



North Carolina

You have the power to save lives.

Register Online

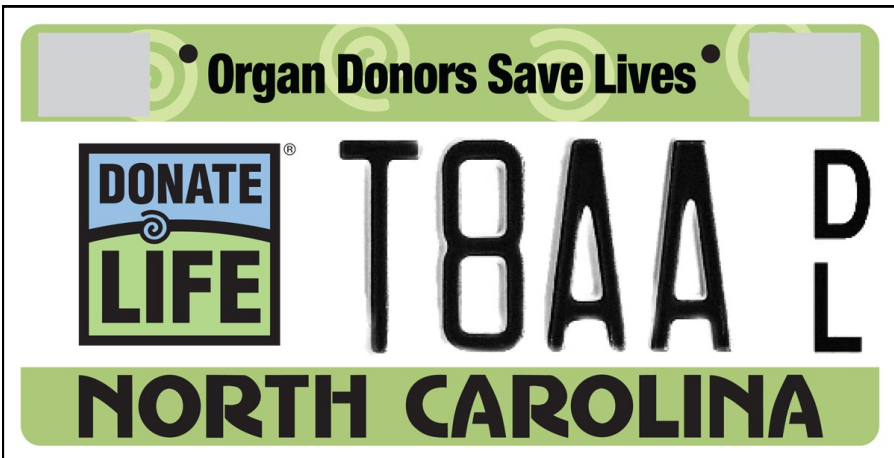
Donation  
Spotlight

North Carolina Ranks #6 in the country for the size of our donor registry. Learn more about how you can help us to encourage others to register as organ, eye and tissue donors at [www.donatelifenc.org](http://www.donatelifenc.org).

You Can Help

Visit [donatelifenc.org/you-can-help](http://donatelifenc.org/you-can-help) to find out how.

## Apply Today: Donate Life License Plate!



Each time you drive your car or park in a public space, you can share the message of the life-saving power of registering as an organ, eye, and tissue donor thanks to the NC General Assembly. Legislation passed during the 2011 Session authorized a Donate Life License Plate with proceeds benefitting Donate Life North Carolina and organ, tissue and eye transplant recipients, and donor families through our state's five transplant centers. You can order your plate at [www.DonateLifeNC.org](http://www.DonateLifeNC.org).

## New, Improved Website and Registry

Donate Life North Carolina launched a new, improved website to provide greater access to information about registering as an organ, eye, and tissue donor and to improve the process for accessing the online donor registry. The website, [www.DonateLifeNC.org](http://www.DonateLifeNC.org), provides access to more resources for volunteers, educators, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) staff, and the public to share information about organ donation, including curriculum and videos for use in the classroom and in community presentations. Registry enhancements make it easier for the Organ Recovery Agencies to search for donors.

### Contact Us:

Donate Life North Carolina  
3900 Westpoint Blvd., Suite F  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103- 3900

*Inspiring North Carolinians to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.*

[info@donatelifenc.org](mailto:info@donatelifenc.org)

[www.DonateLifeNC.org](http://www.DonateLifeNC.org)



### Did You Know?

When you register to be an organ and eye donor at your local DMV, your driver's license or ID card now has a red heart on it. But, what does that red heart actually mean?

The "Heart Prevails" law passed in 2007 makes the red heart first-person consent for organ and eye donation. At the time of your death, your family will be notified of your donation decision. The red heart does NOT indicate your wishes to be a tissue donor. If you would like to register to donate needed bone, skin, and veins, please do so at [www.donatelifenc.org](http://www.donatelifenc.org) and be sure to inform your family.

### Make a Financial Contribution Online

[www.donatelifenc.org](http://www.donatelifenc.org)

### Quick Facts

- There are over 4 million North Carolina residents registered to be organ and eye donors.
- 99% of those who registered did so through their local DMV.
- One person can save the lives of 8 people through organ donation.
- One person can save or enhance the lives of 50 people through tissue and cornea donation.

