



## **HOW ORGAN DONATION WORKS**

### **1. Referral and initial evaluation**

- Hospital notifies Gift of Hope when a patient death is imminent.
- The patient's medical condition and history is reviewed to determine eligibility for donation.

### **2. Consent for donation**

- Gift of Hope meets with family members to review the affidavit of donor registration, explain the donation process and provide support during this difficult time.

### **3. Donor care and evaluation**

- Gift of Hope's medical professionals specializing in organ recovery conduct a physical examination and tests to determine which organs are suitable for transplant.
- Medical information about the donor is sent to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) for matching with potential recipients.

### **4. Matching recipients**

- UNOS determines the top patient on the list for each organ.
- The transplant center for each potential recipient is contacted. The transplant surgeon accepts or declines each match until all organs are placed with waiting recipients.

### **5. Organ recovery**

- The organ recovery surgery takes place in a hospital operation room.
- Organs are taken directly to the recipients by the surgical recovery team.
- Following the recovery process, a funeral can be held, generally without delay.

### **6. Family support following donation**

- Gift of Hope continues to provide support to the family before they leave the hospital.
- Within a few weeks, a letter is sent to the donor's family confirming the organs and tissues that were recovered for transplant, and general information about the organ transplant recipients.
- Gift of Hope's Donor Family Services staff continue to provide information, programs and services for the family for as long as they wish, including grief resources, counseling referrals and opportunities for communications with other donor families and recipients.

*Source: Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donation Network*

**888/307-DON8 (3668)**  
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