

Emergency Professionals

Connection



A newsletter published by Donate Life Arizona

The Guidelines for a Superhero



Bear, 10, saved two people's lives and helped another person see again through organ and cornea donation.

Donors are often heroes in life as well as in death—superheroes in some cases, such as Jared Joseph “Bear” Griffith, who donated organs, corneas and tissue in the fall of 2017 at only 10 years old.

In his short life, he learned giving back was important.

“He somehow cared more about everyone else than himself,” says Jared Paul Griffith, Bear’s father. Jared says he hung a poster of Superhero Guidelines above Bear’s bed, which focused on how to treat others. “I think he really took that to heart.”

Bear helped in unique ways. For example, he took the

initiative to learn Spanish when he met a classmate at school who hadn’t learned English yet. His new skills allowed him to talk to her and guide her when she needed.

With such a spirit, it was only natural Bear would go on to give the gift of life after he passed away in November when his asthma turned fatal.

Even through their loss, Bear’s family was inspired when he saved two people with his kidneys and liver, and restored vision for a third person with a double-cornea transplant. Doctors recovered Bear’s heart valves for future transplant—which most often go to pediatric patients.

Although too young to have registered himself as a donor, a past conversation made it an easy decision for his parents. His father says he recalls Bear talking with his mother about getting the donor heart on his driver’s license when he turned 16.

Jared and his wife Corrina are heroes in their own right as former members of law enforcement. With Bear, they put generosity toward strangers above their grief, effectively turning their son into a superhero, much like the ones he would read about above his bed.

Corrina and Jared used their grief as motivation to educate others about the power of donation, particularly at Jared’s school, Heritage Elementary School in Glendale, where he was well liked.

“Bear had an aura, a charisma, a quiet yet powerful confidence about him that attracted young and old alike,” his dad says. “Bear always said and did what he felt was right, and we have learned he affected many more people in amazing ways than we had already known.”

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Greetings

From President and CEO, Tim Brown
Donor Network of Arizona

Paramedics, firefighters, police officers and emergency room staff are on the front lines of organ, tissue and cornea donation. Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) witnessed another record-breaking year in 2017, and that's undoubtedly a direct effect of the work these same professionals do to save and heal lives.

Our team at DNA sees how your efforts give people a renewed chance to spend time with their children, to make a meaningful contribution at their jobs or in their community, or to explore our state, our country and our world. In 2018 to date, over 520 people are getting that same chance, because they were saved by donors and the families who support the gift of life.

Recently celebrating his first transplantiversary is retired registered nurse Robert Peak. His double-lung transplant means he can enjoy the Arizona high country without an oxygen tank or a cane. He's also training for a 5K, and his wife, Lisa Peak, RN, joins him for cruises in their all-terrain vehicle around Munds Park, Coconino County.



Donor families tell us time and time again that they realize the passing of their loved one was not the end. It's only the beginning of their legacy. We sincerely thank you for all that you do to make the most of life, and we hope you share that peace when lives are saved and healed by a donor's willingness to share life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tim Brown".

Generosity Has No Age Limit



Rose Farabee is proud that her 80-year-old husband, Gary Farabee, gave healing through tissue donation.

The medical field constantly evolves, and donation is no exception. Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) now recovers tissue from a wider variety of donors, even those who reach 100 years old.

"This tissue is used primarily for breast reconstruction following mastectomy for women affected by breast cancer," says Ryan

Nelson, tissue recovery supervisor at DNA. "The clinical use of this tissue does not change between someone in their 40s and someone who is 100 years old."

The development comes after a record-breaking 2017 for donation with hopes to continue healing and saving more lives. Now, the phrase "age is just a number" rings especially true. People often rule themselves out and discredit the amazing gift they can give, thus neglecting to register as organ, tissue and cornea donors.

"It's great that there is a larger range of individuals who can help others through tissue donation," says Nelson, adding about a dozen organ procurement organizations throughout the nation accept tissue donations up to 100 years of age.

The previous age limit specifically for tissue donation was 80 years old. The change in criteria took effect April 1, 2018 and has already made a difference. DNA recovered skin tissue from a 99-year-old donor in May. Donors over 100 years old are not eligible to donate tissue at this time, but they can still be candidates for organ donation.

Innovations show just how limitless tissue donation can become through medical advances, dedication and hard work.

Phoenix Fire for Life



One of the 10 fire trucks wrapped with Donate Life Arizona's message of donation located in the Phoenix area.

What do fire trucks and organ and tissue donation have in common? On the surface, perhaps not much. But the reality is that firefighters do more than fight fires.

Anyone in the Phoenix area can spot messages of donation on Phoenix Fire Department trucks. Ten engines display "Sign Up. Save Lives." to encourage the public to register.

