



## National Transplant Assistance Fund

### Common Myths and Truths about Donation



**Myth 1: My family will have to pay if I become a donor.**

**Truth:** There are no costs to a donor's family or estate. All costs incurred during the donation process are the responsibility of the organ and tissue donor program.



**Myth 2: I have a history of medical illness. No one could benefit from my donation.**

**Truth:** A person's suitability for organ or tissue donation is always determined at the time of death. Clinical professionals determine whether the donor is medically suitable.



**Myth 3: I am too old to be a donor.**

**Truth:** Age limits for organ donations do not exist.



**Myth 4: I've heard that they take everything, even if I only want to donate my eyes.**

**Truth:** You can specify which organ and tissues you want to donate in your will, on your donor card, or by telling your family which specific gifts you would like to donate.



**Myth 5: Organ and tissue donation means my body will be disfigured. My family will not be able to have an open casket funeral if I become a donor.**

**Truth:** Donated organs are removed surgically, in a routine operation similar to any other surgery. Donation does not interfere with customary funeral arrangements, such as open casket viewing.



**Myth 6: If I'm in an accident and the hospital knows that I have a donor card, the doctors won't try to save my life.**

**Truth:** The medical team treating you is completely separate from the transplant team. The organ and tissue donor program is not notified until all lifesaving efforts have failed, next of kin has been notified, and death has occurred.



**Myth 7: My religion does not approve of donation.**

**Truth:** All organized religions support donation, typically considering it a generous act that is the individual's choice.

## The need for organ donors is critical!

- ▶ Every day in the United States, an **average of 18 people die** waiting for organ transplants.
- ▶ **Nearly 100,000 men, women and children** of all races and backgrounds need life-saving transplants.
- ▶ One donor has the potential to save and enhance up to 50 lives and take up to eight people off the transplant waiting list.

## A single donor can make a big impact!

- ▶ Donate kidneys to free two people from dialysis treatments needed to sustain life.
- ▶ Save the lives of patients awaiting heart, liver, lung or pancreas transplants.
- ▶ Donate bone to help repair injured joints or to help save an arm or leg threatened by cancer.
- ▶ Help burn victims heal more quickly through donation of skin.
- ▶ Provide healthy heart valves for someone whose life is threatened by malfunctioning or diseased valves.

Source: Gift of Life Donor Program ([www.donors1.org](http://www.donors1.org)).



**Make the decision...  
Share it with your  
loved ones.**



## National Transplant Assistance Fund (NTAF)

150 N. Radnor Chester Road • Suite F-120 • Radnor • PA 19087

[www.transplantfund.org](http://www.transplantfund.org) • 800-642-8399

*National Transplant Assistance Fund helps patients mobilize their communities to raise money for critical but uninsured medical expenses related to transplant.*