What is organ and tissue donation?
Organ donation is when an individual chooses to donate their organs and/or tissues legally. This can be done while a person is still living or upon their death with the agreement of the family.

Making a decision about organ donation
The decision to become an organ donor is a personal one. Speak with your doctor and family about your preferences and wishes around organ and tissue donation. You may change your mind at any time by contacting the gift of life registry and the Michigan Secretary of State.

What you should know
• The number one priority of medical staff will be to save your life in the event there is a medical emergency.
• The emergency team is separate from those who work in the donation and transplantation of organs.
• Anyone can join the donor registry, regardless of lifestyle or health history.
• Only upon a person’s death a medical official will determine what organs or tissue can be used to help others.
• While some things may prevent donation today, you may be a candidate for donation in the future.
• There are no age restrictions to join the registry. Minors may join the registry, with or without parental consent, however the final decision will be made by their parents until he or she turns 18 years of age.
• There is no cost to the individual, the family or the person’s estate to register.
• The body will always be treated with dignity and respect. Nothing in the process would preclude any type of burial arrangement, including an open casket.

What One Donor Can Do
MEASURING THE IMPACT OF ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION
1 DONOR = 8 life-saving organs
tissues & corneas that can improve 75 LIVES

EVEry Donation COUNTS

Lungs
3-year survival rate of 68%

Heart
5-year survival rate of 70% or more

Liver
70% last 5 years or more

Kidneys
improve lives for an average of 12-15 YEARS

Pancreas
improve lives for an average of 10+ YEARS

Intestines
NEARLY 3000 LIVES improved in the U.S. to date

Tissues
1 IN 20 Americans will benefit from tissue transplants

Donate Life Michigan
Gift of Life Michigan
800-500-5801 • golm.org/go/beaumont

Eversight
800-247-7250 • eversightvision.org

Advance Care Planning • beaumont.org/respecting-choices
FACTS ABOUT ORGAN DONATION

- Organ donation may delay the time frame for a funeral to be held. In most cases the time extended ranges from 12 to 24 hours. Gift of Life will work closely with the funeral home, keeping them informed of a donor’s status.

- By joining the Michigan Organ Donation Registry, you approve the use of all usable organs and tissues. However, you may complete a separate form indicating organs and tissues you are comfortable donating.

- Federal regulation requires each death in Michigan to be reported to Gift of Life. It is only at that time the Gift of Life will check the registry to confirm if an individual has documented their decision to help others.

- In the event that you have a “Do Not Resuscitate” order a ventilator will be used to keep the organs viable, although it is not required for tissue and cornea donation. If the DNR does not express your wishes to use a ventilator for organ donation, Gift of Life and the physicians will work with family on how to proceed. It is important to let your family know your wishes.

Tissue donation can improve up to 75 lives

How is tissue used?

- **Ribs and costal cartilage**
  - Facial reconstruction (jaw, nose, ears) often related to trauma

- **Eyes/corneas**
  - Restoration of sight

- **Heart valves**
  - Repairs congenital and acquired heart valve defects

- **Other bone**
  - Creates pins and screws to promote healing and eliminate the need to remove hardware; also used for spinal fusion spacers, joint replacement and bone regeneration

- **Skin**
  - For burn victims; breast reconstruction after mastectomy; abdominal wall repair after hernia surgery; bladder and uterine suspension surgery

- **Long bones**
  - Limb salvage in cases of bone cancer (to avoid amputation) and repair of traumatic injuries

- **Veins**
  - For bypass surgery and kidney dialysis shunts

- **Nerves**
  - Can protect a recipient’s damaged nerve during healing, repair severed nerves and gap (connect) injured nerves

**Benefits of tissue transplants (grafts)**
- Pliability and flexibility of grafts
- Faster healing times
- Cardiovascular tissue doesn’t require anticoagulation therapy and is resistant to infection