

National Donate Life Month Celebration Ideas

National Donate Life Month (NDLM) is a month-long observance throughout April, and we hope you'll join us in celebrating this important time. NDLM is designed to encourage Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors and celebrate those who have saved lives through the gift of donation.

There are many ways you can help celebrate NDLM and show support for donor heroes, their families, and those awaiting a lifesaving gift.

- 1. Share Your Story.** Do you have a personal connection to donation and/or transplantation? Share your story on our website by [clicking here](#), and we may share it on our social media channels. You can inspire others to make a lifesaving, heroic decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.
- 2. Show your Support and Spirit.** Enter our social media contests on Facebook.
 - **April 6-12**, post a selfie dressed in blue and green attire and/or accessories using the hashtag #MTBlueGreenDay and tag us @MidAmericaTransplant. On April 15 winners will be randomly selected from entries to receive a special gift.
 - **April 15-26**, adorn your driveway, sidewalk, porch or patio with chalk art celebrating the gift of life. Post a photo with the hashtag #MTChalkArt and tag us @MidAmericaTransplant. On April 29 winners will be randomly selected from entries to receive a special gift.
 - Participate daily in Donate Life Spirit Week activities.
- 3. Host A Registry Drive or Donate Life Flag Raising.** Contact your hospital coordinator or send an email to info@midamericatransplant.org with questions.
- 4. Participate in Community Events:** We have several sporting events throughout the month to bring our communities together to celebrate donor heroes, give hope to those who wait and create awareness of the gift of life.
 - **April 14: Springfield Cardinals Donate Life Game at Hammons Field.** The Springfield Cardinals will show their support of organ and tissue donation at the Donate Life Game at 1:30 p.m. on April 21. Theme tickets are available [here](#). Each ticket will come with a voucher for a specially designed Springfield Cardinals blue and green hat.
 - **April 20: SEMO Redhawks Softball Donate Life Game at the Southeast Softball Complex in Cape Girardeau.** The Redhawks softball team will trade their red jerseys for blue and green jerseys in support of Donate Life Month. Game time is 3:00 p.m.
 - **April 21: St. Louis Cardinals Donate Life Game at Busch Stadium.** Mid-America Transplant has partnered with the Cardinals and 2006 World Series MVP David Eckstein to bring awareness of donation and transplantation to Cardinals Nation for the Donate Life Game on April 21 at Busch Stadium. Game time is 1:15 p.m. Below are some ways to join us as we celebrate the gift of life. All options include a voucher for a specially designed Cardinals baseball cap with the Mid-America Transplant and Donate Life logos.
 - Attend the game by purchasing a theme ticket [here](#).
 - Attend the game and sit in the reserved Donate Life Game sections (228, 229, 230, 231). Purchase tickets [here](#) using code 24MATA. View the Busch Stadium seating chart [here](#).
 - Attend the game and participate in our Honor Walk at Busch Stadium as we honor those who gave the gift of life, celebrate those who have received the generous gifts and support those who continue to wait. Purchase tickets [here](#) and use offer code 24MATA. These tickets will be specially marked to allow you access to the route.

- **April 26: SEMO Redhawks Baseball Donate Life Game at Capaha Field in Cape Girardeau.** The Redhawks baseball team will trade their red jerseys for blue and green jerseys in support of Donate Life Month. Game time is 6:00 p.m. Purchase tickets [here](#).
- 5. Use NDLM-Themed Social Media Cover Images and Profile Pictures.** Visit Donate Life America's [National Donate Life Month](#) webpage and download social media cover images and profile pictures to show your support of donation and transplantation. In the description of the image, include a link to [SayYesGiveLife.org](#) where your friends can join the registry.
 - 6. Share the NDLM coloring sheet with the kids in your life.** National Pediatric Transplant Week is held each year during the last full week of April with the primary focus to end the pediatric transplant waitlist. To show your support of pediatric transplant patients and create opportunities for awareness, share the NDLM coloring sheets included in this toolkit with the kids (or kids at heart) in your life. If you would like to post your finished sheet to social media, use hashtags *#MidAmericaTransplant* and *#KidsTransplantWeek*.
 - 7. Display specially designed TV Monitor Graphics.** Included in this toolkit are 1920 x 1080-pixel graphics for use on your in-office monitors.
 - 8. Share Notes of Hope.** Use the included blank note square template to create notes of hope to display in your workplace.
 - 9. Follow Mid-America Transplant.** We are on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). Comment and share our posts so your friends see them too. It's an easy way to share how important National Donate Life Month is to you.
 - 10. Sign up to be someone's hope.** Most importantly, if you haven't done so, join the organ, eye and tissue donor registry by visiting [SayYesGiveLife.org](#). More than 100,000 people are waiting for a lifesaving transplant. They are counting on us to raise awareness about organ, eye, and tissue donation to give them a second chance at life.

