



UPSTATE NEW YORK
TRANSPLANT SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April is National Donate Life Month

BUFFALO, NY – April is National Donate Life Month. Established in 2003 and recognized throughout the United States, National Donate Life Month works to raise awareness of organ, eye, tissue and blood donation while celebrating the generosity of those who have given the Gift of Life to others.

Currently in the United States there are over 100,000 individuals awaiting a life-saving transplant, and many thousands more in need of tissue and cornea transplants. Sadly, an average of 18 patients dies every day, simply because the organ they needed did not become available in time. In regards to blood donation, odds are 1 in 3 that you will need blood at some point during your lifetime, but only 1 in 33 that you are a regular blood donor.

Throughout the month of April Upstate New York Transplant Services will be partnering with **Medina Memorial Health Care System** to spread the vital message that donation and transplantation are vital, and donation and transplantation save lives. **Medina Memorial Health Care System** will be engaged in a number of activities, including information tables, speakers, and donor registry campaigns, to ensure that their organization and community are fully informed about the importance of the Gift of Life.

The Gift of Life comes in many different ways through many different stories, personalities, lives and backgrounds. A single organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people by donating the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and intestines. And one tissue donor can improve the lives of more than 50 people by donating eyes, bone, soft tissue, heart valves, veins and skin. Community Blood Donation through Upstate New York Transplant Services is your chance to give the Gift of Life now - prior to any end of life decisions you may want made. In taking just forty-five minutes of your time in donating one unit of blood, you have the opportunity to save up to three lives given the different life-saving elements of your donation.

You've been given the Gift of Life. Give it back. For more information on organ, eye, tissue and community blood donation visit UNYTS.org.

Headquartered in Buffalo and established in 1981, Upstate New York Transplant Services is among the leading organ procurement organizations in the United States, and is the only organization of its kind nationwide to offer opportunities for organ, eye, tissue and blood donation. Upstate New York Transplant Services operates as a not-for-profit serving the eight counties of Western New York and is part of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. It works to assist donor families, coordinate the donation process and increase knowledge and awareness within the community regarding organ, eye, tissue and blood donation.

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