

National Donate Life Month Toolkit

April 2026

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National Donate Life Month Celebration Ideas

National Donate Life Month (NDLM) is held every April to encourage Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors and honor donor heroes who have saved lives through the gift of donation.

There are many ways you can help celebrate and support NDLM.

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.**
    - Throughout the month, post a selfie dressed in blue and green attire and/or accessories using the hashtag *#MTBlueGreenDay* and tag us *@MidAmericaTransplant*.
    - Participate in daily Donate Life Spirit Week activities.



3. **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 10: 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.
    - **April 11: 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 1:00 p.m. Admission is free.
    - **April 26: 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 for the Donate Life Game on April 26 at Busch Stadium. Game time is 1:15 p.m. Below are some ways to join us as we celebrate the gift of life.

- Attend the game by purchasing a theme ticket here. These tickets include a voucher for a specially designed t-shirt.
- Attend the game and sit in the reserved Donate Life Game sections (333, 334, 335).
- 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.

- **May 8: Springfield Cardinals Donate Life Game at Hammons Field.** The Springfield Cardinals will show their support for organ and tissue donation at the Donate Life Game at 6:35 p.m. on May 8. Theme tickets for this event are coming soon. Each ticket will come with a voucher for a specially designed Springfield Cardinals cap.

4. **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.

5. **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 from Donate Life America's webpage 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*.

6. **Display specially designed TV monitor graphics**. Included in this toolkit are 1920 x 1080-pixel graphics for use on your in-office monitors. These graphics are also available for download from Donate Life America.

7. **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.

8. **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 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 2026
Donation & Transplantation Statistics

- In 2025, more than **49,000** transplants from **23,788** 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**.
- **13** people die each day while waiting for a transplant. Over **5,600 people** in the U.S die each year while on the transplant waiting list._

- **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).

- **9%** 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**.

- A single tissue donor can help more than **75** people.

- More than **85,000** corneal transplants helped to restore sight.

- 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 to register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.
Learn more about organ, eye, tissue and living donation at DonateLife.net.

Data sources:
Data from Donate Life America EOY 2025 Registry Overview Report, and Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN), as of January 2026.
2024 Eye Banking Statistical Report. Washington, DC: Eye Bank Association of America; 2024. OPTN/SRTR 2025 Annual Data Report.
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Donation & Transplantation FAQs

Who can be a donor?
People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissues can be donated.

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. Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, race, income, celebrity and social status are never considered.

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 permanent loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

It is important to know that the hospital care team does not know the patient's donor status. The hospital contacts the local organ procurement organization (OPO), which evaluates the individual's medical history and checks the donor registry. If the person is registered, the OPO will inform and support the family. If not, the family will be asked if they would like to authorize donation. For all organ, eye and tissue donation, the donor is treated with care and respect, and the donor family is supported throughout the donation process..

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.

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.

Go to 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.

April is National Donate Life Month

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

Learn more and register today at **DonateLife.net**.

National DONATE LIFE Month

Donate Life℠ 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.

DONATE LIFE BLUE & GREEN DAY is April 10!

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 **2,200** children under the age of 18 are on the national transplant waiting list.

More than **1,874** children were saved by the generosity of donors & donor families in 2025.

The Need is Great

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



More than **49,000** organ transplants from 23,788 donors brought new life to patients and their families in 2025.

More than **85,900** corneal transplants helped to restore sight.



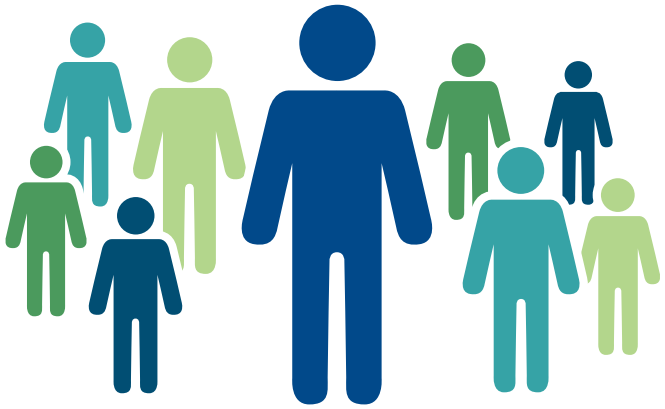


More than **170 million** people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.