Thank you for your support and dedication to saving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation!



National Donate Life Month 2024 Donation & Transplantation Statistics

- In 2023, more than **43,000** transplants from **23,000** donors brought renewed life to patients and their families and communities.
- More than **100,000** people are waiting on the national transplant waiting list for lifesaving organ transplants.
- Nearly **60%** of patients on the national transplant waiting list are from multicultural communities.
- Another person is added to the national organ transplant waiting list **every 8 minutes**.
- **16** people die each day while waiting for a transplant. **5,688** transplant candidates died in 2022 while on the national transplant waiting list.

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- **86%** of patients on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is **3 to 5 years**. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list (the living donor's remaining kidney will increase in size, doing the work of two healthy kidneys).
 - **10%** of patients waiting are in need of a liver. **Living donation of part of the liver** can help these patients (the remaining portion of the donor liver will regenerate within 4 months and regain full function).
 - More than **40%** of all deceased donors are age **50 or older**; **9%** are age **65 or older**.

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- More than **2.5 million** lifesaving and healing tissue transplants are performed each year, offering patients a new chance at healthy, productive, and normal lives.
 - A single tissue donor can help more than **75** people.

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- More than **79,000** corneal transplants helped to restore sight in 2022.

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- More than **170 million** people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors. *

** Living donation is not included in your deceased donor registration.*

**Go to [RegisterMe.org](https://www.registerme.org) to register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.
Learn more about organ, eye, tissue and living donation at [DonateLife.net](https://www.donatelife.net).**

Data sources:

Based on OPTN data as of Jan. 9, 2024.

2022 Annual Data Report. Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients; https://srr.transplant.hrsa.gov/annual_reports/Default.aspx. Accessed March 2024.

Donate Life America 2022 Registry Overview Report as of March 5, 2024.

National Tissue Recovery through Utilization Survey (NTRUS); <https://www.aatb.org/news/ntrus-results-reveal-trends-tissue>; AATB.org.

2022 Eye Banking Statistical Report. Washington, DC: Eye Bank Association of America; 2023.



Donation & Transplantation FAQs

Who can be a donor?

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential organ, eye and tissue donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissues can be donated. Learn more about the lifesaving and healing organs and tissues that can be donated at [DonateLife.net/faqs](https://www.donatelife.net/faqs).

Does registering as a donor change my patient care?

Your life always comes first. Doctors work hard to save every patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity. Learn more about different religious views on organ donation at [DonateLife.net/organ-donation-and-religion](https://www.donatelife.net/organ-donation-and-religion).

Is there a cost to be an organ, eye and tissue donor?

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

Can someone who identifies as LGBTQ+ become an organ, eye or tissue donor?

Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression does not prevent someone from registering as an organ donor. Certain regulations mandated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may affect a person's eligibility for cornea and tissue donation.

Can someone who is living with HIV be an organ donor?

Passed in 2015, the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (HOPE) Act provides donation and transplantation opportunities for people living with HIV. More than 350 lifesaving transplants have been made possible because of the HOPE Act and the generosity of donors and donor families.

Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether I will receive an organ if I ever need one?

No. A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the waiting list. Race, income, gender, orientation, celebrity and social status are never considered.

Why should I register my decision to be a donor?

The vast majority of Americans support donation as an opportunity to give life and health to others. Unfortunately, many people overlook the important step of registering their decision to be a donor. Donors often die suddenly and unexpectedly. Donation can provide solace to a family and relieve the burden of making the donation decision in a time of grief and shock.

You can save up to 8 lives through organ donation, restore sight to 2 people through cornea donation, and heal more than 75 people through tissue donation.* Your registration serves as a symbol of hope to patients waiting and sharing it with your family lets them know your decision.

**Living donation and VCA are not included in your deceased donor registration.*

I want to learn more about living donation. Where should I look?

Living organ donation offers another choice for some transplant candidates, reducing their time on the waiting list and leading to better long-term outcomes for the recipient. Living tissue donation – birth tissue – is used to promote healing and to treat burns and painful wounds. Learn more at [DonateLife.net/livingdonation](https://www.donatelife.net/livingdonation).

