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## **November is Faith and Hope Month: Celebrate the gift of hope through organ, eye & tissue donation**

November is Faith and Hope Month, a time to learn more about faith-based perspectives on organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. It's a time to reflect on traditions and teachings that call on us to give to others through donation. We celebrate those whose faith has inspired the gift of life, sight and healing to others. We call on all people and communities of faith to share the message of hope through donation.

All major religions and faith traditions consider organ donation a final act of compassion and generosity. Families faced with deciding whether to donate a loved one's organs and tissue may question their church's position. The best time to answer those questions and discuss with family members is before the decision must be made at the time of a loved one's death.

Faith and Hope Month is an opportunity to do just that. As families and communities gather for the holidays they should talk about their faith perspective and wishes on donation.

In November, the nation also observes National Donor Sabbath. Traditionally observed two weekends before Thanksgiving, National Donor Sabbath takes place this year Friday through Sunday, Nov. 10-12.

Faith leaders, families and communities are encouraged to focus this weekend on the lifesaving and healing gifts passed to others through donation, and to register their decision to be organ, eye and tissue donors.

Learn more about Faith and Hope Month, religious perspectives on donation, transplantation, and how donation works at [giftofhope.org](http://giftofhope.org). Register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor, and talk with your family about the decision.

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network is the not-for-profit organization responsible for coordinating organ, tissue and eye donation and working with the families of donors in Illinois and northwest Indiana. Learn more and register to be a donor at [giftofhope.org](http://giftofhope.org).

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