

What Are High School Students Saying About Organ and Tissue Donation?

Their reasons to donate...

- “Because everyone needs a second chance.”
- “If my life was taken, I would want to be remembered as someone who helped save another.”
- “If I needed an organ or tissue donation, I would want someone to help me, so I want to donate to people who need it.”
- “It seems like there would be little reason not to. It is such an easy way to be of help.”
- “If I could still have a normal funeral with an open casket, then I wouldn’t mind.”
- “Because it can save lives, and I think the greatest gift you can give someone is life.”
- “There is no point in wasting perfectly good organs with other people needing them.”
- “Because once I go home to be with the Lord, I will be renewed.”

The facts ...

- Virtually anyone—regardless of age, race, gender and even many health conditions—can become a donor.
- Donation is not considered until all possible efforts to save a patient’s life have failed and death has been declared. The doctors trying to save a patient’s life are completely separate from the transplant surgeons involved in organ recovery, who are notified only after the patient’s death.
- The vast majority of religious groups support donation as the highest gesture of humanitarianism.
- Organs and tissues are recovered in a surgical procedure that does not disfigure the body and will not interfere with customary funeral arrangements. Open-casket visitation, burial and cremation are all possible.
- One donor can save or enhance the lives of more than 25 people.

Responses to the new program...

- “Enjoyed the presentation and it was nice to hear the truth about organ donation.”
- “Enjoyed the presentation. I never, ever took organ donation into consideration until you came and talked to my class. I think it was very helpful and that it’s a good idea to talk to the students about being a donor.”
- “I went home last night and talked to my parents.”

**Get more information and schedule the free classroom program
“Organ & Tissue Donation: Get the Facts” for your high school students!**

**Contact Jane Lee Zimmer, Donate Life Illinois High School Program Coordinator,
at 630.758.2740 or jlee-zimmer@giftofhope.org.**