Go to [RegisterMe.org](https://www.registerme.org) to register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. Learn more about organ, eye, tissue and living donation at [DonateLife.net](https://www.donatelife.net).

APRIL IS

NATIONAL



MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3 Donate Life Living Donor Day 	4	5	Spirit Week 6  Dress Up Your Pets
7 Make Blue & Green Treats 	8 Thank Your Healthcare Heroes! 	9 Write a Message of Hope 	10 Donate Life Flag Raising Day 	11 Create Donate Life Rocks 	12 National Donate Life Blue & Green Day 	13
14	15 Volunteer Appreciation Week 	16	17	18	19	20
21 National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 21-27) 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 	30 				

Learn more and register today at DonateLife.net.

NATIONAL MONTH

Donate LifeSM is the national symbol for the cause of organ, eye and tissue donation.

National Donate Life Month is celebrated every April. It features local and national activities to educate and encourage Americans to register as donors and consider living donation, as well as to celebrate those who have saved and healed lives through the gift of donation.



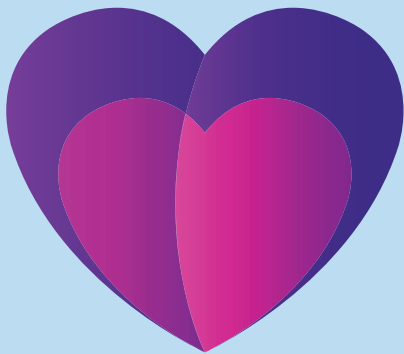
BLUE & GREEN DAY
is April 12!

The public is encouraged to wear blue and green to help share the Donate Life message.

Did You Know?

60%+ of organ, eye and tissue donors are authorized by donor registration.

National Pediatric Transplant Week



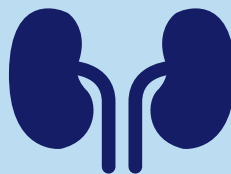
The final week of April focuses on the powerful message of ending the pediatric transplant waiting list.

More than **2,100** children under the age of 18 are on the national transplant waiting list.

More than **1,900** children were saved by the generosity of donors & donor families in 2023.

The Need is Great

More than **100,000** people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants.



More than **46,000** organ transplants from 23,000 donors brought new life to patients and their families in 2023.

More than **79,000** corneal transplants helped to restore sight in 2022.



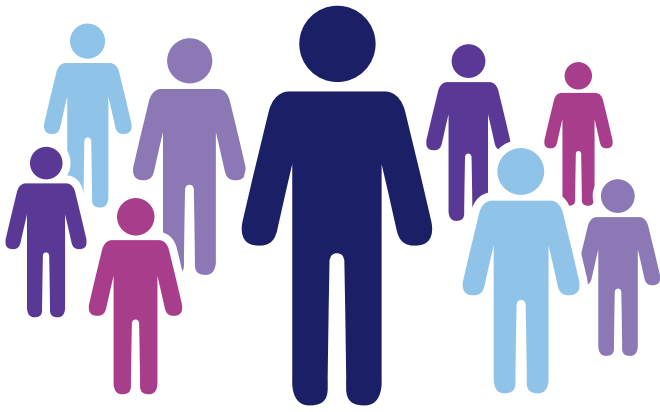
More than **2.5 million** tissue transplants heal lives each year.



More than **170 million** people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.

Thank you to all donors, donor families, registered donors and champions of the Donate Life cause!

Deceased Donation



1 Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor

Saves up to
8
lives

Restores sight to
2
people

Heals the lives of more than
75
people

Living Donation



86% of patients waiting are in need of a kidney.



Living donors can provide a kidney or a portion of their liver to a waiting patient.*



10% of patients waiting are in need of a liver.

*Living donation is not included in your donor registration.

? Top 5 Frequently Asked Questions

Does registering as a donor change my patient care?

No, your life always comes first. Doctors work hard to save every patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

Does donation affect funeral plans?

Funeral arrangements of your choice are possible, including a viewing. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care and respect. Following donation, funeral arrangements can continue as planned.

Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ if I ever need one?

No. A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the list. Race, gender, income, celebrity and social status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression does NOT prevent someone from registering as an organ donor.

What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation?


