

We Make the Most of Life

May 2016 - April 2017

Connection

A Year in Review



Blue and
Green Gala

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Año sin precedente para la
donación en Arizona



Cover Photo: (l to r) Tim Brown, heart recipient Larry Fowler and Dr. D. Eric Steidley of Mayo Clinic pose for a photo at the 30th Anniversary Blue and Green Gala.

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& TISSUE DONOR
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Greetings

From President and CEO, Tim Brown

In February 2017, Tim Brown (r) received two awards for Donor Network of Arizona's exceptional work from Dr. Kunam Reddy (l) of Mayo Clinic. One award was for surpassing 100 donors in 2016, with the second award given for exceeding 200 donors in 2016.

National Donate Life Month is celebrated each April, and is a perfect time for us to look back and reflect on the amazing donation efforts in 2016.

Last year, for the first time ever, Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) surpassed an impressive milestone when 225 organ donors provided life-changing second chances to 614 recipients. This generosity is outstanding considering the previous record of organ donors in a year was 180 in 2013.

In addition to the lives saved through organ donation, there were 971 tissue donors who restored health and 1,266 cornea donors who gave the gift of sight.

This trend of generosity has continued in 2017. In February, we hit more than 3 million people who joined the DonateLifeAZ Registry. If one donor can save up to eight lives and improve the lives of more than 50 people, it is astounding to imagine the scope of this generosity. This ripple of hope will touch countless Arizonans for years to come.

On behalf of DNA, I would like to sincerely thank you for your tireless efforts to support donation in Arizona, and I look forward to future years of saving lives.

life
SAVER

SPECIAL SHOUTOUTS!

Dr. Maria Gonzalez Berlari
Medical Director
GB Family Care

Zina Berry, PharmD
Director of Strategic Integration
and Transplant
Walgreens

Jane Shovlin
Arizona HOSA State Advisor

Jill Logan

*Nursing Administration and Ethics Director
Yavapai Regional Medical Center*

"For nearly 25 years, Jill has been a key contact for Donor Network of Arizona. Living in Prescott, Arizona, for so long helped her develop relationships with several of the donors and their families. Jill came in on her days off during a recent donor case to ensure that everything ran smoothly and to give emotional support to the family and the hospital staff who also knew the family. The care she demonstrates to all families is invaluable. Jill's passion for donation is instrumental to the donation process, especially at an outlying hospital. We are so thankful for Yavapai Regional Medical Center's support and especially Jill's commitment to donation over the years. She is a true donation champion!"

- **Keely Hansen**, donor program coordinator
at Donor Network of Arizona

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

Her Gift of Life Shines On

Husband and father of two, Mark Wilson was diagnosed with congenital heart failure in February 2010, and his life turned upside down. He was placed on the organ transplant waiting list in 2014.

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 just months before her death. When Goddard passed, Helms supported her daughter's decision to become a donor. Thanks to Goddard's generosity, she was able to save four lives, including Wilson's.

"She was my sunshine, the light of my life and the most understanding, forgiving and bubbly person anyone could ever hope to meet," says Helms.

Filled with gratitude for the incredible gift he had received, Wilson decided to contact his donor's family. After exchanging a few letters, he knew it was time to meet his donor's family.

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, they tearfully



Heart recipient Mark Wilson (r) and donor family Traci Helms (l) and Rian Helms (center) place their handprints on the Donate Life racecar in remembrance of donor Sunni Goddard.

embraced. Listening to her daughter's heart beating in Wilson's chest, she smiled sadly and acknowledged, "That's my girl."

Today, Wilson is able to resume his normal, active lifestyle and can fully enjoy spending time with his wife and two kids. Since meeting for the first time, Wilson and Helms have remained friends and spend time with each other as much as possible.

In November 2016, NASCAR driver and donor son Joey Gase honored Goddard at Phoenix International Raceway by driving with her photo on the car's bumper. Along with her photo, the racecar was decorated with painted handprints from family, friends and donation champions from Mayo Clinic Hospital.

"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."

New Procedure Gives Sight

Thanks to 1,266 generous individuals in 2016, more people have had their gift of sight restored, and are able to see the joy of an Arizona sunset.

