



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **National Donor Day Honors the Gift of Life**

Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network, the region's organ donor program, encourages area residents to celebrate National Donor Day on February 14, 2021 and consider registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

National Donor Day was started in 1998 to recognize the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation. Today, almost 9,000 men, women and children are on a transplant waiting list in New York State and 1,500 of them have waited more than five years. The more individuals who say "yes" to donation and join the New York State Donate Life Registry, the more lives that can be saved through organ transplants.

"Celebrating National Donor Day alongside Valentine's Day highlights the selflessness of organ, eye and tissue donors and the love they have to help others," says Nancy Ryan, Director of Development at Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network. "Plus, documenting one's decision to give the Gift of Life by enrolling in the donor registry can also be a gift to their family - giving them peace of mind knowing what their loved one's wishes were."

Registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor is fast and easy. Simply check the "yes" box at the DMV when applying for or renewing a driver license or non-driver ID card. Or, you can enroll online at [www.donatelife.ny.gov](http://www.donatelife.ny.gov). Either way, your name and basic information is then entered into the New York State Donate Life Registry, a confidential database that is only accessed by donation professionals at the time of someone's death. Doctors and nurses in hospitals do not have access to donor registries.

New Yorkers ages 16 and over can enroll in the Registry, and medical conditions are not factors when enrolling. All decisions about what can be donated to help others are made at the time when deceased donation is being considered. A single deceased donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and enhance 75 more through tissue and corneal donation. Watch this short, information video for more facts about organ donation and the importance of donor registration:

<https://youtu.be/80U0Cb9bm80>

Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network is a not-for-profit, federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) serving 20 counties in the Finger Lakes, Central and Upstate regions of New York State. The organization is dedicated to bridging the Gift of Life from organ donors to people in need of life-saving organ transplants. Additionally, the OPO works to educate the public to increase awareness and understanding about organ donation and how to join the New York State Donate Life Registry.

For more information about organ donation and donor registration, visit [www.donorrecovery.org](http://www.donorrecovery.org).

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