- 1 Register your decision to be a donor at [RegisterMe.org](https://www.RegisterMe.org).
- 2 Tell your family and friends about your decision to *Donate Life*.
- 3 Visit [DonateLife.net](https://www.DonateLife.net) to discover ways you can be a champion of the cause.
- 4 Ask others to visit [DonateLife.net](https://www.DonateLife.net) to learn more and register.

MES NACIONAL DE



Done Vida es el símbolo nacional de la causa de la donación de órganos y tejidos.

El Mes Nacional de Done Vida se celebra todos los años en abril. Se trata de actividades locales y nacionales que tienen como objetivo tanto educar y alentar a los estadounidenses a que se registren como donantes y a que consideren la donación en vida, como también conmemorar a aquellos que han salvado y sanado vidas a través del regalo de la donación.

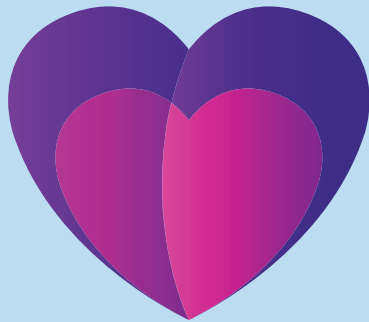
¡El Día Nacional
AZUL Y VERDE DE 
es el 12 de abril!

Se anima al público a vestirse de azul y verde para ayudar a compartir el mensaje de Done Vida.

¿Sabía que...?

El **60%+** de los donantes de órganos y tejidos está autorizado por registros.

Semana Nacional del Trasplante Pediátrico



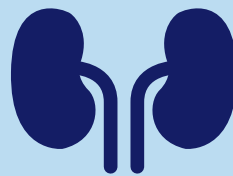
La última semana de abril se centra en el poderoso mensaje de terminar con la lista de espera de trasplantes pediátricos.

Más de **2,100** niños menores de 18 años se encuentran en la lista de espera nacional de trasplantes.

Más de **1,900** niños se salvaron gracias a la generosidad de los donantes y sus familias en 2023.

La necesidad es grande

Más de **100,000** personas esperan un trasplante de órganos que les salve la vida.



En 2023, más de **46,000** trasplantes de parte de 21,300 donantes les dieron una vida renovada a los pacientes, sus familias y comunidades.

Más de **79,000** trasplantes de córneas ayudan a restaurar la visión.



Más de **2.5 million** de trasplantes de tejidos sanan vidas todos los años.



Más de **170 million** de personas están registradas como donantes de órganos y tejidos.

¡Gracias a todos los donantes, las familias de donantes, los donantes registrados y los defensores de la causa de Done Vida!

La Donación Fallecida



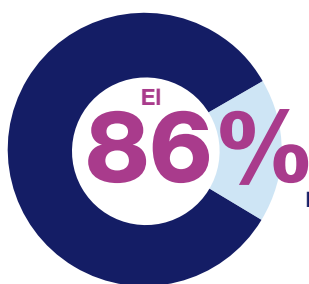
1 donante de órganos, ojos y tejidos

Salvar
hasta
8
vidas

Restaurar
la vista a
2
personas

Sana las vidas
de más de
75
personas

Donación en vida



Los donantes en vida pueden donar un riñón o parte de su hígado a un paciente que lo espera.*



El **10%** de los pacientes que esperan necesitan un hígado.

*La donación en vida no está incluida en su registro de donante.



Las Preguntas Más Frecuentes

¿Si me registro como donante cambia mi atención como paciente?

No, tu vida siempre tiene prioridad. Los médicos se esfuerzan para salvar la vida de cada uno de los pacientes, pero a veces hay una pérdida completa e irreversible de la función cerebral. Se declara al paciente clínica y legalmente muerto. Solo en ese momento la donación es una opción.

¿La donación afecta los planes funerarios?

Es posible hacer los arreglos funerarios que desees, incluso un velatorio. Durante todo el proceso de donación, el cuerpo se trata con cuidado y respeto. Después de la donación, los arreglos funerarios pueden continuar según lo planificado.

¿Mi religión permite la donación de órganos, córneas y tejidos?

Todas las principales religiones permiten la donación como un acto final de compasión y generosidad.

¿Mi estado social y/o financiero afecta de alguna manera mi posibilidad de recibir un órgano si alguna vez necesito uno?

No. Un sistema nacional empareja los órganos disponibles de los donantes con las personas en la lista de espera en función del grupo sanguíneo, el tamaño del cuerpo, la gravedad de la enfermedad, la distancia con el donante, el tipo de tejido y el tiempo que haya permanecido en la lista. La raza, el género, los ingresos, el estado de celebridad y social, la orientación sexual, la identidad o la expresión de género NO impiden que alguien pueda registrarse como donante de órganos.

