



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin Chair / **Joseph Marziliano** District Manager

TO: All Board Members
FROM: Eileen Miller, Health & Human Services Committee Chair
DATE: July 8, 2022

On Wednesday, July 6, 2022, a meeting of the CB11 Health & Human Services and Education Committees was held via Zoom teleconference to discuss several issues.

Board Member's Present

Eileen Miller, Committee Chair
Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair
Fleur Martino, Committee Member
Christina Scherer, Committee Member

CB11 Staff

Joseph Marziliano, District Manager
Jane Bentivenga, Community Coordinator

Guests

Raida Hossain, Live On NY

Mrs. Miller started the meeting by reviewing information and guidelines related to the Covid-19 pandemic, vaccinations, booster shots and mask wearing. She stated that there are new variants of Covid-19 that people can contract even though they are vaccinated and boosted.

Next, Mrs. Miller spoke about the Smoke-Free Housing initiative. She explained that starting in 2014, they have gone to each Community Board suggesting a resolution be taken regarding smoke-free housing for buildings with three or more dwellings. The Queens Borough Board passed a resolution several weeks ago requesting the NYC Council adopt legislation regarding smoke-free housing (please see attached resolution). This includes all tobacco products and cannabis. Second-hand smoke poses a danger to everyone. Smokers also have an increased risk of severe disease from Covid-19.

Ms. Martino commented that she recently read that some new vaccines have been rolled out that seem to be well-targeted to the new BA.5 Covid-19 variant. She would like to see this information disseminated to senior centers and the community as soon as possible. (Preferably before the Fall as the number of cases are projected to be very high.) Mrs. Miller thinks getting the information out is a great idea. She added that just as with the yearly flu vaccine, scientists are working on a Covid-19 vaccine that would cover several different strains of the virus.

Ms. Martino also spoke about the smoke-free resolution. She stated that if more people in co-op and condo complexes knew about it, they would be inclined to speak to their management about adopting the policy. Mrs. Miller said most of the buildings in Queens have received literature regarding this; they have given lectures as well. A lot of buildings have gone smoke free. Mrs. Martino inquired about Windsor Park. Mrs. Miller asked for information so that the management can be contacted.

Mrs. Miller introduced Raida Hossain from Live On NY for a presentation regarding organ, eye and tissue donation. Ms. Hossain introduced herself and screen shared a Power Point presentation (please see attached presentation). Live on NY's mission is to save lives. They partner with local hospitals and transplant centers to achieve their mission. They service the New York City, Long Island, and Hudson Valley areas. There are nearly 9,000 people waiting for a life-saving transplant. One donor can save eight lives and improve the lives of up to 75 people through tissue donation. Only 45% of New Yorkers are organ donors. This has led to organ shortages which, in turn, leads to longer waiting times for transplants.

The process to get on the transplant waiting list is as follows: a doctor must refer a patient to a transplant program as a potential transplant candidate. The transplant center will collect details on the patient. The transplant center will conduct an evaluation to find out if the patient is a good candidate for transplant. If the transplant team members determine that a patient is a suitable candidate, they will add the person to the national transplant waiting list. The process of becoming an organ donor most often begins with a person consenting by signing up in their state. If someone hasn't signed up as an organ donor at the time of their death, donation is still possible. Any person authorized or under obligation to dispose of the body, can authorize organ donation on a person's behalf.

The process of organ donation is as follows: a patient must be signed up as an organ donor, or authorization must be granted by a family member or legal guardian on the patient's behalf. Organ, eye and tissue donation only happens when a patient dies in a hospital and has been declared dead by a doctor. Candidates for donation must have been placed on a ventilator prior to their death or have died while on a ventilator. Extensive testing is performed to ensure the organs are healthy, and to identify a matching transplant recipient.

Several factors are considered when matching an organ to a waiting patient. Blood type, body mass, rank on the national transplant waiting list and geographic proximity between the donor and recipient. Information gathered from medical tests are used to identify the best match from the transplant waiting list.

