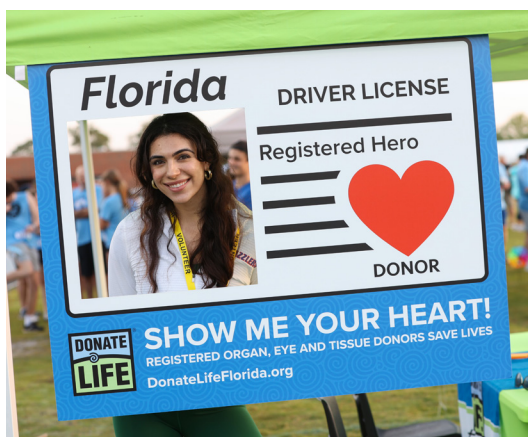


2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Leading with Heart, Living with Purpose

Miss Florida 2024, Casana Fink, has used her crown and her voice to champion the lifesaving mission of organ, eye, and tissue donation. This year, we celebrated lives saved, families honored and the inspiring power of donation across Florida.



PATRICIA DARRIGAN, CHAIRPERSON DONATE LIFE FLORIDA



As we reflect on the past year, Donate Life Florida remains steadfast in our mission to save lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation. In 2024, we celebrated inspiring stories of hope that underscore our commitment and the essential role of community support. This annual report highlights our achievements and ongoing efforts to raise awareness.

A significant focus this year has been on strengthening our community partnerships and developing a strategic plan for implementation in 2025. Notable collaborations include:

- Collaboration with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: We are thrilled to have the opportunity to integrate the DLF donor registry with FWC registration processes for fishing and hunting licenses. This initiative aims to increase donor registrations, particularly among males ages 18-45.
- Legislative Support for Education Initiatives: We are actively seeking legislative support and appropriations for a comprehensive, statewide education initiative designed to boost donor registrations, including registry modernization and a website revamp.
- Partnership with a public relations firm: We are establishing a partnership with Sachs Media to develop a statewide integrated marketing campaign targeting historically under-registered groups through a well-researched approach.

Additionally, we have addressed unexpected removals from our donor registry, gaining valuable insights into data transfers with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. This data purge will continue into 2025 as the DHSMV complies with its state-to-state requirements.

Finally, our membership committee is implementing a plan to recruit both individual and corporate members. This initiative aims to increase revenue and enhance volunteer participation in subcommittees, thereby strengthening our initiatives and infrastructure in 2025.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to donor families, community partners, volunteers, and organ, eye, and tissue recipients for being integral to our journey. Together, we can continue to save lives.

Warm regards,
Patricia Darrigan

STATEMENT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CASEY WOHL HART

As I read through this annual report, I am reminded of all the incredible work that Donate Life Florida and its member organizations do throughout the year.

In my few years with the organization, I have met both recipient and donor families who have inspired me even more to ensure donor education and outreach is widespread throughout our great state of Florida.

I am honored to work with a wonderful board of directors representing agencies who work collaboratively to share the lifesaving message of organ, eye, and tissue donation.

We look forward to more great years together in the future.

Sincerely,
Casey W. Hartt



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JOSHUA ABBOTT ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A LIFESAVING LEGACY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Florida's organ, eye and tissue registry is named for Joshua Abbott, the recipient of a lung transplant who passed away in 2006. Abbott's story moved the Florida legislature so that, in 2009, Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration chose Donate Life Florida to create a statewide donor registry to increase enrollment and educate Floridians about donation.

As of December 31, 2024, there were 11,143,168 individuals enrolled in Florida's Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor Registry. This represents a 124.18% increase since July 2009 when the new registry was launched. Throughout 2024, donor data files experienced decreases due to data purges by the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles. The DHSMV made a change to correct the purge pull, allowing eligible records to get purged. Last year's report referenced the purge and included a letter from DHSMV regarding the data purge. From January 1-December 31, 2024, 1,273,926 new donor registry profiles were created.

