



# Donate Life CT Volunteer Program Guidelines

**Donate Life Connecticut requires that all volunteers will observe the following guidelines:**

1. Be supportive of Donate Life Connecticut, it's mission and it's goals.
2. Review and be familiar with commonly asked questions.
3. Have all donor awareness activities pre-approved by Donate Life Connecticut.
4. Demonstrate a positive attitude and event appropriate appearance at all Donate Life Connecticut sponsored activities.
5. Share your personal stories with donation and transplantation.

Please do not approach hospitals. Donate Life Connecticut's member Organ Procurement Organizations (OPO) do all contact with hospitals and their personnel.

**Donate Life Connecticut requests that all volunteers will observe the following guidelines:**

1. Attend scheduled volunteer meetings or conference calls. The meetings and calls are a good opportunity to share and exchange ideas.
2. Volunteers are welcome to share their experiences with each other and with Donate Life Connecticut members. Share photographs of activities you participate in for our annual report or newsletter or similar publishing

# Donate Life CT Volunteer Activities

Donate Life Connecticut is thankful and appreciative of your dedication and desire to help educate Connecticut residents about the importance of organ and tissue donation. By sharing your personal donation stories, dispelling myths and enforcing truths about donation – together we work towards registering all residents as organ and tissue donors. Increasing the number of registered donors will save the lives of the thousands of people waiting for a second chance at life.

Numerous opportunities are presented to Donate Life Connecticut volunteers including:

- **Public Speaking:** Raising awareness at schools, churches, temples, hospitals, civic groups, etc.
- **Health & Town Fairs:** Staffing information tables at fairs, businesses, schools, blood drives, walks, etc.
- **Distribute Materials:** Provide your community with Donate Life Connecticut brochures and donor registration cards
- **Media:** Participating in interviews with local media, writing letters to the editor, and contacting local media outlets to promote use of public service advertising on organ and tissue donation.
- **Special Projects:** Participating in annual events, such as Donate Life Month, National Donor Awareness Day, National Donor Sabbath and working to decrease racial disparities in the donation community.

Donate Life Connecticut volunteers are also encouraged to find opportunities in their communities to offer donation information and registration; including, but not limited to High Schools, Colleges, Churches, Civic Organizations. Please share your ideas and suggestions with the Program Coordinator. All ideas are welcome! Donate Life Connecticut provides public education materials such as brochures, donor cards, handouts, and table displays as appropriate for all events.



## Donate Life CT Volunteer Program Q & A's

### 1. Is it appropriate to share my personal experience with donation in the public?

Definitely! Please use your personal experience to educate Connecticut about the importance of organ and tissue donation, dispel common myths, and encourage others to join the Donor Registry!

### 2. Do I need to have a personal experience with donation or transplantation to be a volunteer?

Donate Life Connecticut welcomes anyone who believes organ and tissue donation is important to help us educate Connecticut!

### 3. My time is limited, but I would still like to help out. Can I still be considered a volunteer?

We appreciate any time you can donate to help us promote donation. There are many levels of participation with the Donate Life Connecticut Volunteer Program; working at Donor Designation Stations tables at public events and walks, speaking to civic, educational, etc groups, letter writing, etc. All volunteers are emailed about upcoming volunteer events and programs and can participate as their schedule allows.

### 4. Are Donate Life Connecticut volunteer meetings also support groups?

No, volunteer meetings are held to discuss donor awareness events and projects. We can refer people to support groups.

### 5. Do you share my contact information?

No, Donate Life Connecticut does not share your personal information with other volunteers or outside organizations without your permission. Your contact information is only shared with Donate Life Connecticut's Board of Directors, if needed.

### 6. When can I get started?

Now! Every time you share your experiences with donation and transplantation you are inspiring others to save lives by joining the Connecticut Donor Registry!



# Q & A's about Donate Life Connecticut

## 1. What is Donate Life Connecticut's mission?

The Connecticut Coalition for Organ and Tissue Donation, dba Donate Life Connecticut, is dedicated to the purpose of public education and public awareness for all Connecticut residents concerning the lifesaving benefits of organ and tissue donation.

## 2. Who makes up Donate Life Connecticut?

Donate Life Connecticut consists of dedicated volunteers, members and statewide organizations including:

American Heart Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
CT Eye Bank & Visual Research Foundation  
ESRD Network of New England  
Hartford Hospital Transplant Program

Kenyon Consulting, LLC  
LifeChoice Donor Services  
National Kidney Foundation  
New England Organ Bank  
Yale-New Haven Hospital Transplant Center  
Individual members (recipients, donor families, etc)

## 3. How is Donate Life Connecticut different than other donation education organizations?

Donate Life Connecticut's one mission is to educate Connecticut residents about the importance of organ and tissue donation and joining the state donor registry. We are a coalition of organizations and individuals working together with one voice to increase donor awareness and ultimately save lives.

## 4. How many employees work for Donate Life Connecticut?

Donate Life Connecticut is an all volunteer organization. Recently, the organization has been able to hire a part-time contractor to oversee programs, increase membership, improve the volunteer program, etc.



## History and Accomplishments

- 1985 Key agencies and OPOs identified and agreed to establish a statewide coalition to raise public awareness about the need for organ and tissue donation.
- 1986 Partnership with DMV established.
- 1988 First Coalition sponsored poster contest involved three (3) schools in the Milford area. Seventeen (17) posters were submitted for judging. Keith Koontz judged the contest.
- 1989 First statewide poster contest endorsed by Connecticut Department of Education.
- 1992 Coalition is incorporated in Connecticut as a non-profit corporation and received Federal EIN.
- 1996 Donate Life Connecticut received IRS tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) corporation.
- 12/2005 "Thanks for Asking" Campaign kicked-off to recognize the employees of the DMV for their assistance in registering organ and tissue donors during driver license or ID card applications or renewals.
- 2005/2006 Organ donation registration information incorporated into the DMV driver's manual (inside cover).
- 4/2006 Public acknowledgement and declaration of April being "Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Month" in the State of Connecticut, given by Governor M. Jodi Rell and the Connecticut General Assembly and a donor flag raising ceremony at the State Capitol.
- 9/2006 Dedication Bench and engraved stone installed at the State Capitol building to honor organ and tissue donors and their families.
- 9/2008 Initiative begun to decrease racial disparities pertaining to donation in Connecticut. By working with churches, civic groups and government entities an increased donation education will lead to improved donor registrations.