Major religions view organ donation as a way to save lives. There is no age limit for organ, eye, and tissue donation. Anyone can sign up to be a registered organ, eye and tissue donor. Organ donation does not affect the type of funeral one can have. Families of an organ, eye, and/or tissue donor are never responsible for costs related to donation. Those who receive organ, eye and tissue donations use medical insurance to cover costs related to their transplant surgery. Ms. Hossain said for more information, visit LiveOnNY.org.

Ms. Martino commented on the requirement of organ donation being limited to a person who has been hospitalized on a ventilator. Ms. Hossain stated this does add to the shortage of donated organs. She also said that if a person has a “DNR” (Do Not Resuscitate) but is an organ donor, they can make that distinction; however, every case is unique. Mr. Euler asked about using organs from a donor that may have died in an automobile accident. Ms. Hossain said, unfortunately, these organs would not be viable due to the loss of oxygen for too long of a time. Ms. Martino asked if organs can be used for medical research if they are not suitable for transplant. Ms. Hossain has not heard of that. However, a person can donate their body to science to be used as a cadaver for medical schools. That is not within the purview of Live On NY. Mrs. Miller replied that if a person wants to donate their body (or parts of it), that request needs to be made way in advance; at the time of death, the body is secured and taken to the facility it was bequeathed to.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 7/8/22



RESOLUTION OF THE QUEENS BOROUGH BOARD

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco increases one's risk of lung cancer, heart attack, stroke, and chronic lung disease and is the leading cause of preventable premature death in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, exposure to secondhand smoke from the use of tobacco, even in miniscule amounts, causes non-users to experience adverse health effects, and prolonged exposure significantly increases the risk of heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, and other medical issues; and

WHEREAS, exposure to secondhand smoke from the use of cannabis and secondhand vapor or aerosol from electronic smoking devices may also cause non-users to experience adverse health effects;

WHEREAS, secondhand exposure to these substances results from a non-user's proximity to the source of the secondhand exposure and is often unwanted, involuntary, and unavoidable; and

WHEREAS, the risk of secondhand exposure is most significant for those living in buildings with multiple dwellings; and

WHEREAS, the Queens Borough Board recognizes and supports the well-being and health of all New York City residents and advocates for the increased protection of all residents from the dangers posed by involuntary exposure to these substances;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the QUEENS BOROUGH BOARD recommends and strongly encourages all owners and landlords of both existing and future multi-family dwellings (including cooperative housing corporations and condominiums) within the Borough, and throughout the City of New York, to adopt and implement written policies and procedures and, where applicable, lease provisions prohibiting the smoking of tobacco and tobacco products within any apartments, units, or other areas of such dwellings, and prohibiting, restricting, or otherwise limiting the use of non-medicinal cannabis and electronic smoking devices in such dwellings, and to undertake all reasonable efforts to mitigate and eliminate secondhand exposure of the aforementioned substances among residents of such dwellings, albeit owners and landlords should also consider ways to accommodate current residents who struggle with the use of tobacco by designating a room or an area where smoking is permitted but does not contribute to secondhand exposure; and it is further

RESOLVED that the QUEENS BOROUGH BOARD requests the New York City Council to study, report on, and consider adopting legislation that would give legal effect to the letter and spirit of the foregoing resolution.

Adopted by the Queens Borough Board on the 6th day of June 2022,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donovan Richards Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Donovan Richards Jr.
Queens Borough President
Chair of the Queens Borough Board

