



## The Need for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation

- The national waiting list for organ transplants is rising at an alarming rate, with **117,509** individuals (7.3.17) currently on the list.
- In Ohio, there are more than **2,900** people – **615** in Central Ohio – waiting for an organ transplant at any time, and hundreds more await tissue and corneal transplants.
- Approximately **20** times each day a man, woman or child dies for lack of an available organ. Once every **48** hours, an Ohioan dies waiting.
- In 2016, **358** Ohioans shared the Gift of Life through organ donation at the time of their death. Through their unselfish generosity, **1,135** organs were transplanted.
- In 2016, **93** individuals in **Central and Southern Ohio** shared the Gift of Life through organ donation.
- In Central and Southern Ohio in 2016, **534 individuals shared the Gift of Healing** through tissue donation.
- **172 individuals gave the Gift of Sight** through cornea donation. Total, in Ohio, there were 3,837 cornea donors.
- **33,610 organ transplants were performed** in the United States in 2016. 5,978 of those transplants were living donations. **49,869 cornea transplants and 1.75 million tissue transplants** were performed nationally in 2016.
- **A single donor potentially can save the lives of eight people and restore the lives of more than 50** by donating vital organs (heart, two lungs, two kidneys, liver, pancreas and small bowel) and tissue (corneas, bone, fascia, skin, veins and heart valves).

### How Does An Ohioan Register As A Donor?

Ohioans may declare their wish to become a donor by registering online in the Ohio Donor Registry through [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org). Additionally, individuals may indicate their intentions when renewing their driver's license, or by completing a Donor Registry Enrollment Form available by calling 800-525-5667.

The Ohio Donor Registry is an individual's first person authorization to donate the Gift of Life at the time of their death if possible through organ and tissue donation.

People are encouraged to discuss these wishes with their family, so their next of kin are aware of the decision at the time of their death. Fulfilling a loved one's wish to donate is one of the most helpful steps a grieving family can take to deal with its loss.

**\*\*Additional information may be obtained at [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org)\*\***