

## **Organ and Blood Donation Helps Save Lives**

Organ donation is the process of giving an organ or part of an organ for the purpose of transplantation into another person. It provides hope to thousands of people with organ failure. Transplantation requires commitment of organ, eye and tissue donors.

Donated organs and tissues may include:

- Heart, intestines, kidneys, liver, lungs, and pancreas.
- Bones, corneas, heart valves, skin for skin grafts, tendons and veins.

Who receives donated organs and tissue?

- Organs are distributed based upon medical information, such as, blood type, body size, and tissue type matching through a national computer network operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).
- Tissue is based upon patient need, availability and medical criteria.

Facts about Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation:

- People of all ages and medical histories can be potential donors.
- Your medical condition at time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.
- All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as an unselfish act of charity.
- There is no cost to donor's family or estate. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

Once you become a donor, the Secretary of State will mail you a Donor sticker to place on the front of your driver's license or state ID. Sign up on line using the Michigan Organ Donor Registry or call the number below:

Source: [www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net); [giftoflifemichigan.org](http://giftoflifemichigan.org). Or 866-500-5801

## **Blood Donation Facts**

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood; 36,000 units of red blood cells (RBC's) are needed daily.

- Blood type O is most often requested by hospitals.
- The average RBC transfusion is about 3 pints.
- Although an estimated 38 percent of the U.S. is eligible to donate blood at any given time, less than 10% of that eligible population actually does each year.

Blood donation process:

- Blood donation is a safe process. A sterile needle is used once for each donor then discarded.

- The actual donation takes less than 10-12 minutes. The entire process from arrival to finish is about one hour and 15 minutes.
- The average adult has 10 pints of blood in his body. Roughly 1 pint is given during a donation.

Facts about blood and its components:

- There are 4 types of transfusable products that can be derived from blood: red cells, platelets, plasma and cryoprecipitate. Typically, two or three of these are produced from a pint of donated whole blood. Most donated RBC's must be used within 42 days of collection.

Facts about donors:

- The most important reason donors say they give blood is "want to help others."
- Two most common reasons cited by people who don't give blood are: "Never thought about it" and "I don't like needles."

Source: [www.redcrossblood.org/learn-about-blood/blood-facts](http://www.redcrossblood.org/learn-about-blood/blood-facts)

For decades, the Catholic Church has declared that organ, eye and tissue donation supports the culture of life. You have the power to make the life-affirming decision to save and heal lives as an act of charity.

The next Health and Wellness Ministry meeting is Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7 pm in the Catherine McCauley Room. Please check us out!