LiveOnNY

The Facts About Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation



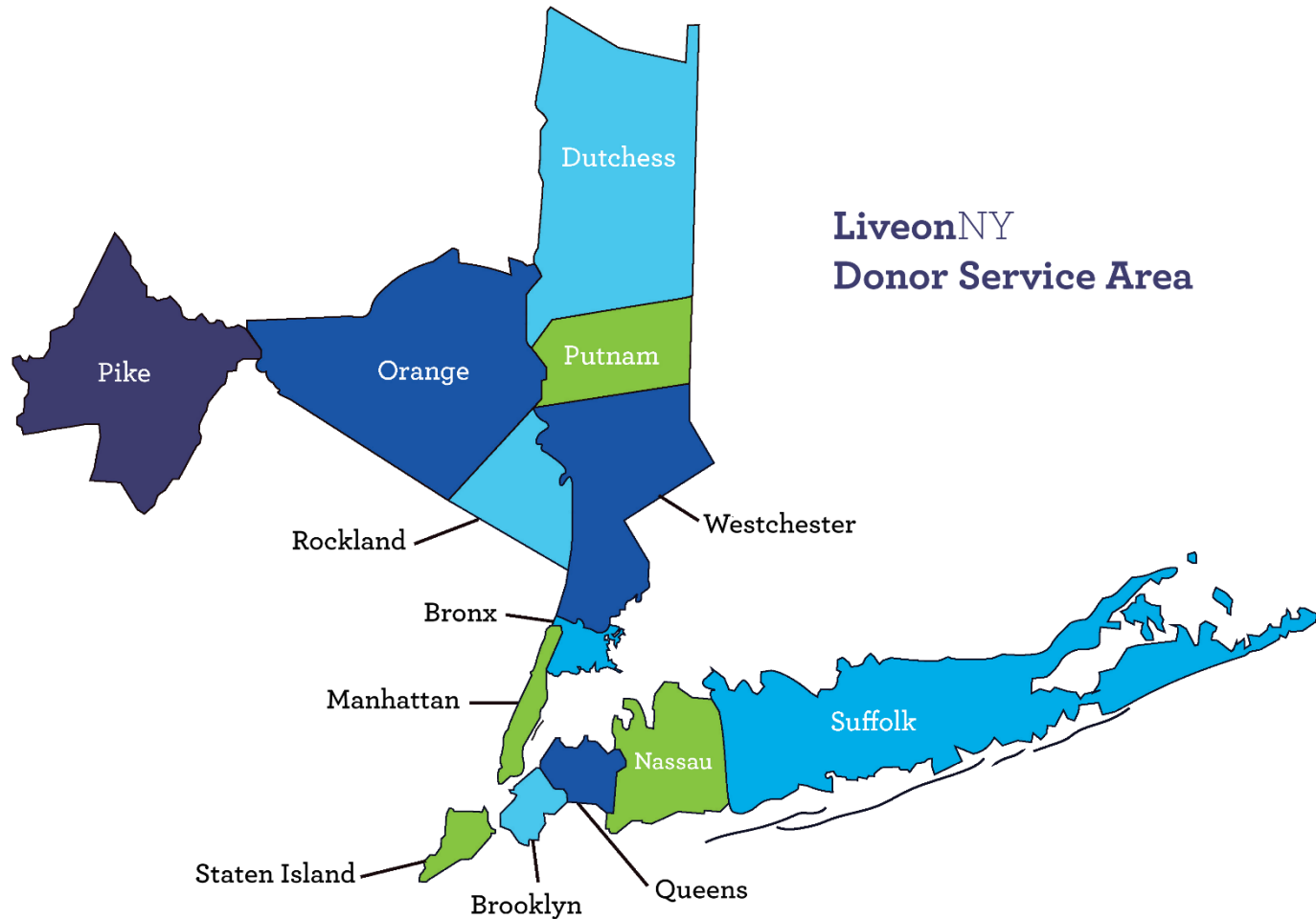
The LiveOnNY mission is to save lives, provide comfort, and strengthen legacies through organ, eye and tissue donation.

- We work with local hospitals and transplant centers to deliver the gift of life.
- We care for the families of the organ donors who selflessly give the gift of life.
- We educate the community about the power of donation.
- We advocate on behalf of those who are waiting for transplant.



Roxanne received Michael's donated heart after he died.