These incredible gifts would not be possible without constant innovation and dedication by the ocular staff at Donor Network of Arizona (DNA), who study and train to support this generosity.

A new procedure, descemet's membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK), requires donated cornea tissues. Scientific data demonstrates that the DMEK procedure provides vision restoration with shorter recovery times for specific eye disease. There is also a lowered risk of rejection compared to alternative procedures.

DNA now restores vision damaged by disease and cell dystrophy by providing tissue for this state-of-the-art surgery, and is committed to helping ocular transplant surgeons in innovative techniques. As one of just two organ procurement organizations in the country providing this tissue, DNA is also the state's only eye bank accredited by the Eye Bank Association of America.



Ocular Recovery Coordinator Anthony Vizzerra (r) and Ocular Services Coordinator David Moses (l) prepare to recover ocular tissue to be used in a DMEK procedure.

"I am humbled to give a donor's gift of corneal tissue the opportunity to be transplanted," says DNA's Ocular Services Coordinator David Moses. "We want to honor each donor's wish to share sight, and preparing corneal tissue for the DMEK transplant surgery means we can make the most of each generous donation."

The first Arizona patient to undergo the DMEK procedure using cornea tissue from an Arizona donor received his transplant on Jan. 11, 2016. Since then, DNA has performed 40 DMEK procedures.

Invaluable Partnerships Improve Donation

Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) experienced tremendous growth in heart valves and musculoskeletal donors in 2016. This can be attributed to the DonateLifeAZ Registry, DNA's commitment to quality, and the increase in partners who prepare tissue for transplant.

In this record-breaking year for both heart valves and musculoskeletal recoveries, DNA recovered 227 heart valves and honored the wishes of 900 bone donors. Thanks to cooperation with medical examiners and funeral homes across the state, DNA can increase donation opportunities. Currently more than 300 children nationwide are waiting for a heart valve, so these partnerships are invaluable in the lives they can save and heal.



At only five days old, Roman E. Fuentes-McCaa generously impacted the world when his heart valves were donated to save another child.

To maximize donation, DNA works with seven organizations across the country who prepare and distribute the recovered tissue for transplant. Each musculoskeletal donor can impact the lives of 50 people.

"Collaboration and commitment not only to our own missions, but to the missions of our partners makes all the difference," says Dr. Jeffrey Johnston, chief medical examiner for Maricopa County, on the relationship between DNA and the Office of the Medical Examiner (OME).

All Arizona OMEs partner with DNA to support families during an unimaginable time by helping their loved one live on through donation.

"A big reason for the growth in heart valve and bone donors is the DonateLifeAZ Registry," says Ryan Nelson, tissue recovery supervisor at DNA. "More and more individuals are making the selfless decision to be a part of it."

Maximizing Donation Through Compassion

The donation process begins with a phone call, one that Referral and Donor Support Services (RDSS) at Donor Network of Arizona is always there to answer. Donation becomes an opportunity thanks to quick referrals by hospitals and medical examiner's offices when a patient passes away in Arizona.

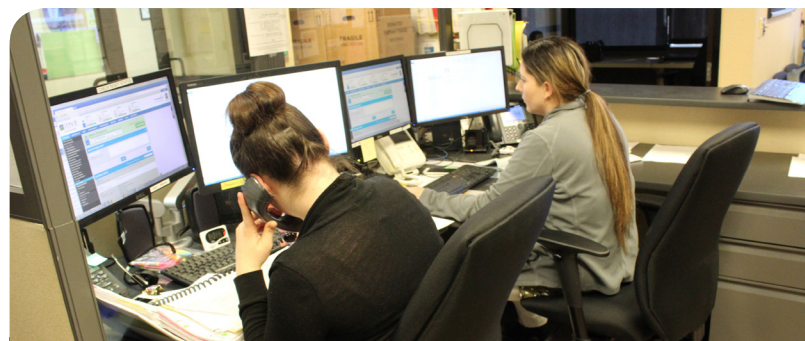
Once RDSS is notified, they work to determine the patient's medical suitability for donation. This department operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, to ensure that there is no missed opportunity for a potential donor.