Register your decision anytime at RegisterMe.org.

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

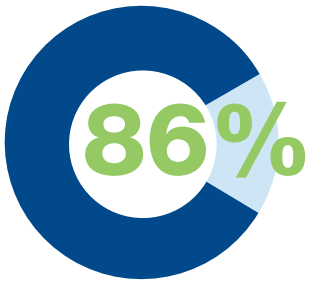
Deceased Donation



1 Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor

Saves up to	Restores sight to	Heals the lives of more than
8 lives	**2** people	**75** people

Living Donation



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.*

*Living donation is not included in your donor registration.

Did You Know?

The liver is the only organ that grows back! The donated part of the liver regrows in 4 months.

Learn more at DonateLife.net

Top Frequently Asked Questions

Does registering as a donor change my patient care?
Your life always comes first. It is important to know that the hospital care team does not know the patient's donor status. Doctors work hard to save every patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and permanent 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**.
2. Tell your family and community about your decision to *Donate Life*.
3. Visit **DonateLife.net** to discover ways you can be a champion of the cause.
4. Ask others to visit **DonateLife.net** to learn more and register.

Data from Donate Life America EOY 2025 Registry Overview Report, and Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN), as of January 2026.
2024 Eye Banking Statistical Report. Washington, DC: Eye Bank Association of America; 2024. OPTN/SRTR 2025 Annual Data Report.
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Abril es el Mes Nacional de Done Vida

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 Done Vida es el 10 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 **2,200** niños menores de 18 años se encuentran en la lista de espera nacional de trasplantes.

Más de **1,874** niños se salvaron gracias a la generosidad de los donantes y sus familias en 2025.

La necesidad es grande

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



En 2025, más de **49,000** trasplantes de parte de 23,788 donantes les dieron una vida renovada a los pacientes, sus familias y comunidades.

Más de **85,900** trasplantes de córneas ayudan a restaurar la visión.





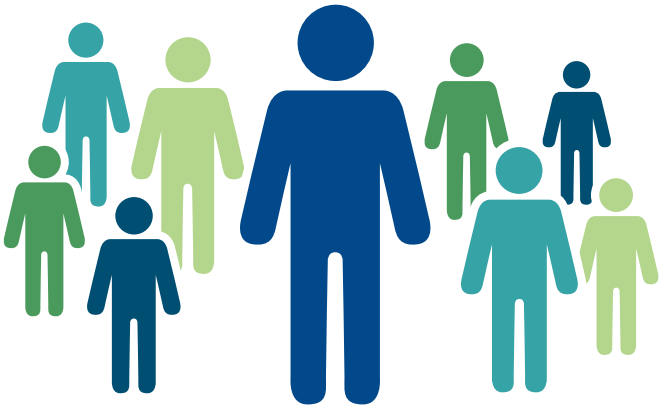
Sí

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

Inscribe su decisión en RegisterMe.org.

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

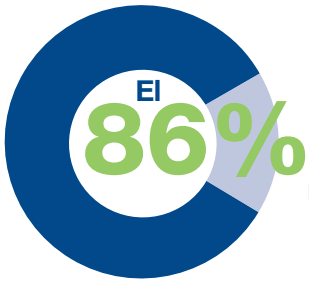
La Donación Fallecida



1 donante de órganos, ojos y tejidos

Salvar hasta	Restaurar la vista a	Sana las vidas de más de
8 vidas	**2** personas	**75** personas

Donación en vida



de los pacientes en espera necesita un rinon.



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

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

¿Sabías?

¡El hígado es el único órgano que puede volver a crecer! La parte donada del hígado vuelve a crecer en 4 meses.