1,260,260
PEOPLE ADDED TO
FLORIDA'S REGISTRY
IN 2024



RANKED 3RD IN
ORGAN AND TISSUE
DONOR REGISTRY
ENROLLMENT IN
THE UNITED STATES



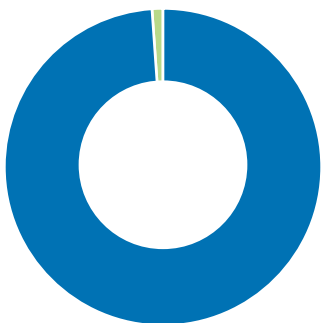
42%
OF FLORIDA
COUNTIES HAVE
DONOR REGISTRATION
RATES OF 50%
OR HIGHER



18,930
PEOPLE ADDED TO THE
NATIONAL DONATE LIFE
REGISTRY THROUGH AN APPLE
IPHONE HEALTH APPLICATION
OR AT REGISTERME.ORG

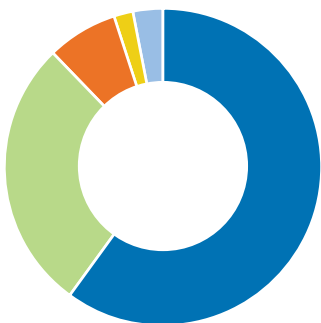


REGISTRATIONS BY SOURCE



- 98.9% Driver License Transactions
- 1.1% Online and Mobile Applications

REGISTRATIONS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY*



- 60% White
- 28% Hispanic
- 7% Black
- 2% Asian
- 3% American Indian, Pacific Islander or other

*Race field is optional

REGISTRATIONS BY GENDER



- 51.5% Female
- 48.5% Male

REGISTRATIONS BY AGE



- 8.4% Age 17 and younger
- 33.9% Age 18-35
- 23.7% Age 36-50
- 20.5% Age 51-65
- 13.5% Age 65+

MAKING LIFE POSSIBLE

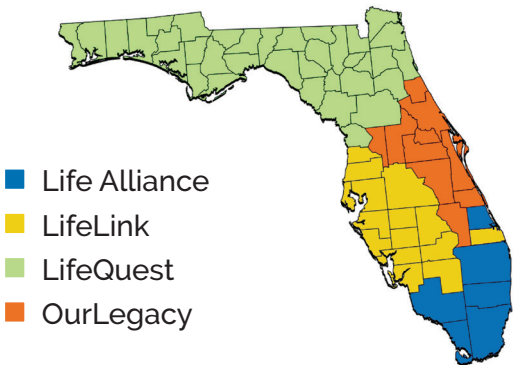
PROVIDING HEALING, MOBILITY AND RESTORED VISION
THROUGH TISSUE AND EYE DONATION

In 2024, there were 48,149 organ transplants performed in the United States of America. Florida hosted the second most transplants in the country with 3,250 procedures in 2024 saving thousands of lives.

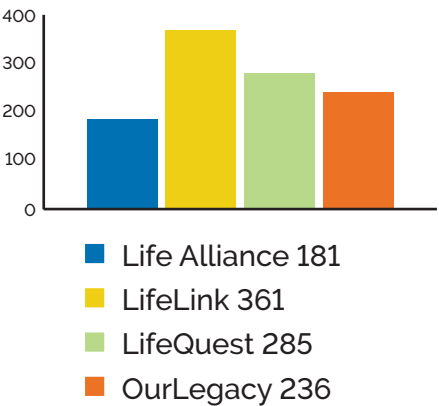
Each county in Florida has a federally designated organ procurement organization to support families through the donation process and honor donor designations. The following data indicates lives saved through organs recovered by Florida OPOs in 2024. Saving lives is made possible through our partnership with Florida's OPOs in both community education and in stewarding the Gift of Life.

**Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Data*

ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATION SERVICE AREAS



ORGAN DONORS BY ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATION IN 2024



1,066 TOTAL ORGAN DONORS RECOVERED STATEWIDE IN 2024



653 WERE REGISTERED



NEARLY **62%** OF ORGAN DONORS IN FL IN 2024 WERE REGISTERED



1,066

ORGANS RECOVERED IN FLORIDA FOR LIFESAVING TRANSPLANTS IN 2024

One donor can heal the lives of more than 75 people and can restore the sight of two through tissue and eye donation. Thousands have received precious gifts that eased pain, enabled healing, and restored vision. The data below recognizes Florida's 2024 tissue and eye donors who provided hope and healing to thousands through their gifts.