RDSS talks to families about donation and their loved one's medical and social history to determine their suitability for organ or tissue donation. RDSS staff are sympathetic to the difficulty for grieving families, which is why they treat these conversations with the utmost sanctity. This is simultaneously the most challenging and rewarding aspect of working in RDSS.

Last year, RDSS received a record 27,726 referrals, a 6 percent increase from 2015. With each call, they are often on the phone

with families who are in the early stages of grief just after losing their loved one.

"We work hard on grounding ourselves on the importance of connecting with family members as if they were our own family," says Jim Simpson, director of RDSS. "This is a constant challenge no matter how your day is going, what outside pressures you have, or anything else."



RDSS workers are active 24/7, coordinating referrals and talking with families about the donation process.

30th Anniversary Blue and Green Gala

Photo boards displayed 30 stories of the hope and generosity of donor families and recipients during the Gala.



Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) and its partners gathered to celebrate 30 years of saving and healing lives during the 30th Anniversary Blue and Green Gala. The donation process in Arizona is an intricate program that relies on the support of many stakeholders all across the state. None of this work would be possible without the help of many partners – from media staff who bring heartfelt donation stories to their communities to hospital employees who care for their patients and fulfill the last wishes of donors and their families.

These are some examples of the people who save more lives than they know every time they come to work or bring donation into their communities. In support of their efforts, DNA presented 42 awards to its community, governmental, health care and media partners.

Karla Navarrete, reporter for CBS 5 Arizona and 3TV KTVK, emceed the award ceremony and shared how her father's kidney transplant gave her 10 more years with him.

Diana Pike shared her story of her son Christian at the Gala. Celebrated on Veteran's Day, this event was the perfect time to honor this hero who saved five people through organ donation after he was killed in the line of duty. Christian was known for his generosity and giving soul. His "last act of service was being an organ donor," says Diana.

Larry Fowler, another veteran, spoke of how his life and the life of his twin brother depended on the generosity of organ donors after they both experienced heart failure due to a genetic condition. They both received heart transplants.

During dinner, attendees looked back at the progress of the past three decades. Originally established as the Arizona Organ and Tissue Bank (AOTB) by Banner Good Samaritan Medical

Center in 1986, DNA's humble beginnings were only the start of great accomplishments to come. AOTB became DNA in 1993.

In 2003, National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week expanded to National Donate Life Month, and in 2005 Arizona passed legislation that allowed Arizona residents to check the box at the MVD to become donors.

In 2005, DNA surpassed 100 donors for the first time. The following year, 50 percent of the state's population had registered. Also in 2014, Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division added a donor heart graphic to Arizona driver's license. A record number of 225 generous donors in 2016 gave the gift of life to 614 people. These milestones have marked the path of DNA through the years, and there are sure to be even greater accomplishments in the future.

While DNA started as a small organization, it has always ambitiously broken barriers to help people receive the gift of life. The incredible number of lives saved through the decades is all thanks to the generosity of dedicated staff, donation champions, donors and their families.



Veteran and heart recipient Larry Fowler (r) and his twin brother Robert Fowler (l) received lifesaving heart transplants.



Reporter and recipient daughter Karla Navarrete hosted the 30th Anniversary Blue and Green Gala.

