

## Organ Donation

Volume 3, Issue 4  
April 19, 2017

*Brayden was born in 1993 and although he was blind in one eye, he seemed healthy otherwise. However, after a couple of months, his parents realized that he was not gaining weight. It was determined that he had Congenital Heart Disease and two holes in his heart that would require surgery. The surgery was performed, but did not help. Five months after Brayden was born, his parents were told that his only chance for survival would be a heart transplant. Doctors warned Brayden's parents that there was a big chance that Brayden would not survive the wait for a heart. However, 5 weeks later the wait was over and Brayden received his new heart. Brayden's mother recalled that she could not believe the immediate changes in Brayden, "it was beautiful to see how red his lips and fingertips were after the transplant. All because of one family's choice to make the unselfish decision to donate their son's organs." Brayden's donor was Colby, a 14 month old baby boy who drowned in a bathtub. Colby's life was short, but his legacy is far reaching in the lives of those who received his organs. Colby's kidneys were transplanted into a 27 year old man, his liver was implanted into a 2 year old girl, and his heart was donated to a five month old baby boy.*

### Organ Donation Facts

- 1 organ donation can save up to 8 lives.
- Eight vital organs can be transplanted: heart, kidneys (2), pancreas, lungs (2), liver, and intestines. Hands and face have recently been added to the list.
- Tissues that can be transplanted include: Cornea, skin, heart valves, bone, blood vessels, and connective tissue.
- Bone marrow and stem cells, umbilical cord blood, and peripheral blood stem cells can be donated.
- Every 10 minutes a new person is added to a transplant list.
- An average of 22 people will **die each day** before receiving an organ transplant.
- Almost 2,000 children under 18 are on the organ transplant list.



Give thanks. Give life.

- There is no such thing as being too old to be a donor. There is no age limit for organ donation.
- There are 119,000+ men, women, and children on the national transplant list.
- 30,970 transplants were performed in 2015.
- While 95% of U.S. adults support organ donation, only 48% actually sign up to be donors.
- There is no cost to donors or their families for organ or tissue donations. Costs associated to the donation are paid by the recipients insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid.
- Organs are matched to patients based on blood and tissue typing, medical need, time on waiting list, and geographical location.
- Living donations of a kidney can be made to a family member, friend, or anyone on the wait list.

### **Living Organ Donation**

Living donors can potentially donate 1 of 2 kidneys, 1 of 2 lobes of their liver, a lung or part of a lung, part of a pancreas, or part of the intestines. A kidney is the most frequently donated organ from a living donor. The donor's remaining kidney is enough to remove waste from the body. Cells in the remaining lobe of their liver grow or regenerate until the liver is almost the original size. The regrowth of the liver occurs in a short period of time for both the donor and the recipient. Although the lung, pancreas, and intestines do not regenerate, the remaining portions are fully functioning.

### **How to Register as an Organ Donor**

There are 2 ways to register as an organ donor. You can either sign up online or in person at your local motor vehicle registration department. Then, be sure to tell your family that you have registered as an organ donor so that they can support your wishes.

<https://www.colbyfoundation.org/stories-of-hope/colbys-heart-recipient-braydens-story>  
<https://www.organdonor.gov/statistics-stories/donation-stories/sabrina-kidney-pancreas-recipient.html>  
<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/35096718/10-facts-you-should-know-about-organ-donation>  
<https://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;>

