



Organ Donation in the Classroom

Jennifer Tislerics

Special Events & Partnerships Coordinator

jtislerics@giftoflifemichigan.org

800-482-4881 734-922-1048

Why Donation Matters

Copy/paste into your web browser to watch:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvTBKdgdGp0>

I'm here to talk a bit about organ, tissue and eye donation, and how it can be incorporated into your classroom lessons. As most of you know, Michigan passed a law last year mandating organ donation instruction in driver ed classes.

But first I want to show you **why** it's so important to educate our new drivers about organ donation.

[play video, also available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvTBKdgdGp0>]

Sadly, there are 3,000 patients in Michigan right now who are waiting for that second chance at life, just like Kerry was last summer.

Gallup polls show that more than 90% of Americans support organ donation and think it's a good thing. But most don't know how to properly sign up. Here in Michigan, only about 29% have joined the Donor Registry, compared to 50-60% in Ohio and Indiana, and 39% nationally.

Michigan ranks 44th in the country for the percentage of drivers registering to donate. There are a variety of reasons for this, but it ultimately comes down to people just plain don't know about the donor registry. We think we're supposed to sign the back of our license – but that's not how it's done anymore.

What is Gift of Life?

- Federally designated organ and tissue donation program for Michigan since 1971
- Liaison between 175 critical-care hospitals and eight transplant centers
- Independent, non-profit based in Ann Arbor
- Maintains the confidential Michigan Organ Donor Registry in collaboration with the Secretary of State
- Open 24/7, 365 days a year



We don't expect any of you to become an expert on organ donation, but we would like to make you more comfortable talking about it with your students. So allow me to give you a bit of background, before we talk about implementing the new law.

Who is Gift of Life?

Federally designated organ & tissue recovery organization for Michigan

Organ & Tissue Recovery

- Obtain consent & work with donor families on-site
- Locating, matching, tissue typing for transplant
- Recover organs and tissues for transplantation, therapy, education and research.

Education

- Educate hospital staff, funeral homes, public
- Maintain the **Michigan Organ Donor Registry**, in cooperation with the Secretary of State

Gift of Life has two main activities – our clinical side, which works directly with the organ and tissue donations; and our education side, which works with professionals and the public to share accurate information as well as hosting the state’s organ donor registry.

Organ and Tissue Donation

- 17-19 people die each day waiting for an organ in the United States.
- More than 110,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant nationally.



That's enough to fill Michigan Stadium!

More than 3,000 in Michigan are waiting for a transplant!

75 people in the USA receive a transplant each day, but on average 18 die daily, waiting for a transplant that never came.

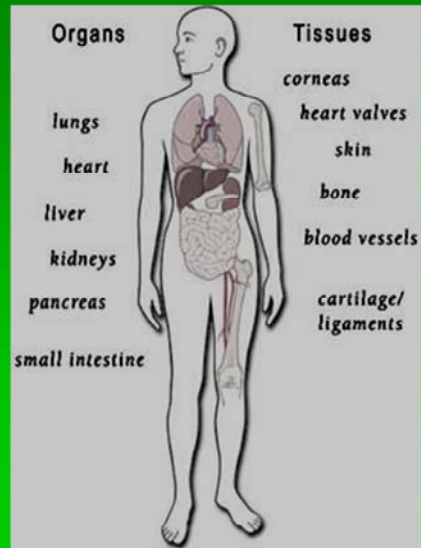
Types of Donation

Organs that can be donated:

- Heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys and intestine
- One organ donor can save up to **9 lives**

Tissues that can be donated:

- Corneas/eyes, heart valves, bone, soft tissues and veins
- One tissue donor can improve the quality of life for more than **50 recipients**

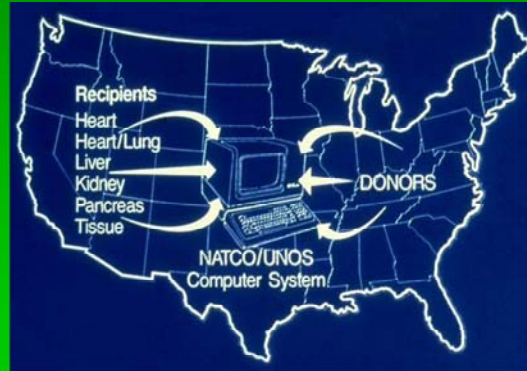


There are 600 different ways that donor bone is used, from root canal surgeries to spinal fusions to replacing cancerous bone in children with certain cancers in their arms/legs (allowing them to keep the limb, rather than amputate it).

United Network for Organ Sharing and Organ Placement

UNOS allocates organs to transplant hospitals based on:

- Severity of illness
- Blood type
- Size
- Antigens (HLA)
- Geography
- Time waiting



The matching process includes many factors. One of those factors is how close the donor is to the recipient's hospital. Organs are placed locally first. If there's no good match in Michigan, then to our region (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio), nationally and internationally to Canada. There are two exceptions to this: one is when the donor's family knows someone who is waiting for a transplant (called a directed donation), and the other if there is a perfect match kidney anywhere in the country.