Hospital	Organ Donors		Organ Conv. Rate	Planned Donation Rate	Deaths Reported	Referral Comp. Rate	Ocular Donors	Ocular Conv. Rate	Tissue Donors	Tissue Conv. Rate
	Total	After Circulatory Death								
Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital	3	2	100%	100%	87	98.9%	4	33%	4	31%
Abrazo Arrowhead Campus	2	1	40%	75%	177	100.0%	17	65%	11	58%
Abrazo Central Campus	10	1	63%	71%	228	100.0%	13	52%	7	41%
Abrazo Maryvale Campus	1	0	50%	50%	131	100.0%	6	29%	6	23%
Abrazo Scottsdale Campus	4	1	80%	100%	174	99.4%	18	56%	13	57%
Abrazo West Campus	9	0	56%	91%	382	100.0%	35	50%	31	48%
Arizona General Hospital	0	0	---	---	44	97.8%	7	44%	4	29%
Banner - University Medical Center Phoenix	9	1	32%	87%	721	98.1%	25	32%	25	30%
Banner Baywood Medical Center	0	0	---	---	444	100.0%	18	47%	12	36%
Banner Boswell Medical Center	2	0	50%	50%	368	98.4%	14	58%	12	43%
Banner Casa Grande Regional Medical Center	0	0	0%	100%	178	98.9%	9	43%	8	32%
Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center	3	2	75%	100%	369	100.0%	16	64%	12	52%
Banner Desert Medical Center	12	6	50%	80%	667	99.6%	38	47%	29	38%
Banner Estrella Medical Center	2	0	29%	80%	323	99.7%	14	37%	10	29%
Banner Gateway Medical Center	1	0	50%	0%	186	100.0%	6	55%	4	40%
Banner Goodfield Medical Center	0	0	---	---	24	100.0%	3	60%	2	50%
Banner Heart Hospital	3	1	60%	100%	136	100.0%	8	53%	9	60%
Banner Ironwood Medical Center	0	0	---	---	51	100.0%	9	69%	7	58%
Banner Page Hospital	0	0	---	---	20	100.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Banner Thunderbird Medical Center	9	2	64%	100%	570	99.8%	27	54%	22	45%
Banner University Medical Center - South	0	0	0%	100%	158	99.4%	6	33%	2	13%
Banner University Medical Center - Tucson	27	7	63%	89%	743	99.9%	42	47%	36	42%
Benson Hospital	0	0	---	---	28	100.0%	0	---	0	---
Canyon Vista Medical Center	1	0	100%	---	134	100.0%	11	52%	6	38%
Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center	0	0	---	---	124	99.2%	3	38%	2	67%
Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital	0	0	---	---	26	100.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Carondelet St. Joseph's Hospital	6	1	60%	67%	497	100.0%	23	52%	17	41%
Carondelet St. Mary's Hospital	3	2	50%	75%	392	100.0%	21	41%	16	34%
Casa De La Paz	0	0	---	---	206	100.0%	2	15%	0	0%
Chandler Regional Medical Center	7	0	47%	85%	552	99.6%	47	44%	40	40%
Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility	0	0	---	---	115	100.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Cobre Valley Community Hospital	0	0	---	---	33	100.0%	3	60%	3	60%
Copper Queen Community Hospital	0	0	---	---	51	98.1%	5	56%	4	50%
Cornerstone Hospital of Southeast Arizona	0	0	---	---	23	100.0%	0	---	0	---
CTCA at Western Regional Medical Center	0	0	---	---	9	100.0%	0	---	0	---
Flagstaff Medical Center	6	0	29%	82%	389	99.2%	12	24%	12	24%
Florence Hospital at Anthem	0	0	---	---	42	100.0%	2	40%	2	29%
Gilbert Hospital	0	0	---	---	19	100.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Green Valley Hospital	0	0	50%	0%	39	97.5%	4	100%	3	60%
Havasu Regional Medical Center	1	0	50%	100%	176	99.4%	7	50%	5	38%
HealthSouth East Valley Rehabilitation Hospital	0	0	---	---	3	75.0%	0	---	0	---
Healthsouth Rehab Hospital of Southern Arizona	0	0	---	---	3	100.0%	0	---	0	---
Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Tucson	0	0	---	---	3	100.0%	0	---	0	---
HealthSouth Scottsdale Rehabilitation Hospital	0	0	---	---	1	100.0%	0	---	0	---
HealthSouth Valley of the Sun Rehabilitation Hospital	0	0	---	---	1	100.0%	0	---	0	---
HonorHealth Deer Valley Medical Center	5	1	50%	80%	273	99.6%	29	56%	18	50%
HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center	24	8	65%	90%	513	97.5%	47	55%	40	50%
HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center	11	3	55%	86%	456	98.7%	38	53%	37	49%
HonorHealth Scottsdale Shea Medical Center	1	0	100%	100%	350	98.0%	15	56%	11	48%
HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center	0	0	---	---	100	100.0%	1	20%	5	45%
Hopi Health Care Center	0	0	---	---	5	83.3%	0	---	0	---
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital	0	0	---	---	12	100.0%	1	33%	1	33%
Kindred Hospital - Northwest Phoenix	0	0	---	---	43	100.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Kindred Hospital - Phoenix	0	0	---	---	40	97.6%	0	0%	0	0%
Kindred Hospital - Tucson	0	0	---	---	31	86.1%	0	0%	0	0%

