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# UNDERSTANDING DONATION

Transplantation, the surgical process of recovering organs or tissue from one person and placing them into another, is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine.

Organs that can be transplanted are the lungs, heart, kidneys, liver, pancreas and small intestine. Commonly donated tissues include corneas, bone, tendons, ligaments, skin, and heart valves. One organ, eye and tissue donor can save or improve up to 50 lives!

The need for organs and tissue is vastly greater than the number available for transplantation. Over 3,500 North Carolinians — parents, siblings and friends — are waiting for a transplant. Your willingness to be a donor brings them hope.



**Alive today... because someone like you said, "YES."**

Antwan, kidney recipient; Lucy, kidney recipient; Zeb, heart recipient

The NC Donor Registry does not include living donation, but some organs, including your kidneys and liver, can be donated while you are alive. To learn more, visit [DonateLifeNC.org/LivingDonation](http://DonateLifeNC.org/LivingDonation)

## What's the NC Donor Registry?

Joining the donor registry means that you are willing to be a donor at the time of your death. Once you are 16, your DMV license examiner will ask if you'd like to be a donor. If you say "yes," a red heart is added to your license. Joining the registry is a legal decision. If you are under 18 your parents/legal guardians will make the final decision, but once you turn 18 your decision to be an organ and eye donor cannot be overturned by others. It relieves your family of making this decision on your behalf, so please be sure to share your decision with them.

## Quick Facts

- Saying "yes" to donation will not affect your medical care. If you are sick or injured, a doctor's top priority is to save your life.
- People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors and can join the registry. Advances in medicine continue to allow more people to donate and organs are carefully screened prior to transplant.
- There are no costs to donors or their families for organ donation.
- Minority donors can make a big impact. Minorities are more likely to suffer from life-threatening diseases and are in dire need of transplants. When minorities register as donors, it increases the likelihood that good matches can be found for minority patients.
- All major religions support organ donation or view it as an individual's decision.
- An open casket funeral is possible for donors. Through the entire process, the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.
- The organ allocation and distribution system is based on many factors including blood type, length of time on the waiting list, geographical location, severity of illness and other medical criteria. Factors such as race, gender, income, or celebrity status are never considered.



**You don't have to wait for your next DMV visit — learn more and register today at [DonateLifeNC.org](http://DonateLifeNC.org).**

