



MEDIA RELEASE

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Everything is bigger in Texas: especially the need to save lives

National Donate Life Month to celebrate, honor and recognize organ and tissue donors and recipients

DALLAS, April 1, 2019 – National Donate Life month kicks off today to promote organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. With more than 110,000 people in the U.S. awaiting a lifesaving organ – more than 10,000 in Texas alone – this national observance is especially important for Texans.

Southwest Transplant Alliance, the Dallas-based organ procurement organization, is raising awareness throughout the month and driving the community to say “yes” to organ, eye and tissue donation. Special events and programs will aim to share the importance of registering your decision to be a donor, honoring deceased and living donors, and celebrating the lifesaving and healing gift of transplantation.

“Southwest Transplant Alliance has been educating the community about donation and working with donor families and transplant recipients for more than 40 years,” said Patti Niles, Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Transplant Alliance. “We work with hundreds of hospitals throughout Texas to respond to referrals for possible organ donors and then educate families about how individuals can save lives through organ and tissue donation.”

Along with campaigns and events to encourage people to register to be organ, eye and tissue donors, National Donate Life Month includes additional featured observances:

- National Donate Life Blue & Green Day – April 12, 2019
- National Pediatric Transplant Week – April 22-26, 2019

Why does donating life matter?

- More than 10,000 Texans are waiting for a lifesaving transplant (more than 110,000 in the U.S.).
- On average, 20 people in the U.S. die every day awaiting a lifesaving organ.
- One person's decision to donate can save up to 8 lives through organ donation and can affect up to 75 lives through tissue donation.

Donate Life America is the sponsoring national organization for National Donate Life Month, supported by state and local partners who join together to increase the number of donated organs, eyes and tissue available to save and heal lives. To register your decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor, visit DonateLifeTexas.org.

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About Southwest Transplant Alliance: For more than 40 years, STA has been saving lives by recovering donated organs for individuals awaiting a lifesaving transplant. In April of 2017, STA began recovering tissue to improve lives. STA is among the largest of 58 federally designated, nonprofit organ procurement organizations (OPOs). Founded in 1974, STA has facilitated more than 25,000 organs for recovery and enhanced the lives of tens of thousands of people. STA is a member of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and is accredited by the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO). The organization serves communities in North Texas, Beaumont, Bryan/College Station, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Galveston, Midland/Odessa, Temple, Tyler and Wichita Falls. For more information, go to www.organ.org. Sign up to be an organ donor today at www.DonateLifeTexas.org.