

For 8th straight year, Indiana Donor Network achieves a record number of lifesaving organ transplants – 1,134

Indiana Donor Network transplanted a record 1,134 donated organs in 2023, saving 989 lives.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, UNITED STATES, February 5, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Support for lifesaving organ donation throughout Indiana rose again to record heights in 2023 as Indiana Donor Network, the federally designated organ recovery organization that coordinates organ, tissue and cornea donation in Indiana and transplantation throughout the U.S., transplanted 1,134 donated organs, saving 989 lives.



Indiana Donor Network is the federally designated organ recovery organization that coordinates organ, tissue and cornea donation in Indiana and transplantation throughout the U.S.

The milestone is a new high for

transplanted organ donations in the 37-year history of Indiana Donor Network and represents a 17% increase in annual transplants compared to 2022.

>> More than 1,300 Hoosiers are currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant; county-bycounty numbers

Organ donation in Indiana has trended upward since 2016, when 606 lifesaving organs were transplanted. The number of organ transplants in the state has risen each year – 2017 (620), 2018 (634), 2019 (665), 2020 (857), 2021 (932) and 2022 (972).

"The selflessness and generosity of organ and tissue donors and their families gives patients in need of a transplant a second chance at life," said Indiana Donor Network President and CEO Kellie Tremain. "This is our eighth consecutive year of executing high performance and unwavering commitment to donors and transplant recipients. We are dedicated to saving lives through carefully caring for our donors' gifts and honoring their decisions by ensuring the needs of patients awaiting transplant are met." ٢٢

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Last year, Indiana Donor Network utilized 12 kidney perfusion pumps for 501 transplant surgeries. Kidney perfusion transporters, a relatively new technology utilized in operating rooms during organ recovery and during transport of a donated kidney to an awaiting transplant center, keep donated kidneys functioning outside the body, allowing the organ's temperature and vascular

performance to be monitored and increasing a kidney's viability for successful transplant.

Indiana Donor Network also began utilizing liver perfusion transporters in 2023 as part of an FDA-authorized continued access study with four Midwest transplant centers. Indiana Donor Network first utilized liver perfusion technology in a transplant coordination in November last year at University of Cincinnati Medical Center and now awaits FDA approval for broad clinical use of the technology throughout the U.S. This innovation is expected to further increase the number of organs transplanted by Indiana Donor Network.

"We as an organization emphasize innovation and implementing new technology to ensure that more donated organs are available for those in need of lifesaving transplants," Tremain said. "Organ perfusion technology has helped us significantly expand our donor base and coordinate more transplants for more patients."

In 2023, 1,393 tissue and cornea donors resulted in 16,154 tissues recovered to help save and heal lives, including 181 heart valves, a 28% increase from 2022 and another all-time record for the organization; tissue grafts from 1,158 skin donors; and 494 corneas.

Included in the total tissues recovered were more than 12,000 bone and connective tissues, including ligaments and tendons, from donors, a 34% increase from 2022 and eclipsing the previous all-time mark the organization achieved in 2019.

Other major milestones achieved by Indiana Donor Network in 2023:

- Provided programs, grief, and counseling services and support to 2,725 family members of organ and tissue donors.

- Signed up more than 925,000 Indiana residents to become organ and tissue donors; today, more than 4.4 million Hoosiers has signed up to become organ donors.

– Managed 345 dedicated advocates who volunteered more than 16,000 hours.

- Led 1,018 school and community presentations and activations, reaching more than 278,882 Hoosiers throughout the state.

- Generated \$179,000 in net proceeds from four fundraising events to support Indiana Donor Network Foundation and its mission to provide financial assistance and support for organ transplant recipients and donor families.

- Hired 107 new team members for a total of 327, creating its largest staff since the organization was founded in 1987.

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