Más información en DonateLife.net

Las Preguntas Más Frecuentes

¿Si me registro como donante cambia mi atención como paciente?
Su vida siempre es lo primero. Es importante saber que el equipo de atención hospitalaria desconoce si el paciente es donante. Los médicos se esfuerzan por salvar la vida de cada paciente, pero a veces se produce una pérdida completa y permanente de la función cerebral. El paciente es declarado clínica y legalmente muerto. Solo entonces se considera la donación 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. Inscriba su decisión de ser donante en **DoneVida.org**.
2. Informe a sus amigos y familiares sobre su decisión.
3. Visite **DoneVida.org** para descubrir maneras en las que puede defender la causa.
4. Invite a los demás a visitar **DoneVida.org** para obtener información e inscribirse como donante.

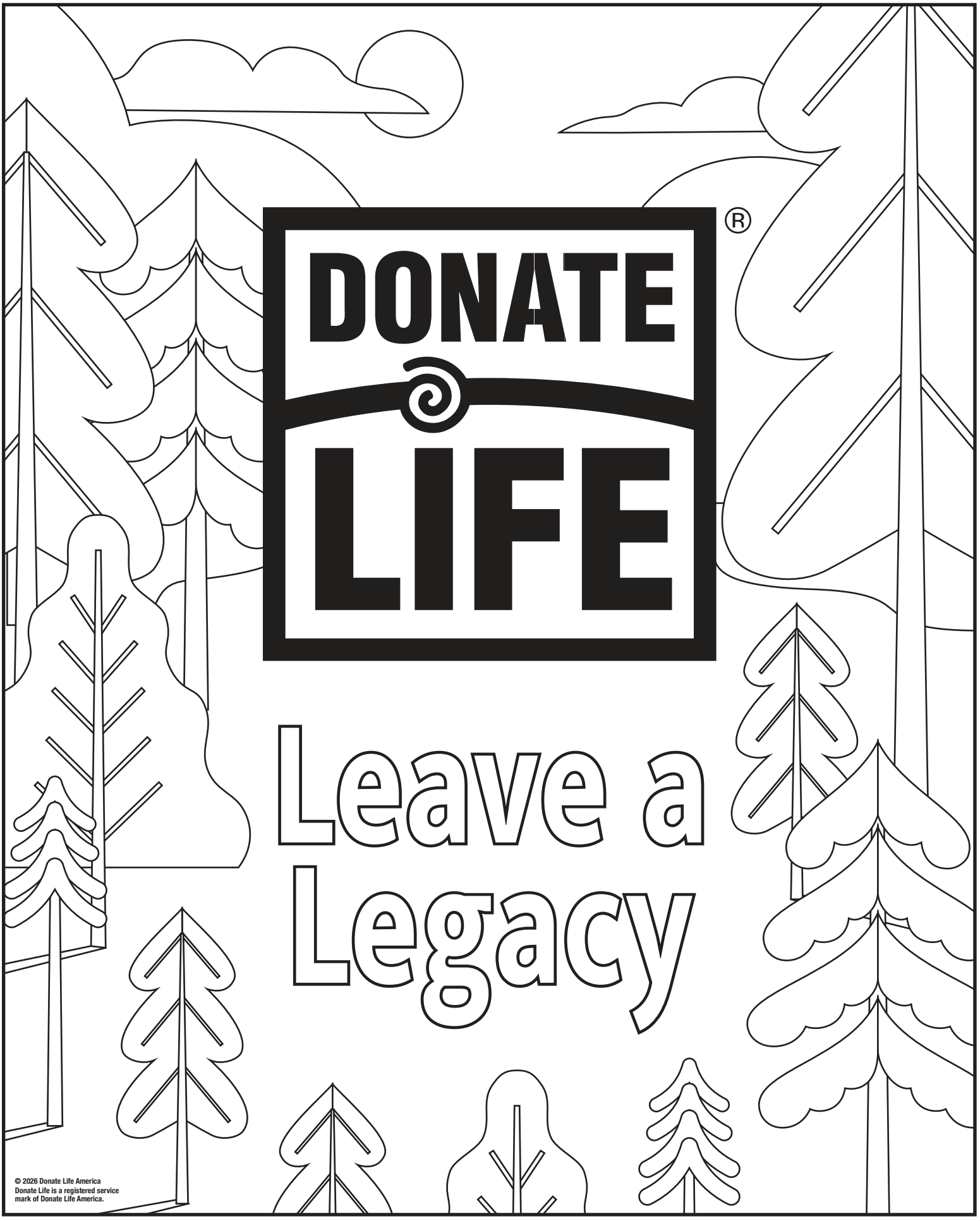
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Learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation and register today at **DonateLife.net**.

