

The power to save lives.

Although you may not realize it, the power to save someone's life is in your hands. By simply signing your name on the donor card at the back of this brochure, you may give another person or persons the ultimate gift – life. Please read the following to learn how you can give someone in need a chance at life.

Celebrating the greatest gift of all – life.

Today, minorities account for almost 50 percent of patients in need of organ and tissue transplants. Unfortunately, the percentage of minority organ and tissue donors is much lower. That's why LifeGift Organ Donation Center's Regalo De Vida program is so important.

The mission of the Regalo De Vida program is to provide education and open dialogue to inform Hispanic families, neighbors, friends, schools, co-workers and churches about the incredible life-saving gift of organ and tissue donation. The following two stories are touching examples of this celebration of life.



Sign a donor card and tell your family today.

If you wish to be an organ donor, sign this card and place this sticker on the FRONT of your driver's license. Please do NOT cover any information on your license with this sticker, including your photograph.

I, _____, have spoken to my family about organ and tissue donation. The following people have witnessed my commitment to be a donor. I wish to donate the following:

Any needed organs and tissue.

Only the following organs and tissue: _____

Donor Signature _____ Date _____

Witness _____

Witness _____

Next of Kin _____

Telephone _____

LifeGift Organ Donation Center (800) 633-6562

The Center of Life – LifeGift Organ Donation Center

Established in 1987, LifeGift benefits the community by ethically, effectively and efficiently recovering appropriately transplantable organs and tissue to give the gift of life.



LifeGift Organ Donation Center
(800) 633-6562

Houston (713) 523-4438 • Fort Worth (817) 870-0060
Lubbock (806) 798-5568 • Amarillo (806) 353-4334



Regalo De Vida



Thank you, thank you, thank you.

“**B**efore receiving my donated kidney, I spent four to six hours, three days a week on dialysis machines. I have four children, and this kept me from spending valuable time with them. I couldn't do a lot of things with them that most people take for granted.

Now, thanks to my donor, I no longer need dialysis. My children are so happy. I have the freedom to do things with them that I never could have done in the past. I cannot tell you what a difference my organ donor has made in my life.

While I have never met the donor family, I would really like to. To me, they are my family, and I keep them in my thoughts and prayers constantly.

That's why I think it is very important that we educate Hispanics about the importance of becoming organ donors. I realize that our culture plays a major role in the way many of us think about organ donation. We are brought up believing that when we die, we should keep all that we have. However, by becoming an organ donor, you give someone like me a second chance at life.”

– Kidney recipient
Maria Hernandez
(second from left)
and her family



Organ donation and the Catholic Church.



The Catholic religion views organ donation as an act of charity, fraternal love and self sacrifice. According to Bishop Tamayo, Archdiocese of Houston, “I believe that people within the Catholic Church are very open to organ and tissue donation. Any person who donates organs shows the highest regard for life, the beauty of his or her own life, and how he or she wishes to pass that gift of life on to others, which renews the belief in sharing the goodness of the Catholic community.”

Transplants are ethically and morally acceptable to the Vatican.

Organ transplants are in conformity with the moral law if the physical and psychological dangers and risks to the donor are proportionate to the good that is sought for the recipient. Organ donation after death is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity. It is not morally acceptable if the donor or his proxy has not given explicit consent. Moreover, it is not morally admissible directly to bring about the disabling mutilation or death of a human being, even in order to delay the death of other persons.

– Pope John Paul II



Questions and answers about organ and tissue donation.

Which organs and tissues can be transplanted?

Organs that can be transplanted are the heart, liver, kidneys, lungs, pancreas, small and large intestines, and, more recently, the stomach. Tissues that can be transplanted are bone, corneas, skin, heart valves, veins, cartilage and other connective tissues.

Will the body of the organ donor be mutilated?

There is no disfigurement of the body, and a normal funeral service can be held. Organ donation does not delay funeral arrangements or add to funeral costs.

Will the medical staff do all it can to save a life before reporting that the person is a donor?

The medical team treating a patient is separate from the transplant team. The organ procurement organization (OPO) is not notified until all lifesaving efforts have failed, and brain death has been determined. The OPO does not notify the transplant team until the family of the deceased has agreed to donate.

Are there any costs involved in donating organs or tissues?

The donor family is never billed for expenses related to a donation. Likewise, the donor family is not paid for donating organs, because it is a violation of federal and state laws.



“I believe that God is for organ donation, and He will make us whole again. After all, organ donation is the greatest gift you can give to help make another person’s life better. I am proof of that.”

– Maria Hernandez, kidney recipient

How to become a donor.

*I*ndividuals 18 years of age or older may become organ and tissue donors when they die. Minors may become donors with a parent’s or guardian’s consent.

As a prospective donor, you should perform three actions:

1. Talk to your family about your decision to be an organ and tissue donor.
2. Sign the card on the opposite panel in the presence of two family members, and have them sign it as witnesses.
3. Carry the card with you at all times.

More important than signing the card is sharing the decision with your family. In the event of your death, medical professionals will ask your family members for consent, even if you have a donor card. If you have previously discussed the topic with them, they will be more likely to comply with your wishes during an emotional time.

For more information about organ and tissue donation, call LifeGift Organ Donation Center at (800) 633-6562.

A tribute to a beautiful, happy, outgoing little girl.

“*W*hen our Brittany died after being struck by a car while crossing the street, the decision to donate her organs was not a difficult one to make. Like many people, I never really considered organ donation before, but I knew it was the right thing to do.

Brittany was such a loving, caring child, and her life was so full of joy. By choosing to share her with other families in need of organs, that joy lives on. Seeing the good that can come out of a tragedy like this, I think it is very important that we educate our communities about the importance of becoming organ and tissue donors.

That’s why I am a LifeGift volunteer. I have experienced firsthand the good that comes from organ donation. Brittany was a very special child. She helped save the lives of several people. God is lucky to have her as an angel.”

– Ana Briones, Brittany’s mother