LiveOnNY's Donation Service Area



The Need for Organ Donation



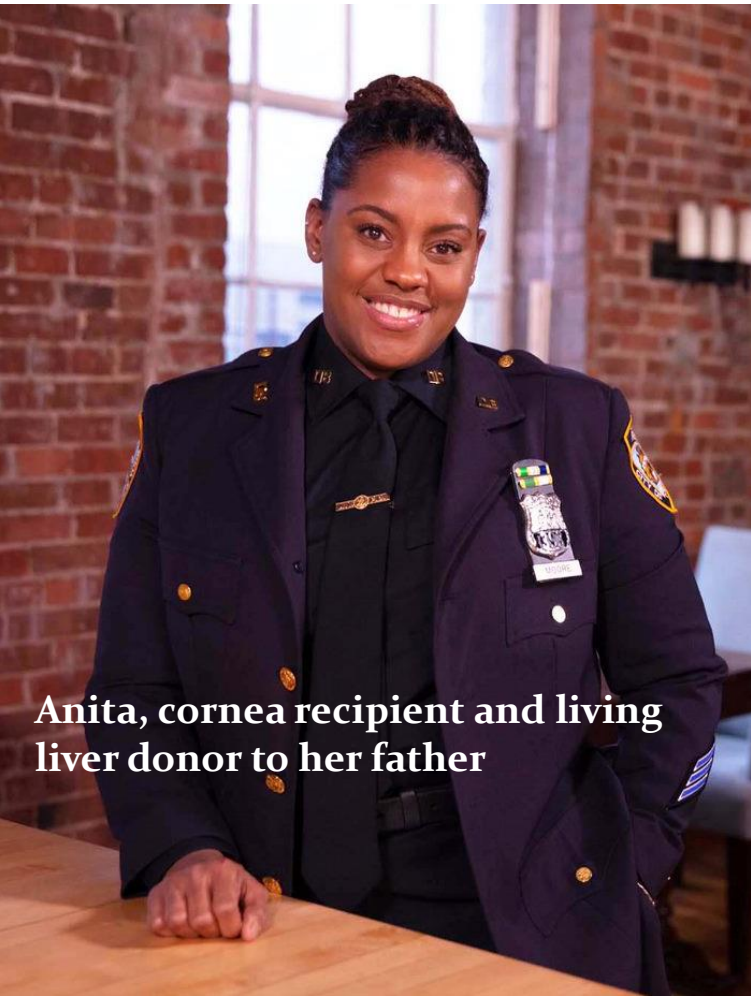
Lauren, heart recipient

There are nearly 9,000* New Yorkers waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant.

- **Kidney ~ 7,487**
- **Liver ~ 656**
- **Heart ~ 292**
- **Lungs ~ 100**

8,000 of those who wait live in the LiveOnNY Designated Service Area.

The Need in Communities of Color



Anita, cornea recipient and living liver donor to her father

- In the greater New York City area, 75% of the transplant waiting list is comprised of people of color.
- While people of color are more likely to need a lifesaving transplant, we are less likely to choose organ donation as part of our final wishes.

Transplant Waiting List in 2021 – Greater NYC Area

Counties: Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester

Total number on the transplant waiting list	7,222
People of color on the transplant waiting list	5,406
Asian	932
Black	2,647
Hispanic	1,765
Indigenous	12
Multiracial	50
White	1,816

*The data reported here have been supplied the United Network for Organ Sharing as the contractor for the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. The interpretation and reporting of these data are the responsibility of the author(s) and in no way should be seen as an official policy or interpretation by the OPTN or the U.S. Government. Data as of March 4, 2022.

Transplant Recipients in 2021 – Greater NYC Area

Counties: Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester

Total number of people who received transplants from deceased donors	1,796
Asian	226
Black	597
Hispanic	456
Indigenous	4
Multiracial	8
White	505