In a recent partnership, the Phoenix Fire Department teamed up with Donate Life Arizona to promote the need for donation. Both organizations recognize the critical role first responders play in saving lives, whether it's directly during an emergency or indirectly through organ and tissue donation.

"We are very excited to lead the charge in driving registrations in Arizona, and United Phoenix Firefighters Charities is

creating a dialogue amongst our partners on how we all can do more to save lives through organ and tissue donation," says Tom Caretto, community program director with United Phoenix Firefighters Association Community Charities.

One of the lives saved through donation was that of Gabriella Vega. Read her story below.



Gabriella Vega gets a second chance at life with a new heart thanks to the donor who gave her the gift of life.

Unimaginable Circumstances

A young, vibrant 4-year-old girl, Gabriella Vega was just beginning to experience life when her mother took her in for a checkup. Doctors recognized a murmur in her heart, so they performed an echocardiogram. After multiple tests, results showed Gabriella had an enlarged heart, myocardial bridging and the condition known as restrictive cardiomyopathy. It was only a matter of time before Vega would go into heart failure unless she could get a transplant.

The Wait is Over

Her second chance at life came in May 2010 after waiting only 97 days, and she quickly resumed her life as a healthy young girl with no limitations. Gabriella's mother, Kristi Vega Gutierrez, found a new appreciation for those who selflessly give the gift of life.

"You can't take your organs with you, but they can give new life to someone in need," Kristi writes on "Gabriella's Heart," a blog about her family's connection to donation.

Gabriella's life is among the many changed through organ transplants, with more than 520 in 2018 so far. It's partnerships like the one with the Phoenix Fire Department that continue to inspire people to register as donors and give hope to the more than 2,200 people on Arizona's organ waiting list.

GENEROSITY BY THE NUMBERS

January - August 2018



Over **400** donation cases had EMS involvement.



The oldest donor was **99 years old**.



76 percent of heart valves have given life to pediatric patients.



908 tissue donors may restore health and mobility to more than **68,100** recipients.



191 organ donors saved **526** lives.



456 cornea donors gave the gift of sight to **676** recipients.

*Thank you for your work in
saving and healing lives*

Inscribase.
SALVE VIDAS.
DonateLifeAZ.org

Emergency Medical Service & Fire Departments	Jan. - June 2018 *Total Organ, Eye and Tissue Donors
Air Evac Services	7
Ajo Ambulance Services	1
AK-CHIN Fire Department	1
American Medical Response	50
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority	2
Avondale Fire Department	1
Avra Valley Fire District	2
Buckeye Fire Department	6
Bullhead City Fire Department	4
Central Arizona Fire Department	3
Chandler Fire Department	9
Copper Canyon Fire Department	1
Daisy Mountain Fire Department	1
Drexel Heights Fire Department	4
El Mirage Fire Department	1
Emergency Transportation Services	1
Fort Mohave Fire Department	1
Fry Fire Department	1
Gila River EMS	2
Gilbert Fire Department	4
Glendale Fire Department	23
Globe FD / TriCity EMS	1
Gold Cross Ambulance	1
Golden Valley Fire Department	1
Golder Ranch Fire District	6
Goodyear Fire Department	3
Green Valley Fire Department	1
Guardian Medical Transport	2
Holbrook EMS	1
Kingman Fire Department	1
Life Line Ambulance	4
Life Net Arizona	3
Med-Trans	1

Emergency Medical Service & Fire Departments	Jan. - June 2018 *Total Organ, Eye and Tissue Donors
Mesa Fire Department	15
Mohave Valley Fire Department	1
Native Air	4
Nogales Fire Department	1
Northern Arizona Consolidated Fire District	2
NorthWest Fire Department	1
Peoria Fire Department	10
PHI Air Medical	3
Phoenix Fire Department	102
Prescott Fire Department	1
Rincon Valley Fire Department	1
Rio Rico Fire Department	1
River Medical	4
Rural Metro Fire Department	15
Salt River Fire Department	3
San Luis Fire Department	1
Scottsdale Fire Department	18
SEAZ Tri-Valley Ambulance Service	2
Sedona Fire Department	1
Showlow EMS	1
Sierra Vista Fire Department	3
St. John's Emergency Services	1
Sun City Fire Department	8
Superstition Fire and Medical District	3
Surprise Fire Department	12
Tempe Fire Department	6
Tolleson Fire Department	2
Tucson Fire Department	21
Valley Verde Fire Department	1
Whetstone Fire District	1
Yuma Fire Department	8

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

DonateLifeAZ Registry



(As of Sept. 5, 2018)

Not sure if you're already registered? Reaffirm your decision at DonateLifeAZ.org!

