



Do It Now!™

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## THE FACTS ABOUT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

### WHAT IS DO IT NOW!™?

*Do It Now!*™ is a statewide campaign to create excitement, build awareness and ultimately encourage Ohioans to join the Ohio Donor Registry as a new organ, eye and tissue donor. The theme *Do It Now!* was chosen to place emphasis on the urgency for individuals to register.

The goal for the 2010 campaign is to add 240,000 new donors to the Ohio Donor Registry. Meeting this goal could potentially give life to nearly two million individuals.

### WHO IS DONATE LIFE OHIO?

Donate Life Ohio is a coalition of the state's organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies dedicated to educating Ohioans about the need for organ and tissue donation. In this effort to increase donor registrations, they are joined by the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program. For more information, please visit [www.DonateLifeOhio.org](http://www.DonateLifeOhio.org).

### WHO IS THE SECOND CHANCE TRUST FUND?

Through contributions made by individuals at Ohio's BMVs while receiving or renewing their Ohio driver's licenses or state identification card, the Second Chance Trust Fund finances educational and action-oriented campaigns like the *Do It Now!* program. A \$1 contribution supports donation education in Ohio and gives hope to thousands of Ohioans waiting for a second chance through organ, eye and tissue donation.

### OHIO STATISTICS

- More than 3,000 Ohioans are waiting for a life-saving transplant at any given time, with 78 percent waiting for a kidney transplant due to end-stage kidney disease.
- One Ohioan dies every other day waiting for a life-saving transplant.
- Hundreds of additional Ohioans are in need of cornea and tissue transplants.
- Each year, more than 1,600 Ohioans could have their sight restored through cornea transplants and thousands more could benefit from tissue transplants, heart valves, bones, tendons, ligaments, veins, fascia, skin and nerves.
- More than half of Ohio's licensed drivers and state identification holders have registered to become organ and tissue donors.

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#### **GENERAL FACTS**

- A single donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and improve the lives of up to 50 people through tissue and eye donation.
- Organs and tissue can be donated, including the heart, liver, kidneys, lungs, pancreas, intestine, heart valves, bones, tendons, ligaments, veins, fascia, skin and nerves.
- Nationally, African-Americans and other minorities make up about 20 percent of the population, but slightly more than 50 percent of the waiting list for organ transplants is composed of minorities.
- The matching of organs to recipients is coordinated through the United Network for Organ Sharing and is based strictly on medical criteria to ensure the organ goes to the person who needs it most.
- The need for donors is so great because of all total hospital deaths, less than 1 percent are eligible for organ donation, usually the result of brain death from a traumatic head injury.

#### **TRUTHS ABOUT ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION**

- Becoming a donor does NOT affect the level of medical care a person will receive in the case of a medical emergency. Furthermore, doctors working to save a person's life are separate from the medical team involved in the transplant process.
- Costs related to donation are not paid for by the donor's family. The organ/tissue recovery agencies or the transplant center pay all costs related to the donation.
- All major religions support organ and tissue donation as the ultimate act of charity.
- People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves as potential donors. Medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.
- A donor can have an open-casket funeral. Great care is taken to preserve the natural appearance of the donor following the recovery of organs, eyes or tissue.

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