2,390

TISSUE DONORS GAVE HEALING AND MOBILITY THROUGH FLORIDA TISSUE BANKS IN 2024



6,355

EYE AND CORNEA DONORS GAVE THE GIFT OF SIGHT THROUGH FLORIDA EYE BANKS IN 2024



69.46%

OF FLORIDA'S TISSUE DONORS WERE REGISTERED IN 2024



75.1%

OF FLORIDA'S EYE/CORNEA DONORS WERE REGISTERED IN 2024

LIFE MADE POSSIBLE

RECIPIENT AND DONOR STORIES



Kris's Gift of Sight

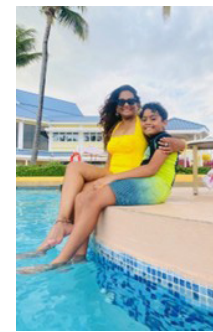
Kristian Nieves, known as Kris, had a way of making everyone feel seen through his warmth, adventurous spirit, and big heart. From a young age, he was the kind of son, brother, and friend who brought joy, laughter, and love to everyone around him.

He made friends easily, helped without hesitation, and lived life fearlessly—especially when riding his bike, a passion that gave him freedom and happiness. While wild at heart, he was grounded

in love for his family and friends, leaving a lasting impression through his kindness and vibrant personality.

When Kris passed, he gave one final gift: the gift of sight. His eye donation restored vision to a 74-year-old woman, a powerful reflection of the selflessness that defined him. Though he's no longer physically here, Kris' light lives on—through the life he helped change and in the countless lives he touched simply by being himself.

A Vision of Hope: Krissy Kisson's Journey with Beauty of Sight



Krissy Kisson, a 42-year-old single mother and energy industry auditor from the Caribbean, began losing her vision in

2017 due to a severe eye condition. She could no longer recognize herself, her son, or the world around her — but she never lost hope.

At Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Krissy found expert care and life-changing treatment. In 2018, she received her first corneal transplant

in her left eye. Between 2019 and 2021, three additional transplants in her right eye restored her vision and renewed her independence. Today, she can work, drive, care for her son, and enjoy everyday moments again.

Krissy has undergone more than 20 eye surgeries, and her gratitude is immense — for her cornea donors and their families, for the Beauty of Sight eye bank, and for her dedicated medical team.

Her story is a powerful reminder of the healing made possible through eye donation. With another transplant scheduled for January 2025, Krissy continues her journey with faith, strength, and gratitude.

Remembering Annette

Annette was a bright light in the lives of everyone who knew her. A loving mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and friend, she carried a heart full of kindness, humor, and generosity. Her smile was big and contagious, and she never hesitated to give, love, and support those around her.

She found joy in cooking, baking, and especially shopping—her favorite pastime. Fiercely honest and full of life, Annette passed that bold spirit on to her children. Her warm hugs, joyful conversations, and unforgettable kisses will be cherished forever.

Though she is no longer physically with us, her family holds tight to her memory, knowing they'll see her again one day in heaven.

This tribute honors Annette's compassionate and generous Gift of Sight—a legacy that continues to bless others in need.





Oscar's Journey to Recovery

Soccer and Ultimate Frisbee champion Oscar De Toffoli, Jr. has always been dedicated to sports, showcasing his athletic prowess and competitive spirit on the field. However, his journey took an unexpected turn when a knee injury sidelined him, threatening his passion for the game he loves. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of dedicated health care professionals and the University of Miami Tissue Bank—now known as Legacy Donor Services Foundation—Oscar was able to regain his mobility. The generosity of donors and their families played a pivotal role in his recovery, providing him with the vital tissue donation of a tendon to replace his torn ACL. With immense gratitude, Oscar looks forward to stepping back onto the field, eager to embrace the thrill of competition once again. He feels he has scored the ultimate GOOOOAAAAAL, thanks to the incredible gift of tissue donation and the support of those who made it possible!

Mel Santiago, Kidney/Pancreas Recipient



Mel Santiago was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes as a child, but by age 25, complications led to kidney failure. After starting dialysis in 2009, his health declined, and the treatments became overwhelming.

But just as hope was fading, he received the call that changed everything: a kidney/pancreas. Recovery was tough, but Mel made himself a promise — to never quit again. He honors his donor and their gift every single day.

Since his transplant, Mel's life has grown in every way. He and his wife are now raising three sons and love searching for shark teeth together — an unexpected hobby sparked during the pandemic.

To his donor's family, Mel shares a message from the heart:

"You gave me another lease on life — something I wasn't expecting, and something I'm so blessed to have."

DONATION OUTREACH

DONATE LIFE FLORIDA'S COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAMS



Nursing staff proudly showing off the Donate Life logo in support for our shared mission of saving lives.



