



Working
Together to
Save Lives



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Contact: Mark Johnson
Media Relations Coordinator
Phone: 1-800-462-0755

South Carolina Celebrates Donate Life Month

Greenville, SC – April 3, 2018: *Donate Life South Carolina* and *We Are Sharing Hope SC* are celebrating April as **National Donate Life Month**, following a monumental 2017 and start of 2018. Over the past decade, South Carolinians have generously responded to the **Donate Life** message by registering to save and improve lives through organ, eye and tissue donation. Earlier this year, the **South Carolina Donor Registry** reached the milestone of having **two million** South Carolinians signed up as donors. In fact, because of the generosity of South Carolinians in 2017, the state became one of the top five most giving areas of the country in terms of organ donation. Last year 166 generous donors and their families made it possible for 560 organs to be transplanted in the state and elsewhere in the nation. This is the highest number in **We Are Sharing Hope SC's** 33-year history.

National Donate Life Month honors the generosity of organ, eye and tissue donors and their families while remembering those who have died waiting on a transplant. It also commemorates those who have either received or continue to wait for life-saving transplants. Without more heroes who say “yes,” many on the waiting list will die waiting. **National Donate Life Month** focuses attention on every individual's power to make LIFE possible by registering their decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donors, and learning more about living donation.

To highlight the month-long celebration, **Donate Life South Carolina** and the **South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles** will hold a joint press conference at 10:00 AM on April 10, 2018 on the first floor lobby of the South Carolina State House in Columbia. April will be declared as **Donate Life Month** in South Carolina through a proclamation by **The Honorable Governor Henry McMaster**. **Senator Katrina Shealy** of Lexington County will also introduce a Senate resolution designating April 10th as **Donor Day** in South Carolina, recognizing all facets of donations including living, blood, bone marrow and research. Several other speakers for this special day will include a heart transplant recipient, a living kidney exchange paired donor and recipient, and a donor mom.

In addition to the joint press conference, numerous other events will be taking place across the state to commemorate **National Donate Life Month**.

The larger events include:

- **Greenville Blue and Green Building Lighting Ceremony:** On April 6th **The ONE Building** at One North Main Street in Greenville will turn blue and green, **Donate Life** colors, in honor of **Donate Life Month**. A ceremony will be held at 7:30 PM prior to the lighting of this and two other Greenville buildings. They are RiverPlace On Main and the NEXT Innovation Center at 411 University Ridge. The building light displays will last from April 6th through 16th.



Working
Together to
Save Lives



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Mark Johnson
Media Relations Coordinator
Phone: 1-800-462-0755**

- **Columbia Blue and Green Building Lighting Ceremony:** On April 9th, the Hilton Columbia Center in the Vista at 924 Senate Street will turn blue and green in honor of Donate Life Month. A ceremony will be held at 7:30 pm prior to the lighting of this building. The light display will last from April 9th through 13th.
- **Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) “Let Life Bloom Pinwheel Garden”:** On April 9th, MUSC will officially unveil their “Let Life Bloom Pinwheel Garden”, containing 6,961 pinwheels representing each patient transplanted at the hospital since 1968. The pinwheel garden will be on display through April 30th.
- **National Blue and Green Day:** On April 13th, the public is encouraged to wear blue and green, hold events and fundraisers, and partner with community organizations in an effort to spread awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. **Over 30 South Carolina DMV offices will be participating to show support for organ, eye and tissue donation.** Several hospitals across the state will also recognize this day and fly the Donate Life flag during the month.

Fifty-six percent of adults in the United States and over 2 million in South Carolina have registered their decision to make LIFE possible and become organ, eye and tissue donors at the time of their death. Yet the number of people in need of transplants continues to outpace the number of organs donated. Approximately **115,000** people are on the national transplant waiting list and over **1000** of those are on the South Carolina waiting list. We encourage everyone to make their decision known by signing up on the state’s donor registry at the SC Department of Motor Vehicles, at DonateLifeSC.org, or through the iPhone Health App Medical Tab.

“We hope our educational efforts during **Donate Life Month** and throughout the year will spotlight the need for more donors in South Carolina as well as inform the public about the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry,” states **Donate Life South Carolina** CEO Tracy Moore. “This year, on April 10th at the State Capitol, we will celebrate the milestones of 2017 while renewing our efforts to save more lives through donation.”

To get more information or to set up an interview with someone touched by donation/transplantation contact Mark Johnson, Media Relations Coordinator for **We Are Sharing Hope SC**, at 1-800-462-0755 or 843-763-7755.

About Sharing Hope SC ([Sharing Hope SC.org](http://SharingHopeSC.org))

Sharing Hope SC is the federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for organ recovery services in South Carolina. Sharing Hope SC actively provides organ and tissue donor services to 68 hospitals throughout the state, while becoming the critical link between families who have lost a loved one and those who are awaiting a life-saving transplant.

About Donate Life South Carolina (DonateLifeSC.org) Donate Life South Carolina is the statewide organization whose mission is to promote organ and tissue donation for transplantation and provide patient assistance for South Carolina transplant recipients. Donate Life South Carolina established and maintains the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.