Hospital	Organ Donors		Organ Conv. Rate	Planned Donation Rate	Deaths Reported	Referral Comp. Rate	Ocular Donors	Ocular Conv. Rate	Tissue Donors	Tissue Conv. Rate
	Total	After Circulatory Death								
Kingman Regional Medical Center	0	0	---	---	310	100.0%	11	42%	11	38%
La Paz Regional Hospital	0	0	---	---	24	100.0%	3	50%	4	57%
Little Colorado Medical Center	0	0	---	---	22	100.0%	1	33%	1	50%
Maricopa Medical Center	4	0	36%	78%	263	98.9%	16	36%	11	28%
Mayo Clinic Hospital	5	1	71%	100%	199	100.0%	8	53%	5	36%
Mercy Gilbert Medical Center	2	0	50%	100%	223	99.6%	10	30%	12	38%
Mount Graham Regional Medical Center	0	0	---	---	56	96.6%	2	33%	3	43%
Mountain Vista Medical Center	1	0	50%	50%	194	99.5%	16	46%	14	42%
Northern Cochise Community Hospital	0	0	---	---	26	100.0%	2	100%	0	0%
Northwest Medical Center	1	1	33%	100%	374	99.7%	17	43%	12	39%
Northwest Medical Center - Oro Valley	0	0	0%	50%	116	100.0%	7	50%	2	25%
Payson Regional Medical Center	0	0	---	---	28	100.0%	4	80%	6	86%
Phoenix Children's Hospital	9	1	56%	87%	112	100.0%	4	22%	6	24%
Promise Hospital of Phoenix	0	0	---	---	72	100.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Quail Run Behavioral	0	0	---	---	0	0.0%	0	---	0	---
Sage Memorial Hospital	0	0	---	---	14	100.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Select Specialty Hospital - Phoenix	0	0	---	---	42	100.0%	0	---	0	---
Select Specialty Hospital - Phoenix Downtown	0	0	---	---	25	100.0%	0	---	0	---
Select Specialty Hospital - Scottsdale Osborn	0	0	---	---	10	100.0%	0	---	0	---
St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center	0	0	---	---	15	100.0%	3	43%	3	43%
St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center	26	6	47%	98%	656	99.8%	35	36%	33	33%
St. Luke's Medical Center	2	0	67%	50%	116	100.0%	8	47%	6	32%
Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Center	0	0	---	---	86	100.0%	10	56%	12	57%
Tempe St. Luke's Hospital	0	0	0%	100%	65	97.0%	9	38%	8	31%
Tséhootsooi Medical Center	0	0	---	---	51	94.4%	0	0%	0	0%
Tuba City Regional Health Care	0	0	---	---	50	100.0%	1	14%	0	0%
Tucson Medical Center	7	1	54%	63%	508	99.4%	21	49%	18	42%
USPHS - San Carlos Indian Hospital	0	0	---	---	18	100.0%	0	0%	1	20%
USPHS - Sells Indian Hospital	0	0	---	---	8	100.0%	0	0%	0	0%
USPHS - Whiteriver Indian Hospital	0	0	---	---	19	100.0%	0	0%	1	33%
USPHS Parker Indian Hospital	0	0	---	---	8	100.0%	0	0%	0	---
USPHS Phoenix Indian Medical Center	0	0	---	---	5	100.0%	0	---	0	0%
VA Medical Center-Prescott	0	0	---	---	110	100.0%	1	100%	0	---
VA Medical Center-Tucson	0	0	---	---	295	99.0%	3	25%	1	14%
Valley View Medical Center	0	0	---	---	40	100.0%	3	43%	2	29%
Verde Valley Medical Center	1	0	100%	---	152	100.0%	11	65%	10	63%
Western Arizona Regional Medical Center	0	0	0%	---	229	100.0%	10	32%	10	33%
White Mountain Regional Medical Center	0	0	---	---	15	93.8%	1	33%	1	33%
Wickenburg Community Hospital	0	0	---	---	12	100.0%	1	100%	1	100%
Yavapai Regional Medical Center - East	0	0	---	---	71	97.3%	5	56%	7	54%
Yavapai Regional Medical Center - West	4	0	80%	100%	217	100.0%	16	57%	16	50%
Yuma Regional Medical Center	1	0	100%	---	553	99.8%	23	33%	19	29%
Yuma Rehabilitation Hospital	0	0	---	---	2	100.0%	0	---	0	---
TOTAL	225	49	---	---	16282		868	44%	724	39%