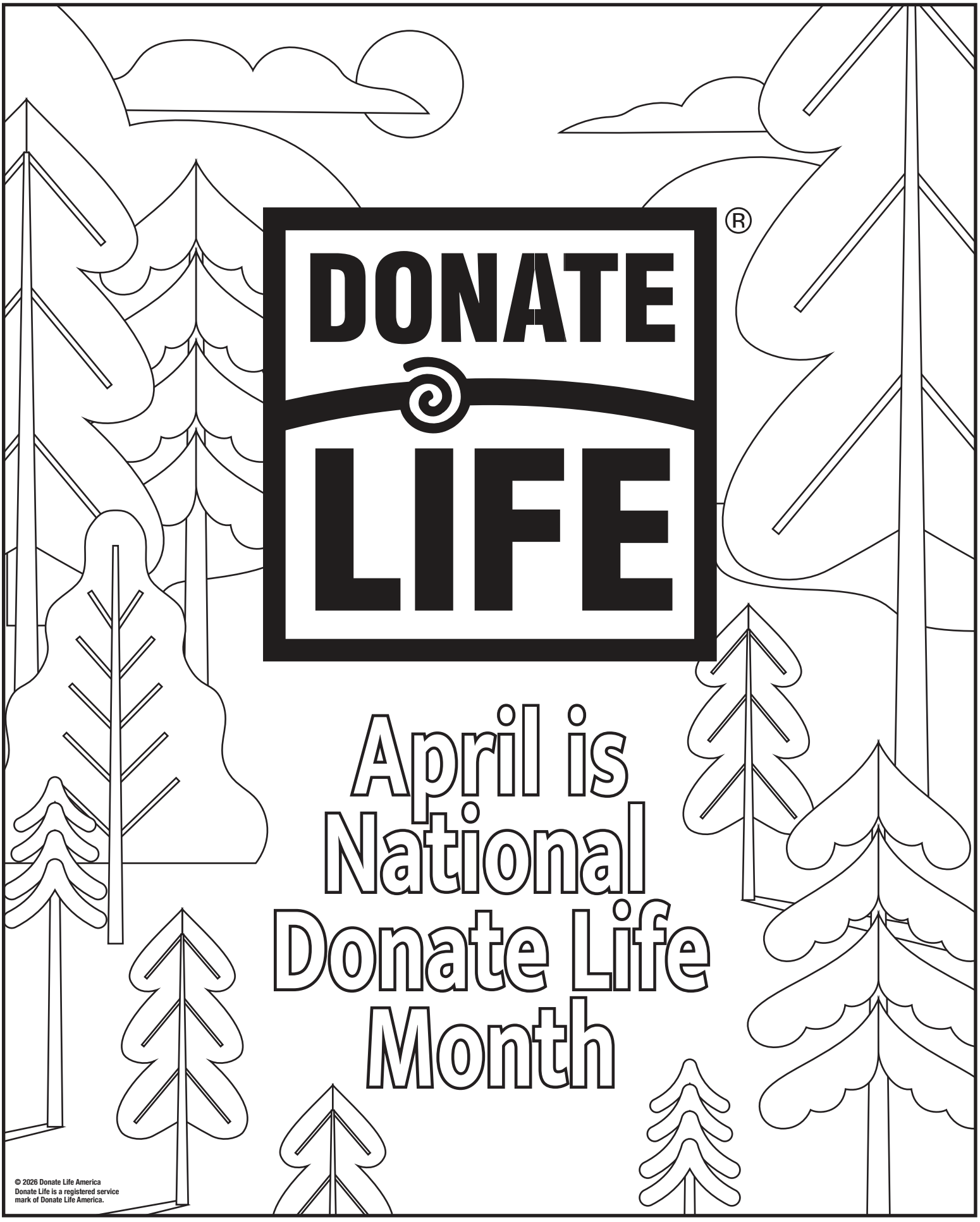


Para más información sobre la donación de órganos y tejidos e inscribirse como donante, visite **DoneVida.org**.