Students from St. Augustine High School proudly wearing their Donate Life t-shirts during the school's holiday parade. Helping raise awareness about the importance of the gift of life in their community.



Life Link out in the community, creating awareness about donation.



Young voices take the stage to inspire, educate, and amplify the message of organ, eye, and tissue donation during the Ignite Your Mic for Life event.



AdventHealth Orlando celebrated National Donate Life Blue and Green Day with a spirited walk across campus.

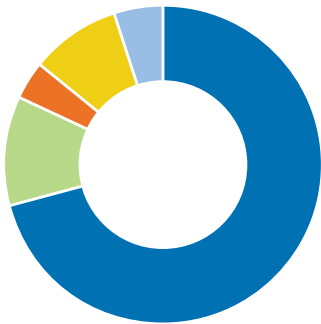


333 EDUCATION
OUTREACH EVENTS AT
SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT
THE STATE OF FLORIDA

MORE THAN
397,627
FLORIDIANS REACHED
THROUGH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS PROGRAMMING



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES BY TYPE

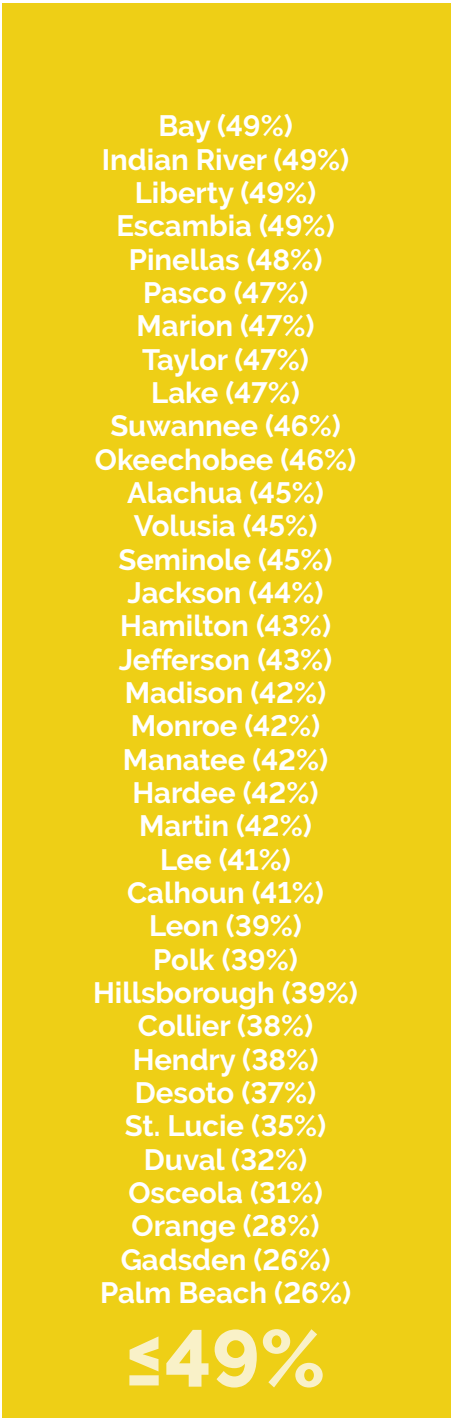
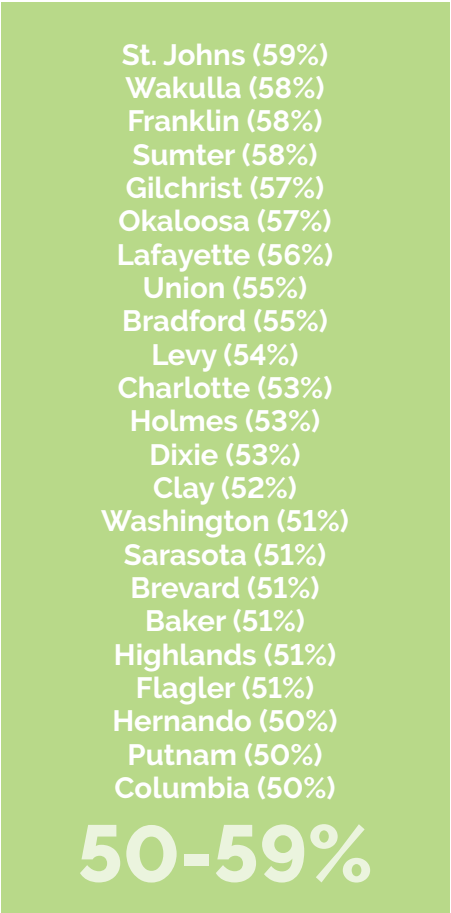
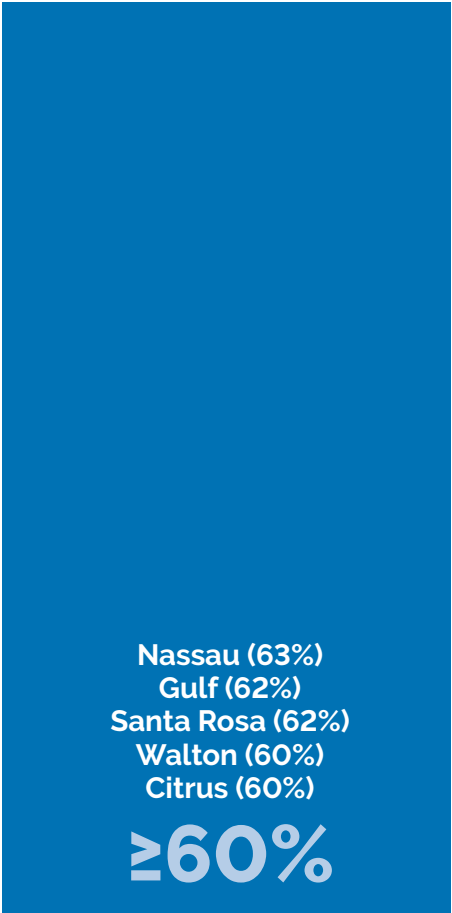