Deaths Reported

The number of patient deaths that occurred at a hospital

Ocular Conversion (Conv.) Rate

The number of ocular donors who were recovered expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable for ocular donation

Organ Conversion (Conv.) Rate

The number of organ donors who were recovered for transplant expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable and brain dead

Organ Donors After Circulatory Death

Organ donors from whom an organ was recovered after being declared dead by cardio-respiratory criteria

Organs Per Donor

Number of organs recovered for the purposes of transplantation

Donor Network of Arizona

Organ Potential Rate

The number of organ donors that were recovered for transplant expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable regardless of brain death declaration

Planned Donation Rate

The percentage of organ donation conversations that follow hospital policy and the plan for each case as agreed upon by Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) and the healthcare team

Referral Compliance (Comp.) Rate

The percentage of deaths that were referred to DNA

Tissue Conversion (Conv.) Rate

The number of tissue donors who were recovered expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable for tissue donation

3,029,354

(As of March 27, 2017)

State of Donation in Arizona

Organ Donation

	2015		2016	
	Trauma Centers	All Other Hospitals	Trauma Centers	All Other Hospitals
Organ Donors Donors from whom an organ was recovered for the purpose of transplantation (includes DCD)	105	60	132	93
Organ Donors After Circulatory Death Organ donors from whom an organ was recovered after being declared dead by cardio-respiratory criteria	23	16	26	23
Organ Potential Rate The number of organ donors that were recovered for transplant expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable regardless of brain death declaration	57.1%	53.1%	50.4%	54.7%
Organ Conversion Rate The number of organ donors who were recovered for transplant expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable and brain dead	78.4%	73.2%	76.7%	76.2%
Organs Per Donor Number of organs recovered for the purposes of transplantation	3.33	2.75	3.60	2.67

Ocular & Tissue Donation

	2015		2016	
	Trauma Centers	All Other Hospitals	Trauma Centers	All Other Hospitals
Ocular Donors Donors who donated at least one type of ocular tissue	267	526	301	567
Ocular Conversion Rate The number of ocular donors who were recovered expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable for ocular donation	40.9%	43.0%	42.2%	45.3%
Tissue Donors Donors who donated at least one type of tissue (heart valves, bone, skin, veins, etc.)	262	581	271	453
Tissue Conversion Rate The number of tissue donors who were recovered expressed as a percentage of patients who are medically suitable for tissue donation	37.4%	38.8%	38.7%	38.7%

Donation Overview

	2015		2016 (Jan. – Sept.)	
	Trauma Centers	All Other Hospitals	Trauma Centers	All Other Hospitals
Deaths Reported The number of patient deaths occurring at hospitals in Arizona	4,434	11,183	4,787	11,494
Referral Compliance Rate The percentage of all deaths that were referred to DNA	99.3%	99.4%	99.1%	99.5%

Conexión

REGÍSTRATE PARA
SER DONANTE
DE ÓRGANOS Y TEJIDOS
DoneVidaAZ.org
1-866-678-6775

Done Vida en la Comunidad



Voluntarios de Done Vida Arizona contestan preguntas de la comunidad acerca de la donación de vida.

