



You have the power to donate life



A Donate Life organization

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NATION CROSSES RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES FOR LIFESAVING CAUSE

Congregations Work to Raise Awareness about Organ Donation

FRESNO, CA – (November 12th, 2005) – Regardless of religious affiliation, congregations and houses of worship across the nation will recognize the life-saving benefits of organ donation on November 12-14, 2005. This is in honor of National Donor Sabbath, an ecumenical celebration of life that reminds congregations of their faiths' support of donation.

A Gallup poll showed that fewer than 10 percent of people in the United States know their religion has doctrines regarding organ and tissue donation. Though these beliefs differ between denominations, the underlying theme – that organ and tissue donation is one of the highest forms of giving – directly correlates with the principle upon which most religions are based.

Observation of National Donor Sabbath is an opportunity for religious communities to touch the lives of millions of people. Nearly 90,000 people in the United States are currently waiting for a transplant, and the number continues to grow at a rate of 20 people per day. Unfortunately only 50 percent of those waiting will receive a life-saving transplant. The solution to this problem is simple: raise awareness about organ and tissue donation so that more people discuss this important issue and make a decision. This is the goal of National Donor Sabbath.

Local services commemorating National Donor Sabbath will be held as follows:

- **St. John's Cathedral** - 2814 Mariposa St. - Mass at 12:00PM will include a special presentation about Angel Gabriel Alaniz who gave the Gift of Life to six people. This should be particularly poignant as Gabriel's family will be present along with Salvador Ybarra and his family. Gabriel's donation saved Salvador's life.
- **St. Rest Baptist Missionary Church** - 1550 E. Florence Ave. - Services at 10:45AM will include a presentation by JePahl White who, along with his sister, LaShelley, received a kidney from Darryl Hillard's family. Both families will also be participating.

Fast Facts

- 89,000 people in the United States are waiting for organ transplants to save their lives. More than 2,300 of them are children under the age of 18.
- Each day, 20 people – one every 90 minutes – die in the United States because of a shortage of organ donors. About 13 people are added to the national organ transplant waiting list every day.
- One person can save more than seven lives through organ donation, and touch more than 50 others with tissue donation. To become a donor, go to **donateLIFecalifornia.org**. At this website one can both officially record their wishes to be a donor and notify their family.

California Transplant Donor Network

The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The Transplant Network helps 160 hospitals in 40 Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada counties offer the option of organ and tissue donation to families whose loved ones have died, coordinates deceased organ recovery and placement, and provides public education with the hope that every resident will become a donor. It is federally designated as this area's organ recovery organization. For more information, visit **ctdn.org** or call 1-888-570-9400.