity by registering as organ, cornea and tissue donors. For the first time ever, Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) completed over 200 donor cases in a single year. The previous record for organ cases in a year was in 2013, when 180 donors gave the gift of life.

These incredible gifts of life would not be possible without the hard work of the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD). A large majority of these donors sign up when they check the box at ADOT MVD while renewing a driver license or ID card. These lives saved are just the beginning of measuring the true impact of your work.

I am confident that with your help we will continue to break barriers to donation and save even more lives. We remember the generosity of these donors as we thank each of you for your commitment to make donation an option for all Arizonans and their loved ones. Because of your work to encourage donor registration, thousands of transplant recipients have a second



Deputy Director of ADOT MVD Chad Campbell (r) accepts an award on behalf of Eric Jorgensen, director of ADOT MVD, from Tim Brown (l), president and CEO of Donor Network of Arizona at DNA's 30th Anniversary Blue and Green Gala.

chance to be with their families, and the families of donors can heal and find comfort in the knowledge that their loved one made a difference in the lives of others.

We are grateful to have a dedicated ADOT MVD on our team, and on behalf of Donor Network of Arizona, I thank you for your dedication to the gift of life!

#GotHeart



Employees at the Southeast Mesa MVD office celebrate the lifesaving heart transplant received by fellow employee, Jimmie Willis (center of heart).

Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division (ADOT MVD) showed they #GotHeart on Valentine's Day, February 14, also known as National Donor Day. This date is widely recognized within the donation community as an opportunity to share how organ, cornea and tissue donation can help save and heal lives. To celebrate, Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) wanted to recognize our partnership with ADOT MVD and hear from employees why donation is important to them.

With participation from 23 employees at ADOT MVD, DNA heard some inspiring and uplifting stories about donation.

"The Southeast Mesa MVD office has a wonderful reason to support organ donation – our CSR Jimmie Willis!" says Erika Poorman, the office's manager. "Jimmie received a new heart in 2011! Jimmie is such a special person and we are so happy to have her on our team."

DNA mailed ADOT MVD employees conversation heart candy packs and encouraged them to take a picture with their packs and send to Claudia Flaherty, DNA's MVD specialist, for a chance to win a Donate Life Arizona polo shirt. After reviewing the entries received, it was decided to provide each person that participated in the contest with a polo shirt. "There are several times during the year where we have the opportunity to celebrate the incredible work that ADOT MVD employees are conducting on a daily basis, and we were also excited to hear from them why it is so important."

DNA is thankful for our continuing partnership with ADOT MVD. Hearing the personal stories of how donation has touched the lives of those working at ADOT MVD has been impactful and moving. The conversation about the generous gift of organ, cornea and tissue donation keeps us all connected and helps us to understand the true meaning of the gift of life.

DonateLifeAZ Registry

3,007,061

(as of March 1, 2017)