- 71% General community relations events
- 11% Secondary/Elementary Education
- 4% Workplace Partners
- 9% Multicultural
- 5% Higher Education

SAVE LIVES, SAY "YES"!

2024 STATEWIDE ORGAN DONOR REGISTRATION RATES

Donor Designation Rate (DDR): The percentage of customers who say "yes" when asked, "Do you want to be an organ donor?" during a driver license transaction.



DONATE LIFE FLORIDA

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE CAMPAIGN 2024



The Let Your Light Shine campaign celebrates and encourages organ, eye, and tissue donation during the month of April. Businesses, hospitals, and landmarks are invited to change their nighttime lighting to blue and green in support of Donate Life.



Participants are encouraged to take pictures of their blue and green lights and share why they are supporting the campaign on social media platforms. Some of our favorite Let Your Light Shine hashtags are #DonateLifeShines, #ShineOnDonateLifeFlorida, and #LeaveYourLegacy.

Our collaborators in 2024 included HCA Hospitals, University of Florida Health Systems, Hard Rock Stadium, Hard Rock Seminole Casino, and the Sunshine Skyway. These organizations helped raise awareness of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Their blue and green lights remind our communities that across America, more than 100,000 men, women, and children await life-saving organ transplants. More than 5,000 of these individuals are listed at transplant centers in Florida. More than 11 million incredible Floridians have registered to be organ, eye, and tissue donors.



OUT AND ABOUT IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

DONATE LIFE FLORIDA COMMUNITY EVENTS



Ordinary Angels Screenings Across Florida In celebration of the inspiring film Ordinary Angels, Donate Life Florida partners across the state hosted early screenings to honor the real-life heroes of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Donor families, recipients, healthcare professionals, and community members gathered for these special events, creating space to reflect, connect, and celebrate the extraordinary impact of donation. Through heartfelt tributes and shared stories, each screening reminded us that ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference.



GR8 to DON8 5K/8K Run for Organ Donation GR8 to DON8 5k/8k Run for Organ Donation celebrated 14 years of raising support for the lifesaving mission of organ donation. Presented by OurLegacy and supported by community partners, GR8 to DON8 is Florida's premier organ and tissue awareness event with more than 1,100 participants and more than \$140k raised to support vital education and family care programs. This banner year highlighted the great need for kidney donation. Approximately 80% of the more than 100,000 people awaiting a lifesaving organ need a kidney.



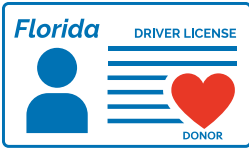
Ignite Your Mic for Life was hosted by LDSF in partnership with the Jason Taylor Foundation, bluapple Poetry Network, and DLF. Ignite Your Mic for Life is a creative Teen Poetry Slam that centers around themes of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Young poets from across the state competed by sharing powerful spoken-word messages of hope, gratitude, and the gift of life. Finalists delivered moving performances that honored donor families, raised awareness, and inspired new conversations about donation. The event offered a unique and emotionally resonant way to engage the next generation in the Donate Life mission.