El pasado 14 de enero, Done Vida Arizona participó en el evento Get it Done! patrocinado por la revista Segunda Mano.

Cientos de personas pasaron por la mesa informativa de Done Vida, ya sea para obtener información acerca de la donación, registrarse como donantes o, con orgullo, dejarnos saber que ya estaban registrados como donantes de bondad incondicional.

Sin duda, eventos comunitarios como éste son una excelente plataforma para educar a comunidades minoritarias acerca de la donación, tema del que no se suele conversar en casa debido a los mitos, falta de información y porque hablar de la donación implica hablar de nuestros últimos deseos.

¿Sabías que la asignación de órganos es determinada por un sistema nacional de computación?

Para 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.

Cuando una persona es agregada a la lista de espera de trasplante, sus características genéticas y tipo de sangre son

ingresadas a esta base de datos. Cuando fallece un donante, su información es ingresada en el mismo sistema. Cuando la base de datos detecta semejanzas genéticas, éste genera una lista con posibles beneficiados. El centro de trasplante del paciente que espera el regalo de vida es notificado, y su médico determina si el órgano beneficiará a su paciente.

Año sin precedente para la donación en Arizona

El 2016 fue un año excepcional para la donación. 225 héroes salvaron a 614 personas por medio de su infinita bondad y generosidad. De estos héroes donantes, 55 fueron hispanos, quienes salvaron a 166 personas.

Adicionalmente, 975 donantes de tejido compartieron el regalo de piel y ligamentos, donaciones que sanarán las heridas de personas lastimadas en accidentes. 1,266 donantes de córneas le brindaron el regalo de la vista a cientos de personas quienes no contaban con la dicha de poder ver.

Casi 300,000 arizonenses tomaron la decisión de registrarse como donantes, cantidad nunca antes vista en un sólo año.

A pesar de la buena noticia, la lista de espera de trasplante de órganos continúa creciendo. A nivel nacional, más de 119,000 personas esperan el regalo de vida. Más de 2,300 de ellos están en Arizona y más de 700 son hispanos.

Donor Network of Arizona



Daniela Zavala, de Univisión Arizona, reportando desde la Red de Donantes de Arizona acerca del increíble año para la donación de vida en nuestro estado.

"It means so much to me to know my grandson was able to help others through donation."

Volunteer Hero

Mariellen Garcia

Mariellen Garcia never expected to have a personal connection to donation, but when her grandson, Roman E. Fuentes-McCaa, passed away at just a few days old, she was faced with this new reality. Garcia's daughter, Jennifer Fuentes, chose to selflessly donate Roman's heart valves to save another child.

Garcia attended volunteer training at Donor Network of Arizona, but was unsure if she was ready to share her story. After attending a couple of events, she grew strong and confident in her ability to spread education and hope. Garcia helped at many events in the East Valley during National Donate Life Month last April. Dependable and professional,



Mariellen Garcia with Reggie the Donor Cactus at Banner Gateway's Health Care for Hope flag-raising ceremony on April 6, 2016.

Garcia registered dozens of people and educated many more about the lifesaving impact of donation.

Despite joining this community through tragedy, Garcia chose to be a light to others. She illuminates generosity and gives hope to those who have lost a loved one.

Join the Action!

Donate Life Arizona is seeking volunteers to promote organ, cornea 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. For more information, please contact volunteers@dnaz.org or visit DonateLifeAZ.org/Events.

Meeting for Current Volunteers

May 16, 2017 – Phoenix
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
5:30 - 6 p.m.

May 20, 2017 – Tucson
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

New Volunteer Training

June 6, 2017 – Phoenix and Webinar
6 - 8 p.m.

New Volunteer Training

Aug. 9, 2017 – Webinar
4 - 6 p.m.

New Volunteer Training

Sept. 12, 2017 – Phoenix and Webinar
6 - 8 p.m.

Meeting for Current Volunteers

Sept. 16, 2017 – Tucson
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sept. 19, 2017 – Phoenix
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
5:30 - 6 p.m.

New Volunteer Training

Oct. 11, 2017 – Webinar
4 - 6 p.m.

