



Key Facts about Organ and Tissue Donation

- There is a critical shortage of organs in this country. More than 96,000 individuals currently await a lifesaving organ transplant in the U.S. Of those, more than 7,000 are Texans and 2,500 are listed in the LifeGift service area (109 Texas counties).
- This year alone, close to 6,000 people will die this year awaiting an organ transplant; that's 17 people who die daily because an organ did not become available to them.
- A person is added to the national organ transplant waiting list every 13 minutes.
- The generosity of an individual donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and enhance another 50 through tissue donation.
- Last year, more than 28,000 organ transplants were performed in the U.S. Organs used for transplant include: kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, and small bowels.
- Close to one million tissue transplants are performed each year. Tissue includes skin, bone, heart valves, veins and corneas. Skin is used to treat burn patients and individuals with cancer; bone can be used to treat orthopedic injuries and cancer patients; corneas can enhance and restore sight.
- In 2005, the Texas Legislature - with support from the state's three organ procurement organizations - signed into law Texas' first official donor registry. The **Glenda Dawson Donate Life - Texas Registry** is now the official state organ, tissue and eye donor registry. Register to become a donor at www.donatelifetexas.org or the companion site www.donevidatexas.org.
- Registering to become an organ, tissue and eye donor helps ensure your wishes will be carried out after you die. Tell your family about your decision and encourage loved ones to register as well.