

Saving and enhancing the lives of as many people as possible through organ & tissue donation:

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network proudly serves as the 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that coordinates life-giving organ and tissue donation in Illinois and northwest Indiana.

As one of 57 designated organ procurement organizations that make up the nation's donation system, we work with 180 hospitals and hundreds of partner agencies and advocates to serve the 12 million people in our donation service area.

Since 1986, our work with Illinois and northwest Indiana organ/tissue donors and their families has saved the lives of more than 26,000 organ transplant recipients. Together, we have improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of tissue transplant recipients.

Our mission is to save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation.



Illinois Transplant Fund

The Illinois Transplant Fund

In 2015, Gift of Hope formed the Illinois Transplant Fund, to help eliminate the lack of health insurance as a barrier to life-saving organ transplants.

Philanthropic support to the Illinois Transplant Fund provides support for qualified patients who are otherwise unable to cover the cost of insurance premiums—providing them with eligibility and access to organ transplants and the follow-up care they desperately need to save their lives.



The Gift of Hope Community Foundation

In 2018, Gift of Hope established the Gift of Hope Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that raises funds to support areas of need for Gift of Hope to save and enhance lives through organ and tissue donation.

Your generous contributions to the Foundation help Gift of Hope educate the public about life-giving donation, as well as advance scientific research that can improve transplant patient outcomes and one day eliminate deaths on the transplant waiting list.

Learn more about organ and tissue donation at giftofhope.org.
Register as donor and talk to your family about the decision to donate life.

Uniquely responsible for addressing extraordinary need: **Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network**

The extraordinary medical science that is organ and tissue transplantation saves and heals lives every day. Advances in transplantation make it a viable life-saving option for more and more people. Today, more than 5,000 patients in Illinois and Indiana await a life-giving organ donor.

**It means an ever-growing need for organ and tissue donation—
a need that only Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network
can serve throughout Illinois and northwest Indiana.**

Our 24/7 Donor Resource Center and its specially trained coordinators experienced in nursing, emergency medical service and other specialties fielded more than 49,000 calls in 2021, including calls from hospitals, coroners and other agencies to evaluate deaths for potential donation. Ultimately, we worked with the families of donors who compassionately gave 1,352 lifesaving organs for transplant, and donated tissues to help patients avoid amputation, heal from a life-threatening disease or injury, or regain a life without debilitating pain.

Our Organ and Tissue Recovery teams are specially trained clinical specialists who work around the clock to respond to potential donor referrals and manage the complex donation process, from referral to the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissues for life-giving transplant.

Our Authorization staff are specially trained to work with families when a loved one dies and is eligible to donate, and support the family throughout the donation process.

Our Histocompatibility Laboratory conducts the chemistry, hematology and infectious disease testing, as well as tissue typing, antibody identification and cross-match tests vital to donation and transplantation. Our laboratory also provides the testing required for the thousands of patients awaiting kidney and kidney/pancreas transplants through the 10 transplant centers and more than 100 dialysis centers in our donation service area—one of the largest waiting lists in the country.

Our Donor Family Services team provides follow-up, outcomes, resources, programs and ongoing support for approximately 4,000 families each year. Highly experienced in social work, grief support, family and patient advocacy and related fields, our specialists coordinate ongoing feedback from families we serve to inform ongoing improvement and new opportunities.

Our Hospital and Partner Relations teams work with external partners and agencies to facilitate donation and support families throughout the process. Hospital Development staff oversee the donation process at the 180 hospitals we serve. Our Partner Relations staff work with more than 70 medical examiners/coroners, state's attorneys, law enforcement and more than 1,500 funeral homes to provide education and support that ensures donation takes place.

Our Professional Education and Training for physicians, nurses, pastoral care personnel, funeral directors, coroners and other professionals critically ensures that every opportunity for donation is identified and successful. In 2021, we provided more than 500 educational programs for more than 5,800 healthcare professionals, forensic professionals and social workers.

Our Community Outreach team and public education are key to saving lives—through educating and motivating the 12 million people in our service area to register as organ/tissue donors, and discuss the decision with their families.

Creating a profound impact in the lives of patients,
families and communities:

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network

Gallup and national polls consistently show: More than 90% of people support organ and tissue donation, yet fewer than half register their decisions to become donors.

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network uniquely works to increase education and donor registration, support the families of donors, and coordinate ever-increasing organ and tissue donations in Illinois and northwest Indiana.

Learn more at giftofhope.org. Register as donor and talk to your family about the decision to donate life.



The impact is profound.

In 2021, we achieved record levels of life-giving donation in Illinois and northwest Indiana for a second consecutive year.

- 474 organ donors and their families made possible 1,352 lifesaving organ transplants.
- More than 2,000 people donated bone, skin and other tissue to save or heal patients with severe burns in need of life-saving skin grafts, and restore mobility and health to patients suffering from torn ligaments and tendons, heart and circulatory conditions or diseases and conditions requiring bone grafts.