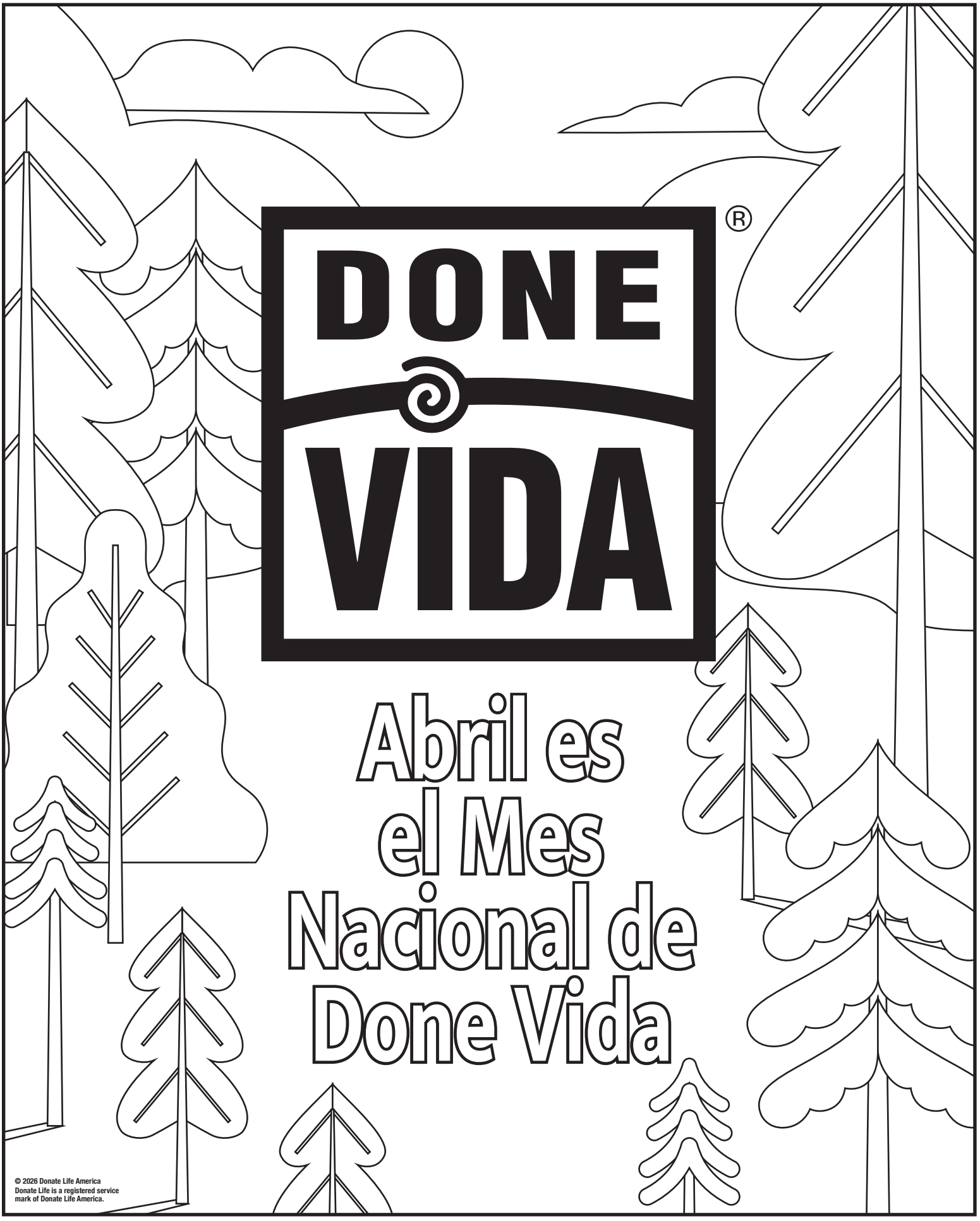


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