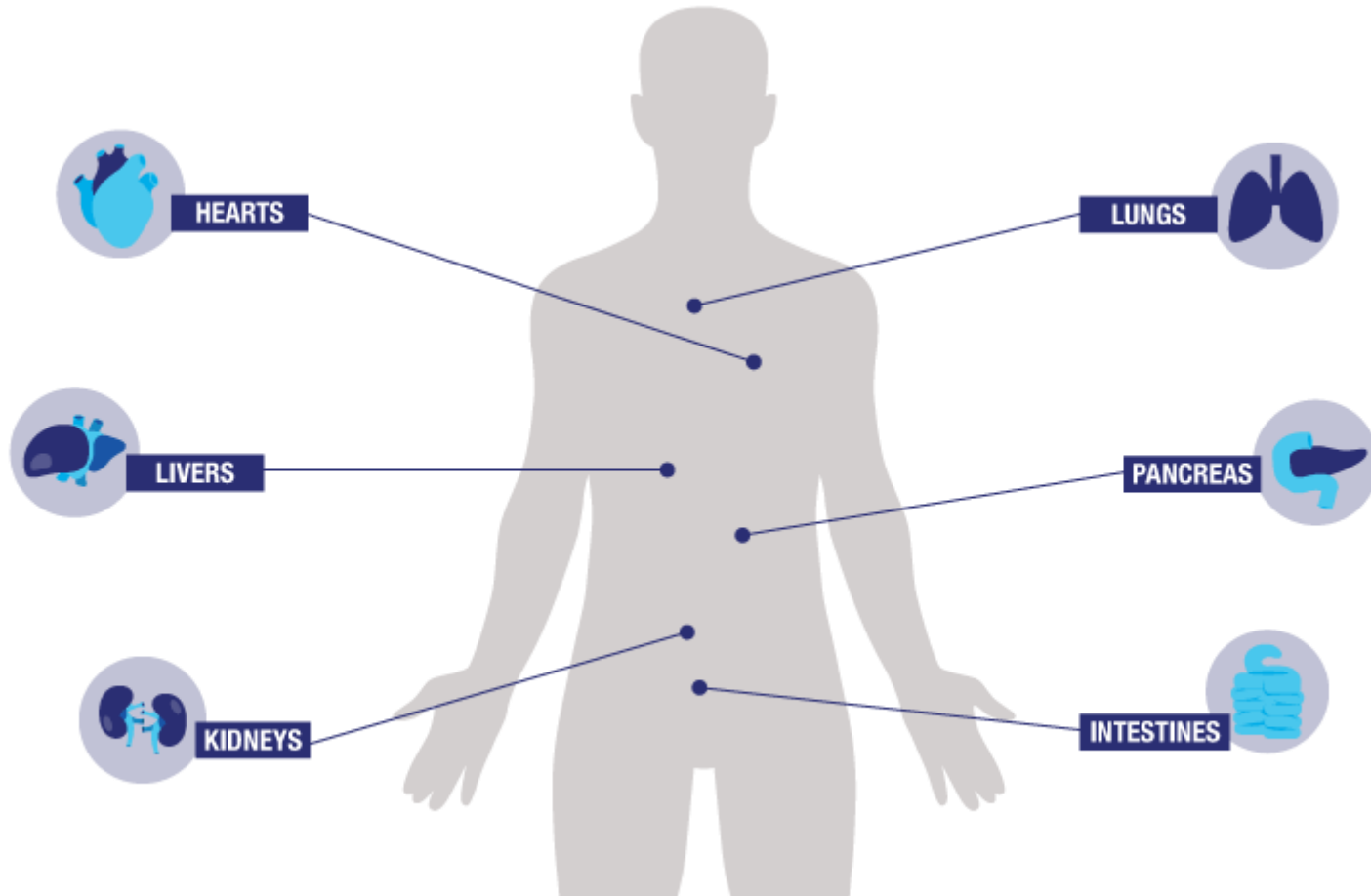
Organ Donors in 2021 – Greater NYC Area

Counties: Bronx, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester

Total deceased organ donors	373
Asian	17
Black	77
Hispanic	126
Indigenous	0
Multiracial	1
White	152

One Donor's Impact

1 organ donor can save 8 lives and improve up to 75 lives through tissue donation



We Need Action

Only 45% of New Yorkers are registered organ donors.



Low registration rates have led to an organ shortage.



Due to the shortage, those who need transplants wait longer.



On average a New Yorker on the transplant waiting list dies each day.

The background image is a blue-tinted aerial photograph of a city street, likely in New York City. The street is wide and runs vertically through the center of the frame, with several vehicles visible. On either side of the street are multi-story brick buildings with many windows. In the far background, a dense skyline of skyscrapers is visible against a light sky. The overall tone is somber and professional due to the blue tint.

Understanding the Organ Donation Process

LiveOnNY

Conditions That Can Lead to Organ Transplants

Diabetes and hypertension can result in the need for a kidney transplant.

Mary,
Kidney recipient



Untreated hepatitis and cirrhosis can lead to someone requiring a liver transplant.

