



## Sample Newsletter Articles

### Register Today

Last year a record-breaking 34,000+ organ transplants were performed in the United States, more than 50,000 people received a cornea transplant and more than 1.75 million Americans received a tissue transplant. Men, women and children's lives were saved or enhanced due to generous, caring strangers. Unfortunately, the national waiting list for a life-saving organ transplant is rising at an alarming rate with nearly 115,000 individuals currently on the waiting list.

Although the need is very great, some people choose not to donate because of some commonly held misconceptions and myths about organ, eye and tissue donation. Many believe it is against their religion, when in fact ours and all other major religions in the United States supports organ, eye and tissue donation. Other people believe that it will cost money to become an organ, eye and tissue donor. The truth is there is no cost to the donor's family or to their estate. Finally, people assume that they are too old to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. In fact, the oldest organ donor in the United States was 92 years old and he donated his liver to someone in their early 60's. Anyone, of any age, can register their decision to donate as medical professionals will determine what can be donated at the time of death.

To answer any questions you may have, to register or for more information please visit [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org) or contact Lifeline of Ohio at 800-525-5667 for a brochure. You can also register by saying "yes" at the Ohio BMV or West Virginia DMV (pick the agency in your state) when you renew or register for your driver license or state identification card. Please register today to become an organ, eye and tissue donor and then share your decision with your family. There is no greater gift than the Gift of Life.

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### Remembering Jenae

Jenae McNichols had the world in her hands. As a sophomore at Lakewood High School, she was involved in student council, on the cheerleading squad and spent her lunches mentoring a grade school student who needed extra help with her homework. On top of that, she was a dancer – it was her true passion. Her dream was to graduate from high school and begin a dance career.

Tragically, she was involved in an accident while on her way to teach dance class – one week before the dance school's yearly recital. Since it was not like her to be late to class, the school called to check in. That's when her family's world was forever changed.

The McNichols family rushed to the hospital, but despite the doctors doing everything they could to save Jenae's life, she died at the age of 16 on May 31, 2013.

After she was pronounced brain dead, her family was presented with the opportunity of organ, eye and tissue donation. A discussion that she had with her mom, Lisa, before she got her license made it an easy decision

– Lisa knew Jenae wanted to be a donor. It tremendously eased their burden to know what she would have wanted and they were able to honor her wish.

Jenae was able to give the Gift of Life to three people, the gift of sight to two and heal countless others through tissue donation.

The McNichols family misses Jenae every single day – there has been no greater loss than hers. However, they honor her memory in many ways including scholarships in her name to Lakewood High School and the dance studio she taught for, they participate in the annual Dash for Donation and they volunteer as Donate Life Ambassadors.

Their hope is that her legacy will live on through the hundreds, if not thousands, of people that she touched. For them, their beautiful daughter’s gift dances on.

It is important to talk with your family and then register your donation decision, just as Jenae did. You can register today at [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org) or say ‘yes’ when asked if you want to be an organ and tissue donor at the Ohio BMV or West Virginia DMV (pick the agency in your state) when you receive or renew your driver license or state identification card. For more information on organ and tissue donation log onto Lifeline of Ohio’s website or call 1-800-525-5667.

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### **A Lasting Legacy**

Sue and Mike Murphy welcomed their son Jason into the world on February 26, 1984. He was 10 weeks early, but thankfully he recovered from his early health challenges and grew into a curious, energetic little boy.

As Jason grew he became interested in many sports – most notably, he began playing golf with his dad in fourth grade. The Murphys set aside time together to hit balls at the local golf course and soon it became a passion for Jason. As teachers, both Mike and Sue were able to share a lot of their time with Jason. They were always proud of his every accomplishment, especially since Jason was a learning disabled student and often struggled with school. But he always worked hard and assured his parents that his goal in life was to get his college degree.

Jason lived by the Three F’s of life that we all follow — Faith, Family and Friends. As an active member of his church youth group, he could always be counted on to help others and to be a role-model for his younger neighbors and friends. When he turned 16 he mentioned to his parents that he had signed up to be an organ and tissue donor when he received his driver license. Sadly, what the Murphys didn’t know at the time was that just a few short years later that simple conversation would impact so many lives.

On June 27, 2003 Mike and Sue got the call that every parent fears. Jason had been severely injured in a car accident and on June 29, 2003, Jason was declared brain dead at the age of 19.