¿Qué puedo hacer para aumentar la donación?

- 1** Inscríbase su decisión de ser donante en [DoneVida.org](https://www.donevida.org).
- 2** Informe a sus amigos y familiares sobre su decisión.
- 3** Visite [DoneVida.org](https://www.donevida.org) para descubrir maneras en las que puede defender la causa.
- 4** Invite a los demás a visitar [DoneVida.org](https://www.donevida.org) para obtener información e inscribirse como donante.

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2024

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Learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation
and register today at [DonateLife.net](https://www.DonateLife.net).



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Para más información sobre la donación de órganos y tejidos e inscribirse como donante, visite DoneVida.org.



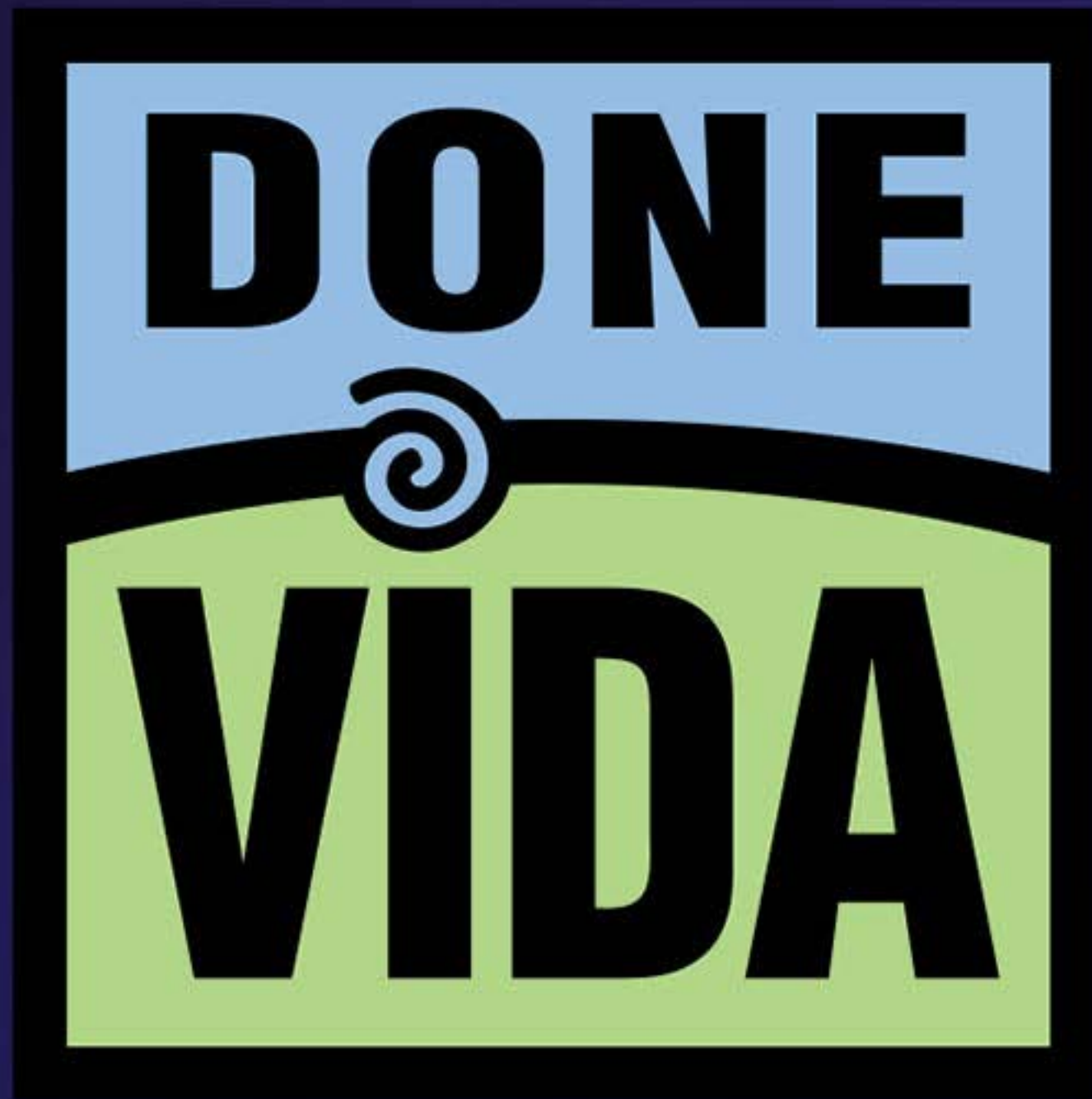
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Learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation
and register today at DonateLife.net.