The record level of lives saved and healed is a testament to our work with hospitals and our many partners inspiring more people to say “yes” to donation—providing hope for the day that no one will die waiting or suffer needlessly waiting for donated organs and tissues.

A single organ donor can save up to nine lives.

- Heart donors save the lives of those with heart disease, congenital and hypertensive cardiomyopathy
- Donated lungs save patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema and cystic fibrosis

- Patients with chronic hepatitis, liver tumors and cirrhosis await liver donors
- Patients with diabetes need pancreas transplants
- Intestine transplants benefit those with short bowel syndrome.
- The vast majority of those in need for organ transplants are patients with hypertension, diabetes, polycystic kidney disease and other conditions in need of a kidney donor to save their lives.

A single tissue donor can save or improve the lives of more than 25 people.

- Donated heart valves, saphenous veins, and femoral veins help patients resolve cardiovascular problems.
- Donated bone and soft tissues make possible a multitude of surgeries and can prevent the need for amputations and painful grafting procedures.
- Through Gift of Hope’s impact, our region is known as a major provider for donations of life-saving skin for burn victims locally and across the country.

Creating equity and life-saving access:

The Illinois Transplant Fund



Illinois Transplant Fund



For many of us, tomorrow is just another day. We'll wake up, shower, have a cup of coffee and start the day.

For those who received support from the Illinois Transplant Fund, every waking day is a gift—made possible through generous funders for the Illinois Transplant Fund making it possible for them to receive lifesaving organ transplants.

Philanthropic gifts to the Illinois Transplant Fund eliminate lack of health insurance as a barrier to patients in need of organ transplants. It provides support for qualified patients who are otherwise unable to cover the cost of insurance premiums—providing them with eligibility and access to organ transplants and the follow-up care they desperately need to save their lives.

More than 350 patients have received life-saving transplants through support from the Illinois Transplant Fund. Berenice is one of them:

Why is health insurance coverage so important? To be listed on the national organ transplant waiting list, patients must provide proof they can obtain post-transplant medications needed to maintain the

transplanted organ. Anti-rejection drugs are a life-long requirement for transplant patients, and allow the transplanted organ to remain healthy and free from damage. These vital medications and necessary follow-up care are accessible only through full health insurance coverage.

For eligible patients, the Illinois Transplant Fund covers 100% of the monthly health insurance premium for the insurance plan selected by the patient. After three years, we work with each recipient and family to gradually transition responsibility for insurance needs, unless the patient remains unable to contribute due to financial hardship.

To date, no patient who could not afford insurance has been removed from our support. This is possible only through philanthropic contributions.

The not-for-profit Illinois Transplant Fund is funded solely through generous individuals and philanthropic funders. Learn more today at

illinoistransplantfund.org. Join us in saving lives through your support.

“My life revolved around dialysis. Every day I was connected to a machine. I was not able to take care of my son by myself, much less keep a job or make long-term plans. After four years, my kidneys nearly lost all function.

“One of the requirements to obtain a transplant was having reliable medical insurance. I will never forget the day I received a call from the Illinois Transplant Fund. I now fully believe that I will be able to see my son grow into a man, and that my husband and I will grow old together. The ITF saved my life.” – Berenice

Join us in saving and healing lives, families and communities:

The Gift of Hope Community Foundation



Your contribution helps save and heal lives. [Give today](#)



The Gift of Hope Community Foundation raises funds to support Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network's mission and programs, to save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation.

Learn more at giftofhope.org/give

Generous contributions to the Foundation make possible:

- Public and professional education that is critical to increasing organ and tissue donation
- Services and support for the families of organ and tissue donors throughout and beyond the loss of their loved ones, for as long as they seek our specialized support
- Scientific research that can improve transplant patient outcomes and one day eliminate deaths on the transplant waiting list

Whether it's \$5 or \$5,000: Your contribution today means we provide for the thousands of individuals, families and communities counting on us.

You may be interested in:

- Making a multi-year pledge.
- Donating appreciated stocks.
- Giving through a donor-advised fund (DAF), which your financial institution or advisor can help you easily set up.
- Making a planned gift such as documenting your bequest intention, or giving through retirement assets or life insurance, charitable gift annuity or remainder trust income, or other gift of interest to you.
- Making a tax and penalty-free contribution via a qualified distribution through your IRA, subject to IRS requirements

Contact us at 630-758-2620 or executivedirectorfoundation@giftofhope.org.

The Gift of Hope Community Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization, so your charitable contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. The Gift of Hope Community Foundation Tax ID is 83-2779545.



Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network formed the Gift of Hope Community Foundation in 2018 toward its mission to save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation. Learn more at giftofhope.org.