Casana Fink – Miss Florida, Advocate for Life Casana Fink, Miss Florida 2024, uses her platform to champion organ, eye, and tissue donation—a cause close to her heart. Her passion stems from her father's lifesaving liver transplant and the memory of her high school friend, Peyton Evans, who became a donor hero at just 15 years old. Casana shares their stories to inspire others to register as donors, spreading hope and honoring the heroes who make transplantation possible. (a collection of images capturing moments from various years)

DRIVER LICENSE OFFICE PARTNERSHIPS

DRIVER LICENSE OFFICES ARE CHAMPIONS FOR ORGAN, EYE, AND TISSUE DONATION!

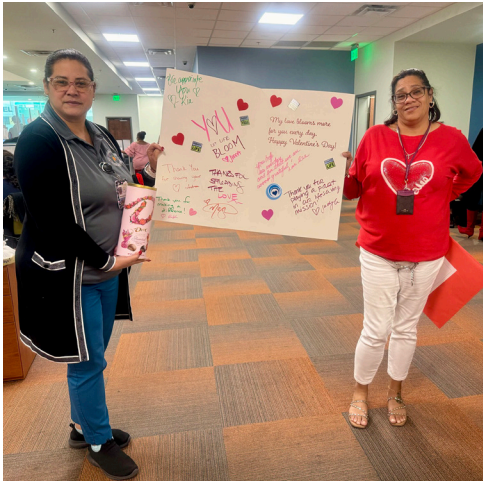
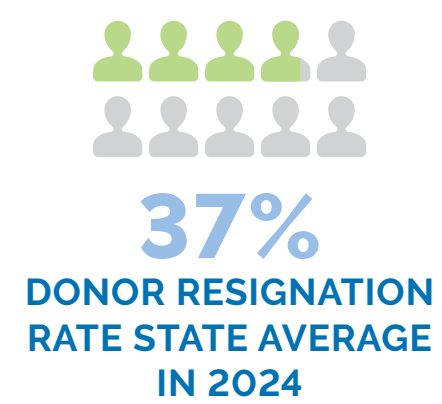


Where Florida Department of Motor Vehicles and tax collector offices across Florida shined bright in April in celebration of National Donate Life Month, embracing the 2024 theme: Donors Are Superstars. This vibrant campaign celebrated the life-saving generosity of donors and their families — the true stars who light the way for others.

In honor of the theme, offices were decked out in star-inspired decorations and educational displays that brought awareness, creativity, and inspiration to communities statewide. As always, our DMV and tax collector partners showed incredible dedication in turning their workspaces into meaningful tributes to donation.

Observed every April, National Donate Life Month raises awareness about the importance of registering as an organ, eye, and tissue donor, while honoring those who have given the gift of life. With more than 100,000 people in the U.S. waiting for a transplant, the ongoing support of DMV offices remains essential in growing the donor registry.

In 2024, 972 individuals who registered or updated their donor profile online indicated they learned about the registry through a government or state agency, including DMV and tax collector offices — a testament to their continued role as champions of hope and healing.



HONORING OUR DONOR HEROES

Throughout 2024, Donate Life Florida donor programs continued to honor the incredible legacies of organ, eye, and tissue donors through heartfelt, community-centered recognition ceremonies. These meaningful events celebrated the generosity of donors and their families, while raising awareness about the life-saving impact of donation.

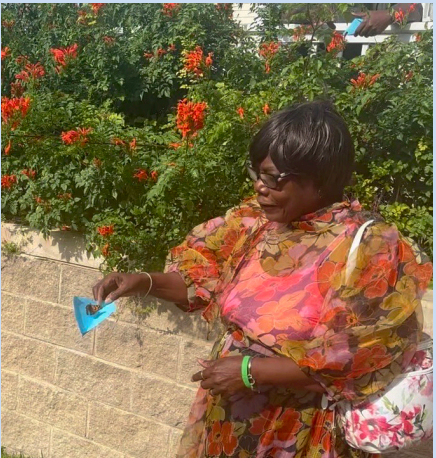
Ceremonies across the state featured symbolic tributes, such as floragraphs, plaques, and keepsakes, offered in memory of those who gave the gift of life. More than just commemorations, these gatherings created space for healing, connection, and storytelling, allowing donor families to come together and feel supported.