Aiden,
Liver recipient



Congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathy are conditions that may require a heart transplant.

Angie,
Heart recipient



Registering on the Transplant Waiting List

Get a referral: A doctor must refer a patient to a transplant program as a potential transplant candidate.



Gather Information: The transplant center will collect details on the patient.



Evaluation Appointment: The transplant center will conduct an evaluation to find out if the patient is a good candidate for transplant.



Get Listed: If the transplant team members determine that a patient is a suitable candidate, they will add the person to the national transplant waiting list.

How Does Someone Become an Organ Donor?

The process of donation most often begins with a person consenting to be an organ donor by signing up in their state.



What if Someone Doesn't Sign Up as an Organ Donor?

If someone hadn't signed up as an organ donor at the time of their death, donation is still possible.

Family members who can authorize organ donation on a person's behalf include:

- Health Care Proxy
- Spouse or domestic partner (if not legally separated)
- Parent
- Adult child
- Sibling
- Grandparent
- Adult grandchild
- Legal guardian
- Any other person authorized or under obligation to dispose of the body



Tomasa donated her son's organs when he died.

How Does Organ Donation Happen?

Organ, eye and tissue donation only happens when a patient dies in a hospital and has been declared dead by a doctor.

- A patient must be signed up as an organ donor, or authorization must be granted by a family member or legal guardian on the patient's behalf.
- Candidates for donation must have been placed on a ventilator prior to their death or have died while on a ventilator.
- Extensive testing is performed to ensure the organs are healthy, and to identify a matching transplant recipient.

How Are Donated Organs Matched to Transplant Recipients?

- Several factors are considered when matching an organ to a waiting patient.
 - Blood type
 - Body mass
 - Rank on the national transplant waiting list
 - Geographic proximity between the donor and recipient
- Information gathered from medical tests are used to identify the best match from the transplant waiting list.
- It is illegal to make organ donation matches based on race, gender, religion, income status, social status, or celebrity.

The background image is a blue-tinted aerial photograph of a New York City street, likely Times Square, looking down the road towards the horizon. The street is filled with cars and buildings. In the background, a dense skyline of skyscrapers is visible, including the Freedom Tower (One World Trade Center) on the right. The overall tone is a deep blue, giving it a professional and serious appearance.

Clarifying Organ Donation Myths

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The Myth

“Doctors won’t try as hard to save me.”

The Truth

~~*“Doctors won’t try as hard to save me.”*~~

- All hospital staff including doctors, nurses, and EMT workers are trained, focused, and legally obligated to save lives.
- The doctors who treat patients are not affiliated with organ, eye, and tissue donation.

The Myth

“Organ donation is against my religion.”

The Truth

~~*“Organ donation is against my religion.”*~~

- Major religions celebrate organ donation as a way to save lives. Including:
 - Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Catholicism
- Organ donation is seen as an opportunity to save lives, extend one's blessings, and a final act of kindness and generosity by many religions.

The Myth

“I’m too old/too sick to be an organ donor.”

The Truth

~~*“I’m too old /sick to be an organ donor.”*~~

- There is no age limit for organ, eye, and tissue donation.
 - The oldest donor on record in New York State was 93 years old.
- Anyone and everyone can sign up to be a registered organ, eye and tissue donor.
 - Medical history is reviewed at the time of donation to determine a match.

The Myth

“I won’t be able to have a normal funeral.”

The Truth

~~*“I won’t be able to have a normal funeral.”*~~

- Organ, eye and tissue recovery for donation are surgical procedures, treated with the utmost care and respect.
- Open casket viewing is possible.
- LiveOnNY works with families’ timeframes for burial.

The Myth

“My family will have to pay.”

The Truth

~~*“My family will have to pay.”*~~

- Families of an organ, eye, and/or tissue donor are never responsible for costs related to donation.
- Those who receive organ, eye and tissue donations use medical insurance to cover costs related to their transplant surgery.

How Can I Help?



- Talk with family and loved ones about organ donation and your wishes.
- Sign up to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.
- Share what you learned today with others
- Volunteer in your community to educate the public.



Thank You!

For more information visit
LiveOnNY.org

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