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Donors are

Super Stars

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Donantes son

Superestrellas

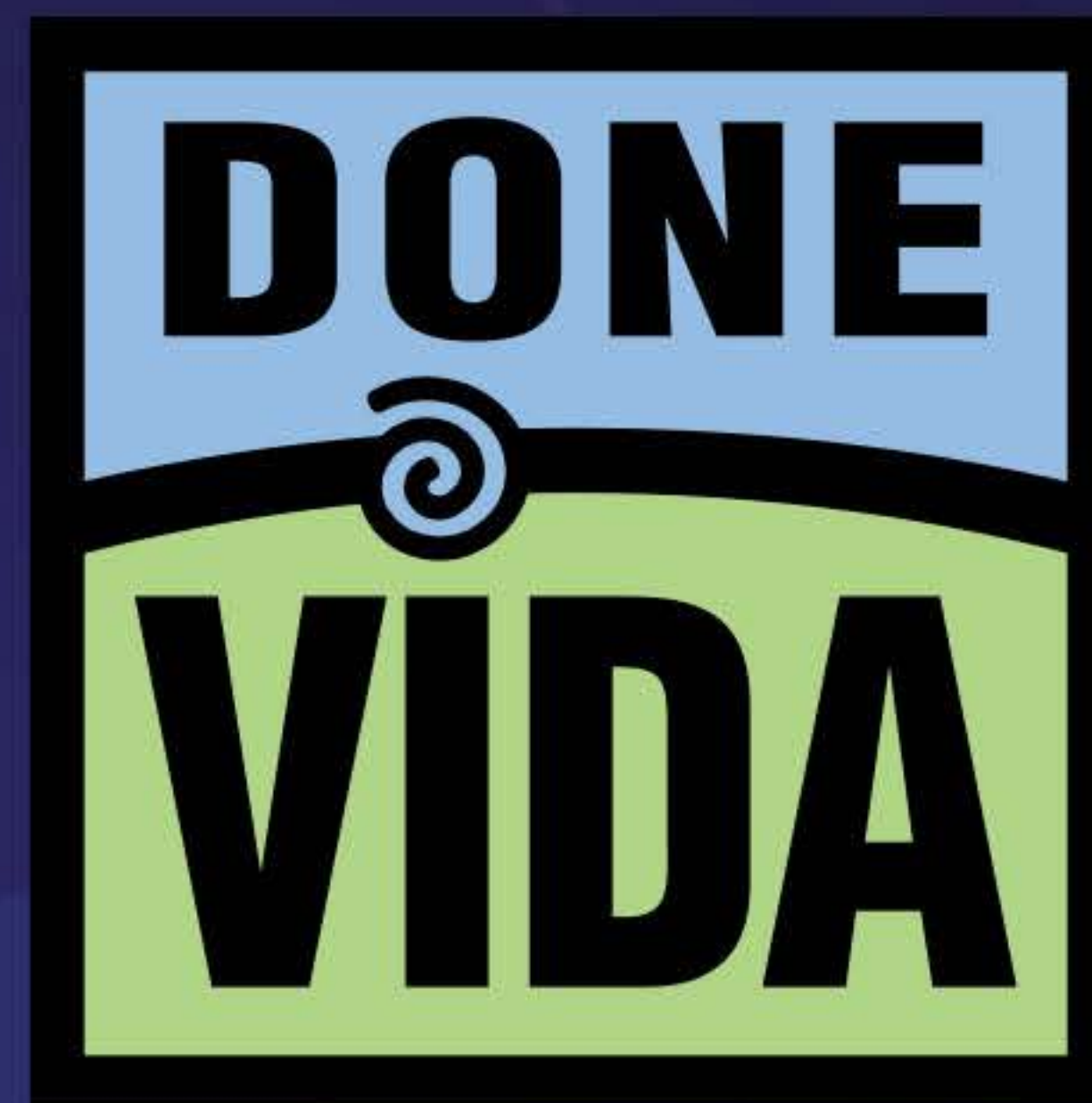
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