



LIVE ON
nebraska

For Immediate Release

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Nebraskans recognized for saving and healing others during National Donate Life Month

[OMAHA, NEB., April 13, 2022] Celebrated each April, Donate Life Month is a national observance dedicated to sharing the importance of registering to be an organ, tissue and eye donor, honoring deceased and living donors and recognizing the lifesaving and healing gift of transplantation.

Earlier this month, Governor Ricketts [declared April as Donate Life Month in Nebraska](#).

Nine donors throughout Nebraska are being recognized for the impact they've made through donation. Their combined gifts of organ and tissues have saved and healed more than 1,000 people in 40 states.

Anne Juarez, an ER nurse from Lincoln impacted 63 people when she became a donor hero in 2014.

"Mom's donation meant that a piece of her would live on, that she would be able to still, positively impact the world," said Anne's daughter Ashton Juarez. "We are so proud to know that there are people living, because of her, a richer and longer life."

Currently more than 300 people in Nebraska and 100,000 throughout the United States are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant.

In 2021, deceased organ donors in Nebraska made 297 lifesaving organ transplants possible. These donors also contributed to a record number of transplants being performed in the United States. For the first time in history, more than 41,000 organ transplants were performed in the country last year.

Additionally, 583 individuals in Nebraska donated tissues such as bone, skin and heart valves. Tissue grafts can prevent amputation, help people walk without pain, repair sports injuries and aid in reconstruction following breast cancer.

"Research suggests that more than 90 percent of people who live in United States believe organ donation is the right thing to do," said Kyle Herber, President & CEO of Live On Nebraska. "Yet only a little over half of us have taken the step to register as donors. We hope that demonstrating the power of organ and tissue donation throughout April will encourage people to consider the impact they can make and check the donation box on their driver's license or register online."

Anyone age 16 or older can register as an organ and tissue donor. Age, health and lifestyle do not limit an individual's ability to register. Donor registration is available online anytime at LiveOnNebraska.org.

Every individual has the potential to save and heal 100 people with the donation of organs and tissues. These include the heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas, small intestine, corneas, bone, skin, tendons, veins and heart valves.

Of the 300 people waiting for a transplant in Nebraska, the majority are waiting for a kidney (180) or liver (85). Eighteen are under the age of 18.

Other Donate Life Month activities include flying the Donate Life flag throughout April. Introduced in 2006, the Donate Life flag has become a national symbol of unity, remembrance and hope, honoring those touched by donation and transplantation. In Nebraska, a Donate Life flag is raised at local hospitals during the organ donation process. Following donation, the flag is presented to the donor's family.

National Blue & Green Day is celebrated on April 22. The public is encouraged to wear blue and green Donate Life colors to help spread awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation.

Nebraskans can also purchase Donate Life license plates from the DMV for only \$5.

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Live On Nebraska is dedicated to transforming lives through organ and tissue donation. We are a conduit for transplantation, partnering with hospitals in Nebraska and Pottawattamie County, Iowa, to facilitate the recovery of organs and tissues from those who choose to donate life. We work around the clock to provide hope and healing to donor families and recipients, and to end the wait for more than 100,000+ Americans in need of a lifesaving transplant. Learn more about our mission and register as a donor at LiveOnNebraska.org.