Although devastated by the loss of their only child, Mike and Sue were comforted by the fact that others would benefit from Jason’s selfless spirit. Jason was able to donate his kidney and pancreas to one man, his other kidney and liver to a woman and his heart to a man who has since witnessed the births of his great-grandchildren. Knowing they are alive today because of a decision Jason made years ago has given the Murphys assurance that Jason’s life will never be forgotten and his light will shine on.

It is important to register your organ donation decision and to share that decision with your family, just as Jason did. Your choice to register can mean the difference between life and death for those waiting for a transplant. Currently, nearly 115,000 Americans are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. Individuals have the

potential to save eight lives through organ donation and heal up to 50 more through tissue and cornea donation. Sadly, each day in the United States, 20 men, women and children die for lack of an available organ.

Register today at [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org) or say 'yes' when asked if you want to be an organ and tissue donor at the Ohio BMV or West Virginia DMV (pick the agency in your state) when you receive or renew your driver license or state identification card. For more information on organ and tissue donation log onto Lifeline of Ohio's website or call 1-800-525-5667.

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### **A Hero's Legacy**

On Christmas Day in 1998, Joey Johnson, gave the ultimate gift. He saved five lives after he died suddenly at the age of 19. "Christmas Day is usually a time of joy and celebration for our family," said Bernetta Calloway, Joey's mother. "But that day brought more sorrow than we ever experienced."

A recent graduate from Marion Franklin High School in Columbus, Joey had a promising future. He was outgoing and active in martial arts. "He was incredibly loving," said Bernetta, "he brought energy and happiness to our lives."

The night Joey died doctors did everything they could to save his life. "By the time we arrived, it was too late," said Bernetta. Joey was a registered organ and tissue donor, a decision his mother said was in line with the way he lived his life.

"Losing Joey was devastating, but knowing that he helped others through death has been a comfort to us all," said Bernetta. She credits her faith with helping her through the tragedy, "Without faith, I wouldn't have made it."

Bernetta and her family have become advocates for organ donation since Joey's death. She volunteers with Lifeline of Ohio to share the importance of organ and tissue donation and promotes the cause in the African American community. "Many people in our community think 'Whatever I came with, I'm taking with me.' We need to get away from that notion because we can make such a big difference as organ donors," she said.

Joey Johnson left a hero's legacy by choosing to give the Gift of Life. You can too, by registering your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor and then sharing with your family your decision to donate. Register today at [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org) or say 'yes' when asked if you want to be an organ and tissue donor at the Ohio BMV or West Virginia DMV (pick the agency in your state) when you receive or renew your driver license or state identification card. For more information on organ and tissue donation log onto Lifeline of Ohio's website or call 1-800-525-5667.

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### **A Car Ride Paved the Way to a New Heart**

John Afek and his son were driving along High Street in Columbus, Ohio in 2005 when he felt the pain. John knew something was wrong in his chest and drove immediately to the emergency room at Riverside Methodist Hospital. Medical testing found 95 percent blockage in his heart arteries. Five years, three heart attacks and one Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) diagnosis later, John's doctors at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center Ross Heart Hospital declared that his heart was failing. He would need a heart transplant from a donor to survive.

John was a single dad and the lifeline for his daughter and son. Before his first heart attack, he was a successful business owner, a Certified Public Accountant and in control of his life. He never thought his future would be put in the hands of someone else's generosity.

John's life-changing phone call came on December 22, 2011. There was a heart available for him. Prior to the call, he and his children were unsure if he would make it through the holidays. John was sick for so long with CHF that he now considers himself incredibly lucky to be here today. At death's edge, the gift of an organ donor gave John's children their dad back and a future full of possibilities. John is extremely grateful to his support system: his pastor who prayed with him at the hospital, his friends and his concerned kids. John's organ transplant completely changed his outlook on life, brought him closer to God and led him to this calling: to help others. John has written to his donor's family to share his gratitude and celebrate their loved one's courageous donation of life.

John shares his story to help who he can and to make others aware of the power of one donor who can save eight lives through organ donation and heal 50 others through tissue donation. Register today at [www.lifelineofohio.org](http://www.lifelineofohio.org) or say 'yes' when asked if you want to be an organ and tissue donor at the Ohio BMV or West Virginia DMV **[pick the agency in your state]** when you receive or renew your driver license or state identification card. After you register, be sure to let your family know about your decision to donate. For more information on organ, eye and tissue donation log onto Lifeline of Ohio's website or call 1-800-525-5667.