## Familiar Face Honored in Donate Life Rose Parade Float

Does this face look familiar? Kara Thio's photograph appears on many donation materials here in North Carolina, including those available at the DMV. Kara was born without a bile duct. She received a liver transplant at the tender age of 8 months. After her transplant, Kara faced numerous medical challenges but with the support of medical professionals and her family, Kara overcame those early obstacles. She is now a healthy 20-year-old college student.



Kara and her mother, Victoria Thio, have volunteered with Carolina Donor Services, one of North Carolina's organ procurement organizations, for 17 years. They recently became Donate Life NC DMV Ambassadors for the Garner DMV driver license office. Because of her work promoting donation by sharing her personal story, Kara received the honor of riding on the 2012 Donate Life Float in the Rose Parade. Each year, individuals with personal connections to donation, such as a family member of a deceased organ, eye or tissue donor; a living organ donor; or a recipient of an organ, tissue or cornea transplant, are selected to either ride the float during the parade or to create a florigraph that is featured on the float. Florigraphs are portraits created with flowers that honor a donor. Joining 27 other individuals touched by donation or transplantation, Kara was this year's North Carolina representative in the Rose Parade on the Donate Life Float in Pasadena, California. The 2012 Donate Life's Float theme: "...One More Day." is especially fitting because families of organ and tissue donors, living donors, and transplant recipients know intimately the preciousness of each day. Find more of Kara's transplant experience at [www.donatelifefloat.org](http://www.donatelifefloat.org).

## Photos from the Field: DMV Displays of Excellence



Carol Myers, Senior Examiner at the Wilkesboro driver license office, along with her team, created two special bulletin boards to display the cards featuring heartfelt donor family and transplant recipient stories. Now, customers can enjoy the messages and photos as well. If you'd like extra cards to create a display like this in your office, please ask your Donate Life North Carolina DMV

Ambassador or e-mail [DMVAmbassador@donatelifenc.org](mailto:DMVAmbassador@donatelifenc.org).



## DMV, LTGTFC Receive Awards for Commitment to Save Lives

### DMV Awards Program

Donate Life North Carolina will continue its second year of the DMV Awards Program. Awards are based on 2011 donor sign-up rates for offices in each of the 14 districts, the overall highest sign-up rate in North Carolina, and the office with the most improved sign-up rate.

Offices will be notified in the spring if they are one of the 2012 winners. The awards programs will begin in April and continue through May and June 2012.

We appreciate all of you who ask the question of donation on a daily basis. Thank you!

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### Donation Myths

We often hear people say: "I'm too old to donate!" People wonder if there is an age limit to organ donation.

The fact is: there is NO age limit to organ donation. In fact, the oldest organ donor in North Carolina was over 90 years old! There have been numerous donors over the years giving the Gift of Life in their 60s, 70s, and even 80s.

Donate Life North Carolina (DLNC) presented commemorative medals to Ken Burkel, Chair of the License to Give Trust Fund Commission, and Johanna Reese, Deputy Commissioner, NC Division of Motor Vehicles, for their organizations' commitments to saving lives by increasing organ, eye, and tissue donation.



The medals were developed to celebrate reaching 100 million registered donors nationwide, a major milestone in donor designation in the United States. In North Carolina, 4,107,159 people have registered to save lives through organ and eye donation.

Dawn Hall, Past Chairperson of Donate Life North Carolina, and Sharon Hirsch, Executive Director of Donate Life North Carolina, presented the medals at the November 7 meeting of the License to Give Trust Fund Commission. Pictured here, left to right, are Dawn Hall, Johanna Reese, Ken Burkel, and Sharon Hirsch.



### Q & A Corner: Ethics Review

All of us at Donate Life North Carolina hope your new year is off to a wonderful start! Our DMV Ambassadors look forward to visiting you in 2012. During their quarterly visits, they will continue to bring cards, booklets, newsletters and other printed materials that we hope you find useful.

