



North Carolina

You have the power to save lives.

## Register Online

## Donation Spotlight

Donate Life North Carolina was recognized at the Donate Life America conference for its DMV Ambassador program as a Best Practice. Thank you to all our DMV Examiners and Ambassadors who make this program successful!

## You Can Help

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

## Linking Hands, Voices at Legislative Day

Dozens of recipients, donor family members, organ recovery staff members, and supporters of donation and transplantation joined forces for Donate Life North Carolina's first Legislative Day on Tuesday, May 22. Donate Life NC sponsored the event to promote awareness of donation and transplantation issues affecting North Carolinians.



House Speaker Pro Tem Dale Folwell addressed the attendees along with Senator William Purcell, a retired pediatrician, and DMV Director of Driver Services Brenda Freeman.

Participants attended meetings with legislative officials throughout the morning, providing critical information on programs affecting donation and transplantation here in North Carolina. Additionally, participants shared their personal testimonies on how donation and transplantation impacted their lives. Overall, the purpose was to find additional champions for organ, eye and tissue donation within the North Carolina General Assembly.

"Educating our legislators about the importance of investing in public education and awareness was our primary goal. We were so pleased by the warm reception from legislators and their staff. We also learned about legislators' personal connections to donation and transplantation, which will inform our future work," according to Donate Life NC Executive Director Sharon Hirsch.

At noon, the group gathered in front of the Legislative Building for a Linking Hands for Life ceremony. Dawn Hall, Communications Director with Carolina Donor Services, led the event and began with a moment of silence to honor those individuals who died waiting for a life-saving transplant. Delores Benton Evans, kidney recipient and donor mother, shared her story with the crowd and then recited a poem while the audience formed a circle and held hands, forming a visible link of support.

With elections this fall, many faces in the Legislature will change. This was Donate Life NC's first opportunity to share the message in Raleigh. Donate Life NC plans on having another event next year in 2013. Stay tuned!

### Contact Us:

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

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

### Donate Life NC DMV Awards 2012



Asheville DMV—Highest Donor Designation Rate for District N



Brevard DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation Rate for District N



Marion DMV—Highest Donor Designation Rate for District M

(Below) Boone DMV—Highest Donor Designation Rate for North Carolina and for District L



(Left)  
Lincolnton DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation Rate for District I



(Above) Spruce Pine DMV— Most Improved Donor Designation Rate for District M



(Left) Sparta DMV: Most Improved Donor Designation Rate in District L and in the state of North Carolina



### Continuation: DMV Awards Presentations

**Facebook Timeline**

Facebook users can now share their organ donor registration status with family, friends, and all those connected through the social media platform. On May 1, Facebook launched the newest addition to the Timeline feature: the ability to not only indicate yourself as a registered donor, but for those who had not yet registered, provide a link to the user's state registry. In the first week after this announcement, Donate Life NC saw an increase of 3000% compared to average online registrations. This translates into more lives saved and family members sharing their wishes with others: a true win-win!

**Meet the challenge!**  
 Help us to secure 300 applications for the Donate Life license plate.  
[DonateLifeNC.org](http://DonateLifeNC.org)

**License Plate Update**

We're more than halfway there! To date, we have received 170 applications for our Donate Life North Carolina specialty license plates. Production begins once we receive 300 applications and after that time you can order a plate at DMV license plate offices. Until we reach that goal, we won't be able to see any cars on the road with our license plates, so get those applications in as soon as possible. All the information needed is in your glove compartment on your vehicle registration form. Send it in!



Polkton DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation Rate District K



Mount Holly DMV—Highest Donor Designation Rate District J



Monroe DMV—Highest Donor Designation Rate District K



(Above) Mooresville DMV—Highest Donor Designation Rate District J



Concord DMV—Most Improved Donor Designation Rate for District J



(Left) Kernersville DMV—Highest Donor Designation Rate District I



### “I Am Hope” stories

From May 27 through June 2, Donate Life NC shared local stories on donation and transplantation as part of Donate Life America’s 20 Million in 2012 Campaign. Through Facebook and Twitter, Donate Life NC posted four recipient stories (Annabella, George Pingho, Bobby Height, Sr., and Sean Lilly Wilson), two stories of families waiting (Scott Carr, Arlette Whitaker) and LifeShare Of The Carolinas’ flash mob coordinated by tissue recipient Melissa McDaniel. Individuals were encouraged to share these stories with family and friends to promote organ donation awareness. These stories are all available on Donate Life NC’s website at [DonateLifeNC.org](http://DonateLifeNC.org)

### Make a Financial Contribution Online

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

### DMV Best Practice

One concern from potential organ and eye donor registrants is: “Will my family have to cover the costs for organ donation?” The answer is no! The recovery agencies cover all costs related to organ and tissue recovery.

It is against the law in the United States for organs to be bought and sold. Families do not receive any financial compensation for their loved ones to be donors. However, they often receive hope that their loved one’s death had meaning by giving life to others.

## Driver’s Education Key to Educating Teens

Donate Life NC participated in the NC Driver and Traffic Safety Association conference again this April, leading a plenary session to help familiarize driver's education instructors with donation and the curriculum materials provided to help cover this topic with their students. The *Chris Henry Story*, produced by CBS, is one of the four videos included in the curriculum, and the session featured a special presentation by Carolyn Glaspy, Chris Henry’s mother, and Brian Polk, one of Chris Henry’s transplant recipients. Hearing from Ms. Glaspy and Mr. Polk directly allowed many of the instructors to connect personally with the cause. In addition to national news stories, the curriculum also includes a lesson plan, student handouts and a Share Your Decision homework assignment designed to prompt students to have a conversation with their families about donation. Thanks to generous funding from the License to Give Trust Fund Commission, Donate Life NC provides these materials at no cost to teachers, either in hard copy format or via downloads from Donate Life NC’s website.

Driver's Education classrooms provide a critical opportunity to teach teens about organ donation so they are prepared at 16 when the DMV Examiner asks them, “Do you want to be an organ donor?” Teens historically had the highest donor designation rates, but with new Driver's Education fees that some counties began charging in the fall, the designation rates started to drop and enrollment has decreased significantly. During Donate Life's legislative day in May, supporters talked to legislators about the importance of strong funding for Driver's Education, first and foremost because it creates safer roads, but also because it is an important vehicle for educating teens about donation.



*Donor mother, Carolyn Glaspy (left) holds up a blanket with a photo of her son, former NFL wide receiver Chris Henry, alongside Lucille Lee, a Driver’s Education instructor from Charlotte, NC. Ms. Glaspy donated her son’s organs in 2009.*