The waiting list is national, but the lists of people willing to donate (Donor Registries) vary state by state.

Michigan Organ Donor Registry

Gift of Life
MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

HOME | BECOME A DONOR | CONTACT US | Search... GO

ABOUT US | UNDERSTANDING DONATION | GET INVOLVED | STORIES OF HOPE | DONOR QUILTS | NEWS & EVENTS

BECOME A DONOR
Campus Challenge Standings

Follow Us On: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube

Become a Donor

Home > Become a Donor

To have your name added to the Michigan Organ Registry, please fill out the form below.

Where did you hear about organ donation?

Driver Education Class

Do you have a valid Michigan Driver's License Identification (ID) card?

Yes No

Continue...

MICHIGAN COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE
P 105 200 000
JOHN DOE PUBLIC COMPLIANCE TOWN MI 48015-0000
SEX: M, HEIGHT: 601, EYES: BRN, HAIR: BRN, ENDORSEMENTS: P
EXPIRES: 07-15-2006
J092122D

First Person Consent means that the Donor Registry is legally binding. Of course, the family's comfort and cooperation are still very important.

There are several ways to have your name added to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

To sign up as a donor online, go to giftoflifemichigan.org/go/driver or select from drop-down menu on Become A Donor page. We ask how you heard about donation (select Driver Education Class!), then seamlessly send you to the Sect. of State's secure site to enter your name, driver license number and birthdate.

Sect. of State will place red heart donor symbol on new license (a sticker will be provided if you already have a license).

No license/ID card? You can still sign up on Gift of Life's website (a form is created that asks for name, address, birthdate), but SOS won't send a heart sticker.

First Person Consent

- Michigan law passed in July 2003
- Signing your driver's license or signing up on the donor registry is a legally binding contract
- Consent for donation is not needed from next of kin
- Next of kin cannot rescind consent without proof that patient did not want to be a donor

First Person Consent

- Ages 0-15, registration used to show intent, but next of kin makes decision
- Ages 16-18, registration is legally valid but next of kin can override it
- 18+, registration is legally valid and cannot be overridden (except as previously mentioned).
 - *True even if registered while <18 years old*

How First Person Consent relates to minors:

Common Misconceptions *about the Michigan Organ Donor Registry*

- I signed the back of my license, so I'm all signed up.
- Doctors won't try as hard to save my life if they know I signed up.
- I'm too old to donate.
- I have [*insert name of any disease*], you don't want my organs.

There is a lot of false information out there about organ, tissue and eye donation.

As discussed previously, signing the back is not how it's done anymore. In fact, the back of the license will go blank someday soon.

The medical team trying to save your life is – by law – unrelated to the transplant medical team. In fact, only 9 hospitals in the state even do organ transplants. Every effort is made to save your life, and it's not until all those efforts have failed that Gift of Life is called.

Our oldest organ donor so far was 92, and our oldest tissue donor so far was 103. There are no age limits to signing up as a donor.

There is no disease that should stop you from signing up as a donor. By the time you may become a donor, hopefully decades from now, the medical rules will be very different than they are today. There have been donors with Hepatitis, HIV, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and even with organ transplants. EVERYONE can sign up. Let the doctors decide at the time of donation what can be transplanted.

Why Do Families Choose to Donate ?

- Provides a positive outcome in response to an unexplainable loss.
- Offers a rare and unique opportunity to save and enhance the quality of someone's life.
- Provides an avenue for the decedent to "live on through the lives of others."
- Leaves a lasting legacy.

Transplants are obviously beneficial to the recipients of those organs or tissues. But what's often overlooked is how helpful the donation can be for the donor's family, too.

Donation Facts

- There is no cost to donate.
- Funeral arrangements and open casket funerals need not be affected by donation.
- Most major religions approve of donation and consider it an act of charity.
- Wealth and social status do not play a factor in receiving an organ.
- People of all ages and medical histories are potential organ, tissue and eye donors.

For everything that is donated, we replace it with a prosthetic so that the body keeps its normal shape for a funeral. You can have an open casket and no one would ever know you were a donor unless your family told them.

All the major religions in the USA support donation, or support the individual's right to make their own decision.

Donor Family Follow-Up

- Donor Family Ceremonies
- Certificate of Appreciation
- “The Next Place” book, courtesy of MTF
- Donor family quilt patch
- *Gift of Life* medallion
- Donor Family Newsletter
- Volunteer opportunities
- Recipient follow-up and correspondence



We do everything we can to take care of our donor families.

Want More Information?



We publish a monthly list of Michigan patients currently waiting for organ transplants, and many other statistics.



