

flow

A short film about transplant awareness.

Potential organ donors are slipping away. With them, slip away the hopes of countless people and families.

— James Redford



Key Points

- ✔ Someone is added to the national organ transplant waiting list every 16 minutes.
- ✔ Twelve people die every day waiting for an organ transplant.
- ✔ Film has the power to reach millions and influence those family members who must make this decision for those who can no longer speak for themselves.
- ✔ Signing, or not signing, a donor card is one of the first adult decisions a teenager must make after passing their driver's test.
- ✔ Too often this critical decision is made without full understanding of the issue, and without family discussion.



Celebrate the Decision to Give Life

James Redford established The James Redford Institute for Transplant Awareness (JRI) following his 1993 liver transplant. The programs of JRI include producing and distributing films, with companion materials, to educate the public about the issues of organ and tissue donation.

The James Redford Institute for Transplant Awareness

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Organ & Tissue DONATION
Share your life. Share your decision.

My Commitment to Celebrate and Share Life

I, _____, have spoken with my family/loved ones about organ and tissue donation. The following people have witnessed my commitment to be a donor. I wish to donate the following:

- any needed organs and tissues
- only the following organ(s) and tissue(s):

Donor Signature

Date

Witness

Date

Witness

Date

Sign the Donor Card in Your Family's Presence

By completing the donor card in the presence of your family and having them sign as witnesses, you'll know they support your wishes. The donor card serves as a reminder to your family and medical staff. Carry it in your wallet or purse at all times. An extra card is enclosed to help encourage others to share life.

For additional copies of the film, Flow, the educational outreach materials and/or this brochure, call 1-804-327-1438.

Please visit our web sites:
www.shareyourlife.org
www.jrifilms.org

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There are many myths and misconceptions about donation and transplantation. Many of these myths have contributed to misunderstanding. If you hear a myth about donation or transplantation, check the story by contacting a transplant expert in your local community. You will probably find that the story is not true.

Questions and Answers

To help you decide, here are the answers to some commonly asked questions about organ and tissue donation.

♥ Who can become a donor?

All individuals can indicate their intent to donate. Medical suitability for donation is determined at the time of death. Anyone can be a potential organ and tissue donor, from newborns to senior citizens. Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis at the time of death and may be affected by medical/ social history, cause of death, etc.

Talk to your family members about organ and tissue donation so they know your wishes. Even if you've signed something, your family will be asked to give consent before donation can occur.

♥ What organs and tissues can I donate?

Needed organs include the heart, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, liver and intestines. Tissue that can be donated to help others include the eyes, skin, bone, heart valves and tendons.

♥ Will my decision to become an organ and tissue donor affect the quality of my medical care?

No. Organ and tissue recovery takes place only after all efforts to save your life have been exhausted and death has been legally declared. The doctors working to save your life are entirely separate from the medical team involved in recovering your organs and tissues.

♥ Are there any costs to my family for donation?

No. Donation costs nothing to the donor's family or estate.

♥ Does my religion approve of donation?

All major religions approve of organ and tissue donation and consider it a gift, an act of charity. If you have any questions, contact your religious advisor.

Two Simple Steps That Make a Lifesaving Difference

♥ Step 1 - Share Your Life

Transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. In most cases, it's the only hope for thousands of people suffering from organ failure, or in desperate need of corneas, skin, bone or other tissue. Tragically, the need for donated organs and tissues continues to outpace the supply. Right now, thousands of Americans could be helped if enough organs and tissues were available. Organ and tissue donation provides each of us with a special opportunity to help others. You can save lives by making the decision to be an organ and tissue donor.

♥ Step 2 - Share Your Decision

Sharing your decision to be an organ and tissue donor with your family is as important as making the decision itself. At the time of death, your family will be asked about donation. Sharing your decision with your family now will help them carry out your decision later. A simple family conversation will prevent confusion or uncertainty about your wishes. Knowing that they have fulfilled your wish to save other lives can provide your family with great comfort in their time of grief.

It is also helpful to document your decision by completing a donor card in the presence of your family and having them sign as witnesses. The donor card serves as a reminder to your family and medical staff of your personal decision to be a donor. Carry it in your wallet or purse at all times and encourage other members of your family to do the same.

How to Share Your Decision

Here are some ideas to help you explain your decision to your loved ones. Remember, it's important for your family to support your commitment.

♥ Tell them that organ and tissue donation is consistent with your life values and feels like the right thing for you to do.

♥ Tell them that they will be asked for consent at the time of your death.

♥ Have your family witness your decision. If you have already signed a donor card or indicated your decision on your driver's license, show it to them. If not, have them sign your donor card as your witnesses.

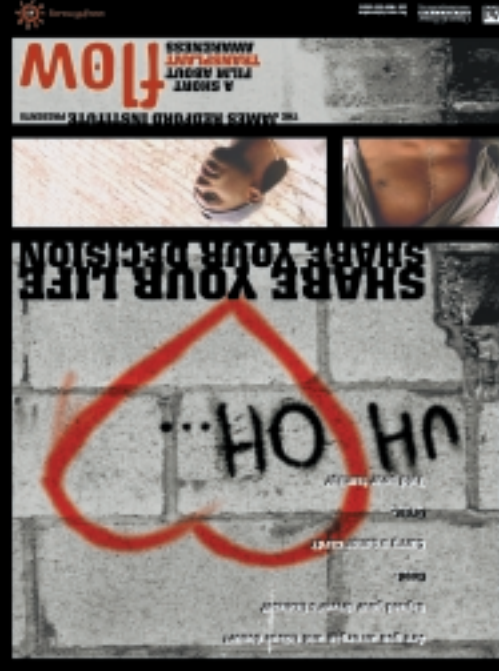
♥ Tell them how one person can potentially help more than 50 other people. Donation can dramatically improve - even save - the lives of those suffering from organ failure, bone defects, burns or blindness.

Are you an organ and tissue donor?
Signed your driver's license?
Good.
Carry a donor card?
Great.
Told your family?
Uh oh...

Share your life.
Share your decision.
flow



PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



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for Transplant Awareness

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Share your life. Share your decision.