

Knowledge is Power...

- Nearly 25 percent of the people who died waiting for an organ transplant in 2006 were African American.
- African Americans are four times more likely than Caucasians to develop kidney failure. As a result, blacks make up 35 percent of the people on the kidney transplant waiting list.
- Thanks to medical advances, transplant recipients now can live longer and more active lives.
- One person's donated organs and tissue can help save or improve the lives of 50 people.
- Most major religions support organ donation.
- Your decision to be an organ donor will not affect the quality of care you receive in a medical emergency. If you are sick or injured the number one priority is to save your life.



Can We Talk?



Starting the Organ Donation Conversation With Your Family



Organ donation is truly the gift of life – a completely selfless and vitally important act. Currently there are nearly 100,000 people on the nation's transplant waiting list and 18 of them die each day waiting for a donated organ, because of the critical shortage of donors.



In the African-American community, the need is especially crucial because many people have certain medical conditions that can lead to the need for an organ transplant. African Americans make up 27 percent of the transplant waiting list, which is more than double their percentage of the population.

If you are thinking about donating your organs when you pass on, you may not realize that talking to your loved ones about your decision to donate life is one of the most important steps. Informing your family can help ensure that your wish will be honored. Here are some tips to help you start the conversation:

- **Seek advice from someone you trust.** Talk to family physicians, spiritual leaders and others who may know about transplantation.
- **Knowledge is power.** Learn the facts by visiting Linkages to Life at www.linksinc.org or www.donatelife.net.
- **Dispel the myths.** Clear up any misconceptions your loved ones might have about organ donation.
- **Don't focus the conversation on the end of life.** Concentrate on the gift of life!