Facebook.com/giftoflifemichigan



@GiftOfLifeMich

Available 24/7 at giftoflifemichigan.org

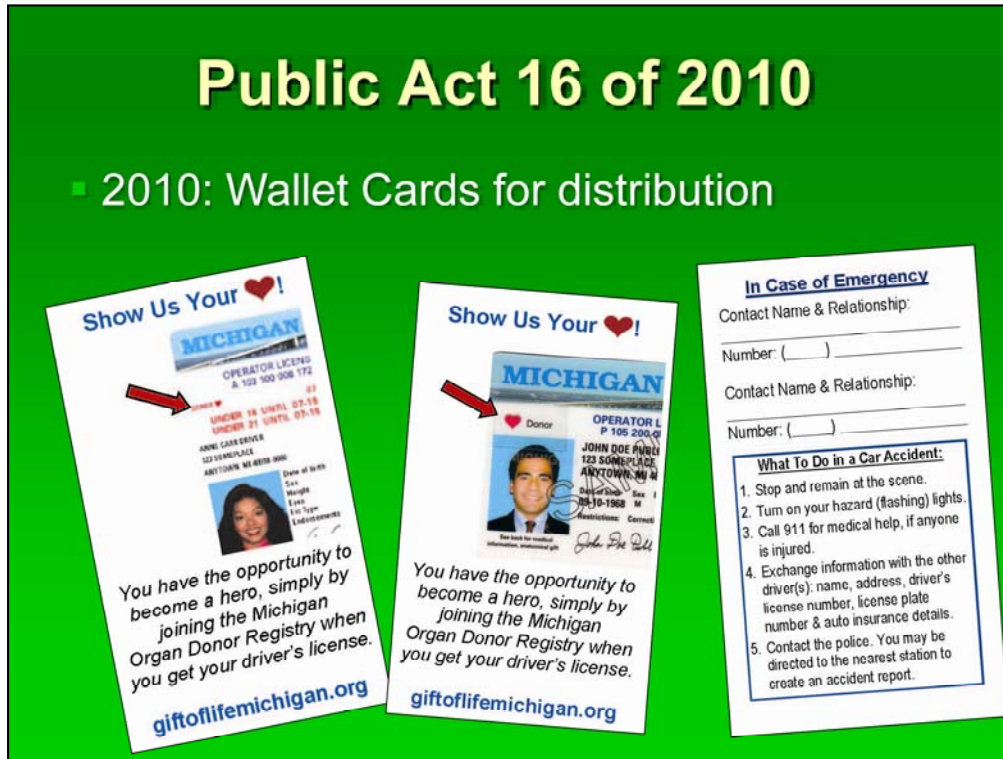
For those who are particularly interested in organ/tissue donation, please find us online to learn more.

Public Act 16 of 2010

- Mandates organ and tissue donation in driver's education classes
- Instructors required to show or distribute education materials provided by Gift of Life to their students
- All costs associated with the program covered by Gift of Life and the donation community

Public Act 16 of 2010

- 2010: Wallet Cards for distribution



Per the majority of the suggestions at last year's MDTSEA conference, the back side of the wallet card includes spots to write contact information for emergency use, an tips on what to do in case of an accident.

Gift of Life is prepared to print however many are needed for all driver ed students. Common practice seems to be that the card and organ donation discussion happens during Segment 2, but we'll leave that to your discretion.

We anticipate printing 100,000 cards in the next few weeks. Late last month we obtained a list of all active driver ed schools from Secretary of State, with estimates of how many Segment 2 students they teach annually. Will send cover letter explaining the program and enough wallet cards for the year to each school. Our goal is by end of April (National Donate Life Month).

If you'd like to do more than distribute Wallet Cards, I'll offer that we have trained volunteer speakers in most parts of the state. These are typically people who have received transplants, or family members of people who donated. As you experienced watching Kerry's video at the beginning of this presentation, there's nothing quite like hearing a personal story to make this topic real. Kerry's video is on our YouTube channel, if you'd like to replay that for your students.

Public Act 16 of 2010

- 2011: Instructional Video



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55k8VVw_gaQ

Our colleagues in California have created a fantastic 11 minute video for teenage drivers. It focuses on teens who have been personally touched by organ and tissue transplant, addresses some common myths, and explains how teens can register as donors. We will work with them this summer & fall to localize the video to Michigan, so it accurately reflects our state's laws and statistics. We'll also shorten it a bit, 11 minutes is longer than we want.

Depending on the feedback we receive from all of you this year, we may or may not continue the Wallet Cards. Regardless of what form it takes, we will have some sort of printed material that can be given to students, to accompany the video.

Videos will be provided to each driver ed school. Our goal is to have this happen in December, and we'll let you know if that changes.

Join the Michigan Donor Registry

If you don't have a red heart sticker on your driver's license or state ID, you're not fully registered.

Go to

www.giftoflifemichigan.org

or call

800.482.4881

