

Funeral Director Connections

December 2022

Saving and healing lives requires dedication and collaboration. With you, our partner, we are proud to support and serve the families of organ, eye and tissue donors throughout the year.

Show Support for Organ and Tissue Donation

Have you been looking for ways to show support for families of organ and tissue donors? Request free boutonnieres in Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network colors for you and your funeral home staff. To request, please contact Chasity Pla, CTBS, at funeraldirectors@giftofhope.org.



Honoring the Unclaimed in Our Community

Since 2013, Gift of Hope has helped to provide a dignified final disposition for indigent individuals and unclaimed bodies of those who gave the gift of hope to others as organ and tissue donors. This year, we established a new tradition to honor and remember donors during the holiday season by placing wreaths at the gravesites. Graves were sponsored by Catholic Charities. Together, we honor those who have died in our community when their family may not be able to do so.





Illinois District 8 Funeral Directors' Continuing Education

Peoria County Chief Deputy Ben Brewer, Coroner Jamie Harwood and District 8 funeral directors came together to host a training on Sept. 20 and 21 at the Country Club of Peoria featuring keynote speaker Amanda Youmans, D.O., Forensic Pathologist for the Coroner's Office. Gift of Hope staff presented information on donated tissue and the process that ensures its safety.

Contact us if you would like to arrange an educational event in your county.

Pictured are Peoria Chief Deputy Ben Brewer and Forensic Pathologist Amanda Youmans, DO.



Wet Lab for Mortuary Students

Gift of Hope hosted our annual wet lab training in October for 60 Worsham College of Mortuary Science students. We are pleased to have the opportunity to share the importance of organ and tissue donation with mortuary students and to expose them to the organ/tissue donor embalming process as a way to help them prepare for their careers.



It was great to be able to host an event in person once again! We'd like to thank our partners:

- Aero Removals & Trisons Crematory Services
- Worsham College of Mortuary Science
- Wright State University
- Gift of Hope Tissue Recovery staff

Upcoming educational events, including quarterly webinars, are listed on [our website](#). Check back frequently for updates.

The Impact of Donated Tissue: Lower Extremity Bone

- Used for reconstruction related to trauma, tumors, degenerative diseases and fractures
- Helps prevent amputation
- Accelerates and promotes healing

Did you know that one person can heal more than 25 others through tissue donation? Donor bone is used for those with cancer, degenerative diseases and diabetes, among others. You can support tissue donation by raising awareness and encouraging donor registration at [our website](#).

"Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person's life." – Jackie Chan



Wishing you a happy holiday and a joyful New Year.

Contact Us

For donation process questions, call **(877) 519-2323**.

To connect families with a Gift of Hope representative, call **(800) 360-4301**.

To request materials, learn more about our embalming program, or schedule an in-service at your funeral home, e-mail funeraldirectors@giftofhope.org.



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