

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 Northwest 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 130,000 calls in 2023, including calls with hospitals, coroners and other agencies to evaluate deaths for potential donation. Ultimately, we worked with the families of donors who compassionately gave more than 1,400 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 5,000 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 Development 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 182 hospitals we serve. Our Partner Relations staff work with more than 150 medical examiners/coroners, state's attorneys, law enforcement officials and more than 900 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 2023, we provided more than 500 educational programs for 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.