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

Behind the DONOR ♥

ADOT
Motor Vehicle Division
45102-0004

DRIVER LICENSE/IDENTIFICATION CARD APPLICATION

Type: ☐ Driver License ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Identification Card

You are required by A.R.S. §§. 28-2101(C)(2) and §§. 28-2101(C)(3) under penalty of 40 U.S.C. §§. 4051(c)(2)(C) and §. 666 (a)(1)(B)(A) to provide your Social Security Number. It will be used to verify your identity and to comply with federal and state child support enforcement laws. It will not be used as your driver license or identification card number.

Applicant Name (Print, middle, last, initial)

Social Security Number

Residence Street Address

City State Zip

Mailing Address (if different from above)

City State Zip

Which address do you want to appear on your license?

☐ Street ☐ Mailing

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Current Driver License Number

Class: ☐ Operator ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Other

☐ Yes ☐ No Have your driving privileges been suspended or revoked?

☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have a license?

☐ Yes ☐ No Is your driving privilege?

☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have a license?

☐ Yes ☐ No Is your vehicle registered in another state?

☐ Yes ☐ No Do you want to show a medical alert condition?

☐ Yes ☐ No Have you ever been determined to be incapacitated by a court? (Other license applicants only)

☐ Yes ☐ No Are you a United States citizen who wishes to register to vote or update your existing voter registration?

☐ Yes ☐ No Do you 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)

All Applicants: I certify that the information above is true and correct. I understand that I must report a change of address or name to MVD within 10 days. All Driver Applicants: I understand the laws, rules and regulations described in the Arizona Driver License Manual, and that I must report to MVD in writing, within 10 days, any medical condition that develops or worsens that may affect my ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Make Applicants Under 21: By submitting this application, I consent to registration with the Selective Service System if I am required to register under federal law. If I am under 18, I understand that I will be registered as required by federal law when I become 18.

Voter Registration: I certify that I am not a convicted felon or my civil rights have been restored, and that I have not been adjudicated incompetent. I certify that I am a United States citizen. Submitting a voter registration is a Class B felony. Your decision to register to vote or not, and where you submitted your application, will remain confidential.

Applicant Signature (Print Name, Last, First, Middle Initial) Date

Notary or MVD Agent Signature Date

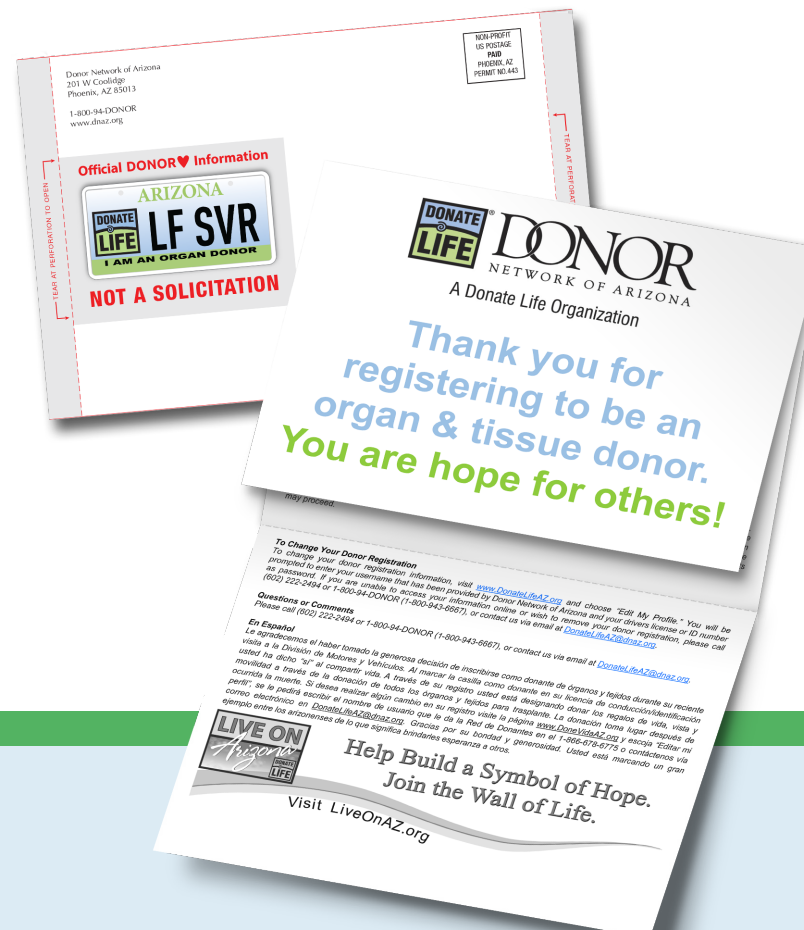
1 The client checks the box on their DL/ID application. Their decision is entered into the ADOT MVD computer system.

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 automatically sends information of the clients who registered to the DonateLifeAZ Registry.

4 The DonateLifeAZ Registry uploads the information of new registrations, and updates addresses of current registrations.

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.



Contact Us:

For more information, please contact Rhiannon Knueven at 602-222-3806.