



Center for Organ Recovery & Education

Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE)

The Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) is one of 58 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the United States. CORE works closely with donor families and designated health care professionals to deliver the gift of hope by coordinating the surgical recovery of organs, tissues and corneas for transplantation. CORE also facilitates the computerized matching of donated organs, tissues and corneas. With headquarters in Pittsburgh and an office in Charleston, West Virginia, CORE oversees a region that encompasses 155 hospitals and almost six million people throughout western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Chemung County, NY. For more information, visit www.core.org or call 1-800-DONORS-7 or 800-366-6777.

Contact Information

204 Sigma Drive, RIDC Park
Pittsburgh, PA 15238
p: 1-800-DONORS-7 or 800-366-6777

Media Inquiries

Elizabeth Bacheson
Elias/Savion Public Relations
p: 412-642-7700
e: elizabeth.bacheson@elias-savion.com

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TRANSPLANT CENTERS

Each of the 155 hospitals in CORE's service area serve as referral sites for potential donors. Five of the hospitals also perform organ transplants:

WPAHS Allegheny General Hospital

Charleston Area Medical Center

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
of UPMC

UPMC Presbyterian Hospital

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System



GIVING BACK A Special Place

Life-saving organ transplants are made possible by individuals and families who say “yes” to donation.

CORE has created *A Special Place* to recognize these amazing people and the second chance at life they provide to transplant patients.

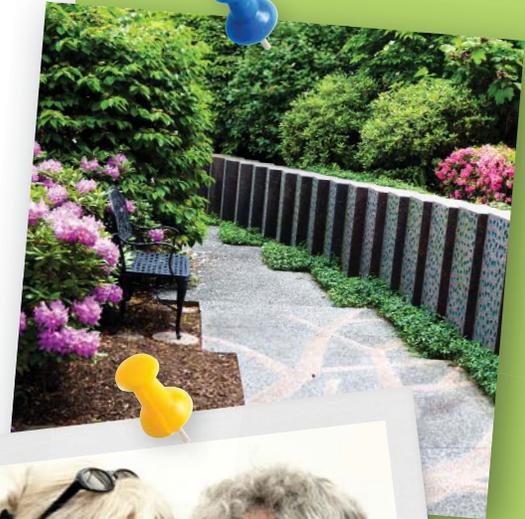
The park-like area outside of CORE’s office in Pittsburgh is surrounded by graduated granite walls featuring individual leaves that are engraved for every CORE donor.

The memorial area is inscribed with the words:

“Let the leaves symbolize the donors.

Like softly fallen petals that nourish the earth,
they have touched the lives of others.”

Every year, CORE holds a ceremony for the families of donors from the previous year to reflect on the lives the donors lived, as well as those the donors saved.



*A
Special
Place*



Every organ donor has the potential to save eight lives, which is the foundation of CORE's public awareness campaign. Using multiple channels such as outdoor, television, print and radio advertising, transit wraps, a brand new website and social media, CORE is encouraging individuals to "LIVE: 8" and end the wait by signing up to become an organ and tissue donor. Through the campaign, CORE aims to grow awareness of donation and transplantation and help dispel myths. "LIVE: 8" provides simple, effective ways to inspire others and raise awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation.



Donate Life Pennsylvania *30 Seconds*

The *30 Seconds* campaign is a collaborative initiative between the Center for Organ & Recovery Education (CORE) and Gift of Life Donor Program – the two OPOs serving Pennsylvania – and the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Transportation. The campaign is funded by residents of Pennsylvania through voluntary contributions included with driver's license renewals, vehicle registrations and state income tax filings. All contributions are used by the Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund to educate Pennsylvanians, build awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation, and increase the number of people who sign up to become donors on their driver's license, learner's permit or state identification card.



SPECIAL ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

February 14

National Donor Day

March

National Eye Donor Month

April

National Donate Life Month

August 1 - 7

National Minority Donor
Awareness Week

November

National Donor Sabbath

At the five organ transplant hospitals served by CORE, approximately 4,000 people await organ transplantation, and thousands more are in need of tissue or cornea transplants.



SUSAN A. STUART
President & CEO

Susan A. Stuart started her career as a nurse before joining CORE in 1987 as an organ and tissue procurement coordinator.

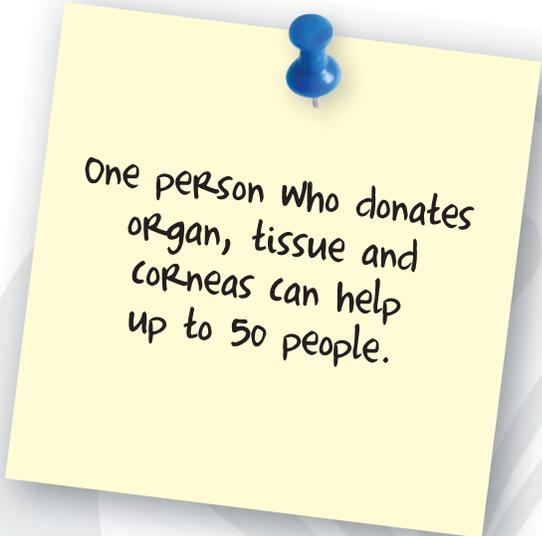
She rose to the level of assistant executive director before accepting a position as director of clinical operations at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where she oversaw the clinical operations of 150 critical care beds. Susan also managed daily operations for UPMC's respiratory care and renal dialysis departments.

