

## The Donor Families

Many families who have donated say that the act of donations allowed something profoundly meaningful to arise from an otherwise tragic situation. Knowing their choice has helped others live, organ and tissue donation can offer grieving families solace and consolation.

## The Gift

Until recently, transplantation seemed the stuff of science fiction, but in a few short years, this life-saving miracle, has become routine in medicine. Last year more than 21,000 transplants were performed in the United States. Bermuda is aligned with The New England Organ Bank and receive their transplants from this list. None of this would be possible without the gift of life- the donation of organs and tissues for those in desperate need of them. Deciding to be an organ or tissue donor can potentially help several other people through life saving transplants and tissue grafts. It also gives new hope to the many Bermudians who are currently on transplant waiting list.

## The Recipients

People on the organ waiting list are very sick. Some are dependent on machines to stay alive, while others are confined to hospital beds. Many unfortunately, die while waiting for a transplant. Thankfully, the donation of an organ, heart, lung, liver, kidney or pancreas can save or enhance the lives of patients and return them to full productive lives. Bermuda has one of the highest incidences of diabetes in the world, with many of these patients on dialysis desperately awaiting a transplant.

## Your Decision

Donating organs and tissue is your opportunity to give life and health to another person.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### IF I DONATE HOW WILL MY BODY LOOK AFTERWARDS?

Donated organs and tissue are removed surgically and the body is not disfigured in any way. The body remains intact for any funeral arrangements the family wishes, including open casket.

### WILL IT COST MY FAMILY ANYTHING TO DONATE?

No. Organ and tissue donation is completely free. A donor's family is not charged for donation.

### WILL DOCTORS LET ME DIE IF THEY KNOW I AM A DONOR?

No, the first priority of any health care provider is to preserve life. The medical team treating you are not associated in any way with the transplant team or the care of a potential recipient.

### DO RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORT DONATIONS?

Yes, all major religious faiths, including Protestants, Catholic, Islamic and Jewish faith support organ and tissue donation and consider it a generous and charitable gift of life.

### IS DONATION EMOTIONALLY PAINFUL FOR THE DONOR'S FAMILY?

Organ donation is often an immediate and lasting comfort to the family. Even though their loved one have died, one or more persons can live on through their gift.

### IS A PATIENT WHO IS RICH OR FAMOUS MORE LIKELY TO GET A TRANSPLANT?

No. Organs are computer-matched to recipients based on criteria such as blood and tissues type, body size, geographic location, medical urgency and time on the waiting list. The organ allocation process is blind to wealth or social status.



# THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON LIVING

# BERMUDA ORGAN DONOR ASSOCIATION

This is to inform you that I want to be an organ and tissue donor if the occasion ever arises.

Please see that my wishes are carried out.  
Thank You

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please detach & give the upper portion of this card to your family.*

Signed by the donor and the following two witnesses in the presence of each other.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF DONOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS #1

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS #2

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE OF BIRTH OF DONOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE SIGNED

Bermuda Organ Donor

P.O. BOX 31

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Like us on facebook 

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Registered Charity #696

## LIVING DONATION

Five years ago I almost died from liver failure, my abdomen kept filling up with fluid which had to be drained almost daily. I was unable to think clearly due to the buildup of toxins in my body. But thanks to a lifesaving liver transplant I am alive today and living a full life. Organ donors save thousands of lives. Please let your wishes be known so that lives may be saved.

I underwent a kidney transplant in February 2012 and am eternally grateful to my donor's family for their generosity in donating their son's organs to the New England Organ Bank. There were several of us who received an organ from this generous donor family and this has changed my life tremendously. The gift of my new kidney has given me back a normal life, better general health and the freedom of not having to attend dialysis three times a week every week. When one becomes an organ donor it means giving a new life to someone on the receiving end. As an organ recipient I know first hand how important it is for one to become an organ donor.

-Trenton

*It's very important to be an organ donor. I would have never hadn't my daughter if life has died. That gift of life given him a second chance at life.*

-Chammaigne Laws

"You may also decide to be a living donor. If you are a match, in good health, you can donate a kidney or part of your liver to a family member or friend. This option allows the patient to receive a transplant before becoming very ill."

## Why the shortage?

Advances in medical science have made transplant surgery a desired treatment for some serious diseases. Unfortunately, while the number of patients needing a transplant increases, the availability of donated organs remains small. In fact, very few deaths occur in circumstances suitable for organ donation. Further, some families who are unsure of their loved ones desire to be a donor may decide not to consent to donation.