Through these powerful tributes, Donate Life Florida ensures donor heroes are never forgotten, and that their stories continue to inspire others to say “yes” to donation.



Family, friends, and hospital staff gather in reverence during the Walk of Honor, paying tribute to a donor hero whose selfless gift is saving lives.

CorneaGen honored donor heroes through heartfelt remembrance events in 2024, including quilt ceremonies, butterfly releases, and memorial displays. These touching moments gave donor families the chance to celebrate their loved ones' legacies and the vision restored through eye donation.



Brevard County Tax Collector, Lisa Cullen, unveils two Tree of Life murals honoring organ donor heroes, Michael-Gene Futch and Shawn Carpenter, at the Palm Bay and Merritt Island locations. Each location invites community members to add a personalized leaf to the trees after registering as donors.



On Independence Day, donor moms joined Celebration Sanitation in honoring heroes and celebrating the freedom and courage to say, “YES” to organ, eye, and tissue donation in the Town of Celebration, Florida.



LifeLink of Florida held a moving remembrance ceremony to honor the legacy of donor heroes and provide a space for families to reflect, connect, and celebrate the gift of life their loved ones gave.



DONATE LIFE FLORIDA MEDIA



Stewart Moore of WESH 2 News in Orlando, Florida, joins liver recipient, Jacob Gouty, and his mother, Ginger Gouty, in celebrating 27 years since his lifesaving transplant ahead of the Hilary Swank movie premiere, Ordinary Angels.

Donate Life Florida leverages social media to actively engage with our community, spreading awareness about the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Through Facebook, X, Instagram, and LinkedIn, we share inspiring stories generated by members of our community, as well as educational content and news about events and initiatives. Our interactive campaigns encourage followers to participate in discussions, share their experiences, and support our mission.

In 2024, 259 people who registered or updated their donor profiles online indicated they learned about the Joshua Abbott Organ and Tissue Donor registry through traditional or social media.

Through social media, we strive to reach diverse audiences, foster a sense of community and encourage donor registrations. It enables us to connect with supporters, amplify our message, and save lives through increased awareness of our mission. Here are some of our most popular posts from 2024.

 **PRINT & RADIO:**
22 ARTICLES AND PLACEMENTS
IN NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES,
BILLBOARDS, BUSES & RADIO
BROADCAST STORIES

 **TELEVISION:**
53 TELEVISED BROADCAST
STORIES AND INTERVIEWS

 **WEB:**
44 WEBSITE ARTICLES
AND PLACEMENTS

 **WEBSITE**
126,692 TOTAL WEBSITE
PAGEVIEWS IN 2024

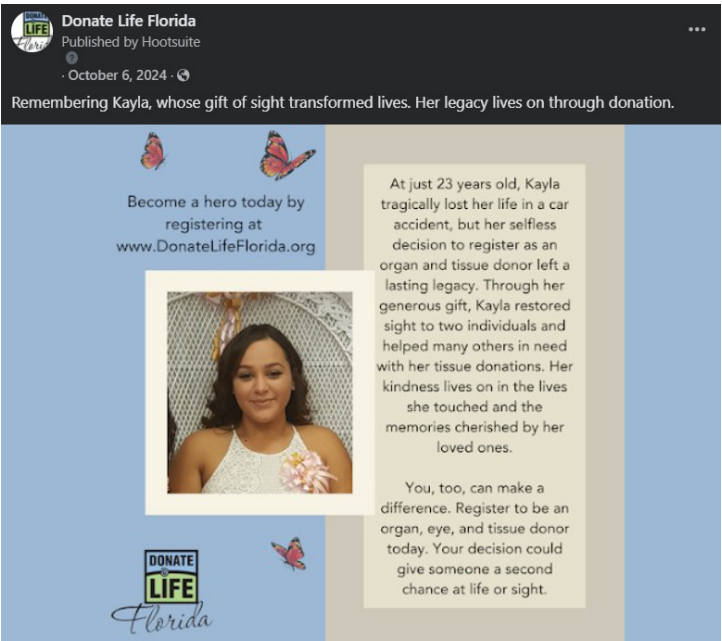
The Donate Life Florida Social Media Committee helps grow the state donor registry and provides lifesaving organ, eye and tissue donation education through four major social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn. Financial donors are highlighted monthly on Facebook for their generous giving and support of Donate Life Florida's mission. The committee has steadily engaged and recruited new volunteers throughout the state and has continued to invite Facebook followers to create personalized fundraising pages.