She later returned to assume the lead role at CORE.

Susan is the past president of the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO), which represents more than 50 federally-designated organ procurement organizations (OPOs) across the country. She most recently served as the president for the 2013-14 term. She also serves on several boards of directors which include Donate Life America as vice chair, LifeLogics and the United Network for Organ Sharing.

Susan is active in many community activities, including volunteering with the Salvation Army, a member of the Fox Chapel Rotary, serving as an honorary member of the Transplant Recipient Organization and raising awareness for autism. Along with the CORE staff, she has participated in United Way's Days of Caring.

Susan has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Duquesne University and master's degree in public management from Carnegie Mellon University.



One person who donates organ, tissue and corneas can help up to 50 people.

The Donation Process

The opportunity for organ, tissue and cornea donation most often results from an individual sustaining an injury that causes brain death, which means the brain has stopped and will not work again. Common causes of brain death are motor vehicle accidents, head injuries or strokes.

Whether or not a patient is an organ, tissue and cornea donor, paramedics, nurses and doctors will continue life-saving measures until the patient is stabilized and tests are performed. Only when a patient is pronounced brain dead will they be evaluated for donation.

Traditional organ donation requires a patient to be in a hospital and on a ventilator when they are pronounced brain dead. If a patient experiences cardiac death, which means the heart has stopped and will not work again, they will be evaluated for tissue and cornea donation.

ORGAN RECOVERY

Once doctors inform the family that the patient has died, hospital personnel are required to notify a CORE specialist who will determine the potential for organ, tissue and cornea donation.

CORE will discuss donation with the patient's family and obtain a medical and social history before proceeding with recovery. Once authorization is determined, a team of organ transplant surgeons will recover organs, tissues and corneas, and transport them to patients awaiting transplantation.

ORGAN PLACEMENT

As recovery is taking place, the donor's blood type, height and weight are entered into a national database with a list of patients awaiting an organ transplant. The computer then matches the donor's organs, tissues and corneas with transplant candidates in most critical need.

LIVING DONORS

Many individuals with kidney failure know someone who would like to give them a kidney, but they are not a match. This most commonly occurs because the donor's and the recipient's blood types are not compatible.

CORE's Paired Kidney Donation Program uses a computer database to match donor/recipient pairs with others who are compatible.

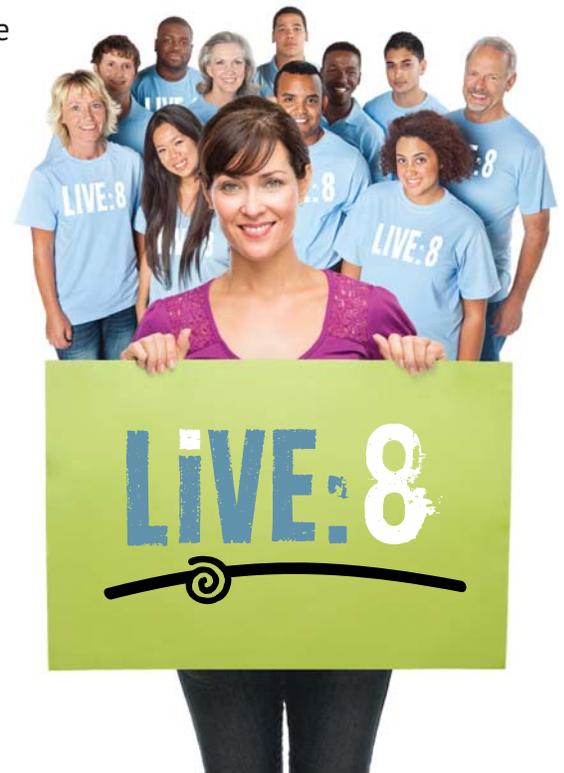
Also, CORE operates an Altruistic Kidney Donation Program as an opportunity to make an anonymous kidney donation to someone on the transplant waiting list.





Eight Facts and Statistics on Organ and Tissue Donation DID YOU KNOW?

- 1** One organ donor has the potential to save **eight lives**.
- 2** Nationally, more than **122,000 people** are awaiting an organ transplant.
- 3** At least **18 people** will die each day without receiving one, including two from CORE's service area.
- 4** Someone is added to the organ transplant list every **12 minutes**.
- 5** With at least **90,000 people** waiting nationally, kidneys are the organ in greatest demand, followed by liver, heart and lungs.
- 6** **Anyone can be a donor** regardless of age, race or medical history.
- 7** Between **10,000 and 12,000 people** die each year who are considered medically suitable for organ, tissue and cornea donation, yet only a fraction donate.
- 8** More than **1 million tissue transplants** are done each year and the surgical need for tissues is steadily rising.



FIND INSPIRATION.

How to register to become a donor.

There are two options in Pennsylvania and West Virginia for those who make the decision to save the lives of others by donating organs.

- Donors can place the designation on their driver's license or state identification card when they receive or renew your license or ID.
- In Pennsylvania, they can sign up at anytime online at www.donatelifepa.org.
- In West Virginia, they can sign up at anytime online at www.donatelifewv.org.

Also, donors should always let their family and friends know of their decision to ensure their wishes are carried out. For more information, please visit www.core.org.



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A Pledge for Life