Meeting for Current Volunteers

Nov. 7, 2017 – Phoenix
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
5:30 - 6 p.m.

Nov. 4, 2017 – Tucson
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

New Volunteer Training

Dec. 6, 2017 – Webinar
4 - 6 p.m.

The Highest Donation Standards

Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) is proud to be accredited by the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) and the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO), nonprofit organizations that hold high standards for organ, eye and tissue donation processes.

Organ procurement organizations (OPOs) and tissue banks, including DNA, are required to be audited by many regulatory agencies to ensure legal and safe handling of the donation process.

AATB and AOPO regularly audit OPOs, which voluntarily undergo extra regulations, and in 2016 DNA was once again fully accredited. This accreditation will last until renewal in 2020.

"Accreditation [by AOPO and AATB] is an example of how we do our best to go beyond the standard regulations," says Dan Meyer, director of Quality and Regulatory Affairs at DNA.

Letters of Hope

After a transplant takes place, a letter is usually the first point of contact between the family of a donor and the person who received their loved one's gift of life. These letters express hope, compassion and thanks, and the words of gratitude can help families heal.

Kellye's daughter, Marissa "Roo" Pummill, passed away in 2014 and saved six lives through organ donation. Kellye wrote letters to each of Roo's recipients three weeks after her death. She received her first response nearly two months later.

"It was amazing. I felt like a little kid at Christmastime," says Kellye.

Donor Family Services at Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) has the important job of facilitating the correspondence between these donor families and recipients, and in 2016, DNA coordinated approximately 780 letters.

According to Lonya Epstein, manager of Donor Family Services at DNA, these letters can be written at any point in time by the donor family or recipient. Epstein encourages recipients to keep writing, even if donor families are not yet ready to respond. Words are powerful tools that can encourage healing.



Donor mom Kellye Pummill and kidney recipient Ryan Nelly met at Donor Network of Arizona in 2016 after exchanging letters.

"Most families love getting that letter, even if they never respond," says Epstein. "Instead of writing back, a lot of donor families will call [DNA] just to get updates on the recipient."

Today, Kellye has heard from all six of Roo's recipients and has met two of them in person, most recently Roo's kidney recipient, Ryan Nelly.

"I didn't expect to hear anything back," Kellye says. "I just wanted them to know about Roo."

My Donation Story

Guest Writer: Sejal Patel



Kidney and pancreas recipient Sejal Patel can now lead a healthy life of giving back to others.

After I finished medical school, I learned that I needed a new kidney and pancreas to survive. I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when I was 11, and had managed my disease for many years, but when my kidneys failed I had no other option. This was not only a shock, but was also life changing for me. I decided to turn something that seemed so negative into something positive by never giving up on my dream of giving back.

After being on the waiting list for a year, I received my new kidney and pancreas. I decided to go into research and work with children who are going through similar experiences to what I did while growing up. My experience of having Type 1 diabetes and being diagnosed with idiopathic kidney disease later on in life taught me the importance of the need for organ donation. For people who were once so sick that feeling healthy seemed impossible, organ donation is amazing.

It was truly life changing for me because I am now able to participate in research that helps advance medical science. I get the chance to work on the science of how organ transplants happen and the medicines that help improve survival and outcomes for patients who receive them. I am also a volunteer for Donor Network of Arizona, and give back to the donation community through my service.

I am so thankful for my donor and his family for allowing me a chance to live my life to full capacity. I can now live a long, fulfilled life giving back to others, just as my donor did for me.



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TISSUE DONOR

DonateLifeAZ.org
1-800-94-DONOR



calendar of events

April

National Donate Life Month

April

Health Care for Hope
HealthCareforHope.org

April 21

National Blue and Green Day

April 30

Donate Life Day at the D-backs
DonateLifeattheDbacks.org

July 12

Every Community Has Opportunity (ECHO) Breakfast
Angie.McGlasson@dnaz.org

August

Campus Challenge
www.YourOrgansLiveOn.org

Aug. 24

Donation Symposium
Kristine.Roberts@dnaz.org

Dec. 30

Fiesta Bowl Parade
Angie.McGlasson@dnaz.org