DONOR REGISTRATIONS BY SOCIAL PLATFORM IN 2024*





Facebook: 41
Instagram: 16
YouTube: 11
Email: 4
X: 4

Registrants do not have to select how they heard about us when registering



- 🏆 Registered donor
- 👤 Caregiver
- 👁️ Cornea recipient
- ❤️ Heart recipient
- 🍌 Liver recipient
- 👤 Kidney recipient
- 👤 Lung recipient
- 👤 Pancreas recipient
- 👤 Tissue recipient
- 👤 Small intestine recipient
- 👤 Donor family
- 👤 Friend is a recipient
- 👤 Friend was a donor
- 👤 Living donor
- 👤 Loved one died waiting
- 👤 Recipient family
- 👤 Currently waiting
- 👤 Donation professional
- 👤 Healthcare provider
- 👤 Believer



 **DonateLifeFL | 7,383 Followers**
 **DonateLifeFL | 1,699 Followers**
 **DonateLifeFL | 2,642 Followers**
 **DonateLifeFL | 462 Followers**

THE GIFT OF GIVING

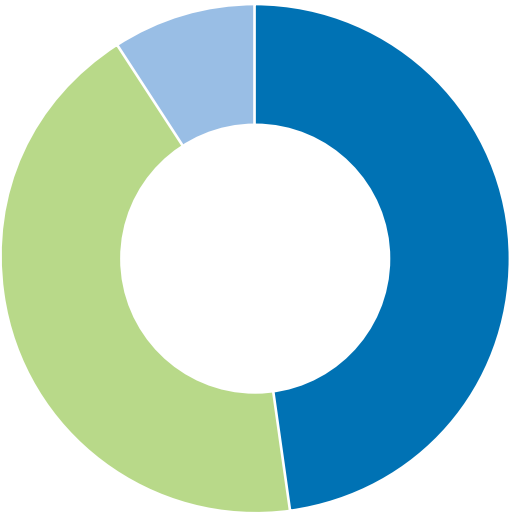
2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your Support Saves Lives

Your gifts help Donate Life Florida educate and inspire communities across the state about the life-changing impact of organ, eye, and tissue donation. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Donate Life Florida is committed to encouraging Floridians to register as donors and honor the legacy of those who give the gift of life. In 2024, community support continued to make a powerful difference. Our funding comes from generous individuals like you. Your contributions, whether through tributes and memorials, gifts in lieu of flowers, or matching gift programs, directly support outreach, events, and donor family recognition. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. To make a gift today, please visit DonateLifeFlorida.org.

Thank you for supporting our mission. Because of you, hope lives on.

\$114,748.31 RAISED IN 2024



- 47.95% Donor Program Membership
- 43.14% Public Donations at Driver License Offices
- 8.91% Online and Memorial Donations



\$830

RAISED ON FACEBOOK
THROUGH PERSONALIZED
FUNDRAISING PAGES



33

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
CREATED FACEBOOK
FUNDRAISING PAGES IN
HONOR OF AN INDIVIDUAL
OR IN CELEBRATION OF
A LIFE MILESTONE

CHAIRPERSON:

Patricia Darrigan, *Legacy Donor Services Foundation*

VICE CHAIRPERSON:

Kimberly Gilmore, *LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services*

TREASURER:

Hallie Thomas, *Legacy Donor Services Foundation*

SECRETARY:

Jessica Scheidler, *LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Casey Wohl Hartt, *Donate Life Florida*

DIRECTORS:

- Janna Aboodi, *OurLegacy*
- Jennifer Krouse, *LifeLink of Florida*
- Elizabeth Fout Buras, *Florida Lions Eye Bank*
- Patricia Darrigan, *Legacy Donor Services Foundation*
- Kathleen Giery, APR, CPRC, *LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services*
- Ashley Moore, APR, *LifeLink Tissue Bank*
- DiAnn McCormack, *CorneaGen*
- Judy Le, *OurLegacy*
- Kolo Wilkinson, *LifeNet*
- Jason Woody, *Lions World Vision Institute*
- James Rosa, *Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research*

A special thank you to our Donate Life Florida members. Together, we are saving lives through organ, eye and tissue donation.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DONATE LIFE FLORIDA AND TO REGISTER AS AN ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONOR.

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