2016

A REMARKABLE YEAR FOR DONATION

Organ Donors

225

Tissue Donors

971

Ocular Donors

1,266

≡ 614 lives were saved through organ donation. ≡

Approximately

270,000

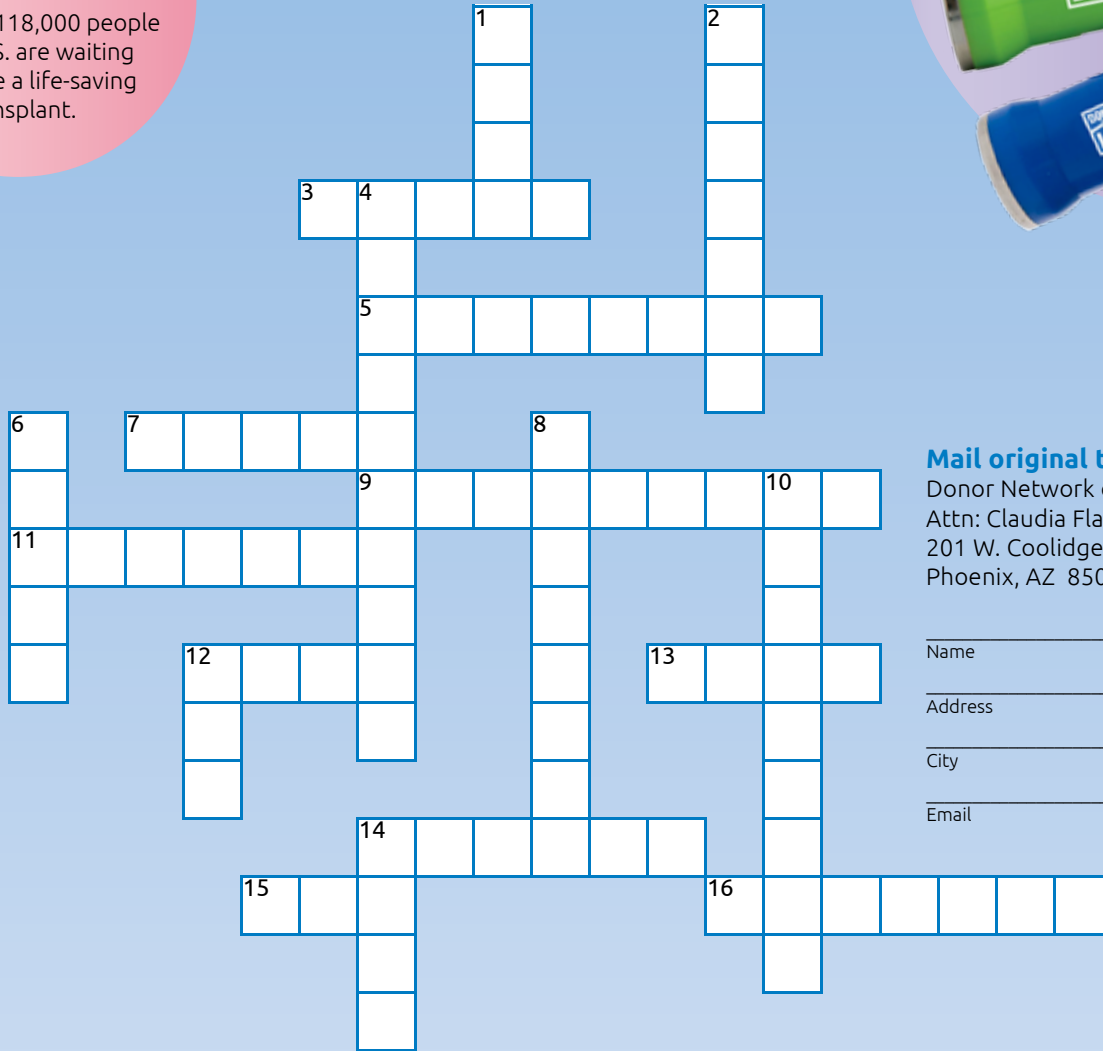
Arizonans were added to the DonateLifeAZ Registry.

Thank you for being a part of this lifesaving year!

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 118,000 people in the U.S. are waiting to receive a life-saving transplant.

Mail in your completed crossword puzzle to receive free Donate Life car charger!



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

3. Donor Network of Arizona tailored the Ambassador Program to fit Arizona's needs and it was officially launched in _____.
5. In honor of ADOT MVD Saves Lives Month, Donor Network of Arizona sent Fairytale _____ to every ADOT MVD employee.
7. Celeste Machiche had registered as a donor at the MVD just _____ before her tragic death.
9. Sunni Goddard tragically passed away at the age of _____.
11. Donor Network of _____ started the Ambassador Program to strengthen its relationship with the ADOT MVD.
12. Mark Wilson and Traci Helms met at _____ Clinic Hospital.
13. Donor Network of Arizona captured Mark Wilson and Traci Helms' beautiful meeting on _____.
14. Donor Network of Arizona celebrated the _____ annual ADOT MVD Saves Lives Month in August 2016.
15. The idea behind the Ambassador Program came nearly _____ years ago.
16. The story of _____ Machiche, a young organ donor, was shared on ADOT's website.

down

1. The director of the MVD is _____ Jorgensen.
2. During Mark Wilson and Traci Helms' visit, Mark gave Traci a _____ of flowers.
4. Donor Network of Arizona's _____ Program was officially launched in 2016.
6. Mark Wilson received his new _____ from Sunni Goddard.
8. The ADOT MVD plays an important role in allowing Arizonans the ability to _____ as organ, cornea and tissue donors.
10. Trained DNA volunteers ventured out to the ADOT MVD offices to give the _____ a presentation on donation.
12. Claudia Flaherty is Donor Network of Arizona's _____ Specialist.
14. Sunni Goddard saved _____ lives through the gift of organ donation.