However, Donate Life North Carolina is no longer allowed to bring small tokens of appreciation for individual examiners, such as pens, sticky notes, mouse pads or food items. Both state ethics laws and the Department of Transportation ethics policies prohibit these items.

We can continue to provide information, materials, brochures, posters, fact sheets, and other types of office signage, so please let us know if you have ideas for any of these types of items that would be helpful in your office. We hope that you continue to know how much we appreciate your work offering North Carolinians the opportunity to register as donors. While we can no longer offer you a cup of coffee or baked treat to show our appreciation, we will continue to tell you how much we value your role as an integral part of our donation – transplantation team. We could not do what we do without you!



## New Driver's Education Curriculum Available

New curriculum about organ donation designed to help teens make the decision about whether to say "Yes" to organ donation when they earn their Learner's Permit or Driver's License is now available.

Curriculum materials and DVD's of "Stories of Hope" were distributed at the statewide Drivers' Education conference this spring. All materials, including lesson plans, sample homework assignments and pre- and post-tests are available at [www.donatelifenc.org](http://www.donatelifenc.org).

## Make a Financial Contribution Online

[www.donatelifenc.org](http://www.donatelifenc.org)

## Did You Know?

There are over 112,000 people waiting for a life-saving organ transplant across the country. Registering to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor is one way to reduce the national waiting list.

Another way is to make positive changes to ensure you or your loved ones are not on this list. Eating healthy foods, exercising regularly, and complying with medications can help prevent the onset of diseases that may require someone you love to need a transplant.

## Donate Life America Sponsors 20 Million in 2012 Campaign

January 4th is Jessica Melore's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, a milestone birthday she did not always think she was going to have. At only 16 years old Jessica received a sudden and lifesaving heart transplant. Today, Jessica's story of hope helps to launch Donate Life America's bold new initiative, "**20 Million in 2012.**"

Donate Life America, the national organization promoting organ, eye and tissue donation in the United States, is launching this bold new initiative, "20 Million in 2012." The initiative focuses on radically increasing the number of people registered on state donor registries. This official launch of the campaign comes on the heels of its announcement during the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA, where every year since 2004 it has sponsored the Donate Life float. This year's float again featured inspirational stories of organ donors and their families, a tradition that the "20 million in 2012" campaign will continue throughout 2012 as it features powerful stories of those affected by organ, eye and tissue donation.

"I am so proud to be part of Donate Life America's "20 Million in 2012" campaign, as part of the I am HOPE storytelling project," says Melore. "New Jersey is the first state to promote the 2012 stories of hope. Real life stories like mine can inspire people to sign up to be organ, eye and tissue donors. These commitments to donation provide hope to the more than 112,000 men, women and children on the organ transplant waiting list, along with the hundreds of thousands more in need of cornea and tissue transplants."

Additionally, the "20 Million in 2012" campaign will feature four national Donate Life events during 2012: the Donate Life Flash Mob on March 24th, Donate Life Blue and Green Virtual Fashion Show on April 20th, Donate Life Champions in Fall 2012 and Donate Life Linking Hands for Life all year long.

"In 2012 we are making a bold statement about our commitment to save more lives," says David Fleming, President and CEO of Donate Life America. "With the majority of individuals in the United States wishing to be organ, eye and tissue donors, the biggest challenge to meeting our goal of 20 million will be getting people to take action and register *today* as an organ, eye and tissue donor at [DonateLifeAmerica.org](http://DonateLifeAmerica.org)."

During this year-long campaign, each state has the opportunity to showcase their stories of hope for one week of the year. North Carolina will feature stories of lives changed by donation and transplantation during the week of May 27—June 2, 2012 and hold a Linking Hands event at the NC legislative complex in June.

For more information on this campaign, you may visit Donate Life North Carolina's website at [www.donatelifenc.org](http://www.donatelifenc.org) or visit our Facebook page.