

# **Organ and Tissue Donation Facts**

# Power of Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation

- Just 1 organ donor can save up to 8 lives and a tissue donor can improve the lives of more than 100 others.
- One organ donor can donate their kidneys, pancreas, liver, lungs, heart and intestines.
- Tissue donation includes bone donations to repair fractures and prevent amputations, skin donations to heal burn patients, and heart valve donations to repair life-threatening defects. Tissue donors can also donate their corneas, which can give the gift of sight to two recipients.

## Critical public health issue

- Nationally, there are more than 100,000 people waiting for an organ transplant.
  - 20 people die each day waiting for an organ transplant.
    - Every **10** minutes, another person's name is added to the list.
- There are more than 5,000 men, women and children in our region awaiting a life-saving organ transplant.

### • Gift of Life Donor Program

- o Gift of Life Donor Program serves **11.3** million people across the eastern half of Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware.
- Since 1974, Gift of Life has coordinated more than 55,000 organ transplants and more than two million tissue transplants.
- Its annual donate rate, most recently 62 organ donors-per-million population, ranks among the highest in the world.
- Working in partnership with the 129 acute care hospitals and 14 transplant centers.
- For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Gift of Life leads the nation in the most organ donors among all 57 U.S. OPOs.
  - Most organ donors coordinated life-saving gifts from 705 organ donors, achieving the highest number of organ donors ever recorded.
  - Most organs transplanted those donations resulted in 1,732 transplants, the most in the U.S. in 2021.
  - Most kidneys transplanted coordinated more than 1,007 kidney transplants the most ever in U.S. history. With kidney disease on the rise, and often tied to common conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, this provides hope to all who are waiting. The need is especially prevalent in multicultural communities. In the Gift of Life region's 14 transplant centers, 56 percent of the kidney recipients were people of color.

# Register to be an Organ and Tissue Donor

- o **95%** of people surveyed in the U.S. support organ donation, yet in many states, including PA, the organ donor registration rate is below **50%**.
- It only takes 30 seconds to register.
- Gift of Life encourages everyone to discuss organ donation with loved ones to make their personal preferences known.