

# REFLECTIONS 2023

LifeCenter ▶ 

Saving lives through organ, eye and tissue donation

# Our Sincere Appreciation

LifeCenter Organ Donor Network (LifeCenter) sincerely thanks the Charles H. Dater Foundation for their generous grant support of the annual LifeCenter Celebrate Life Calendar. Since its inception in 2003, the calendar continues to help raise awareness for organ, eye and tissue donation, particularly in our area high schools as students begin to prepare to get their learner's permit.

**We are incredibly grateful for the continuous funding of this vital and inspiring community initiative.**



## CHARLES H. DATER FOUNDATION



### THE MISSION

The Charles H. Dater Foundation (Dater Foundation) was founded in 1985, with the mission of making grants to non-profit organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area to carry out projects that benefit young people. Grants are focused in the areas of arts/culture, education, health care, social services and other community needs. The Foundation does not operate programs, but makes grants to private, non-profit organizations and public agencies for their programs and projects.

### THE VISION

The Foundation has made over 3,500 grants totaling more than \$60 million. Established to ensure that funding for worthwhile community programs would continue after his death, the Foundation preserves the memory and philanthropic commitment of Charles H. Dater (1912-1993) and his ancestors. The Dater family's hard work and business acumen over four generations provided them with the opportunity to share their success with their community. The Foundation has no full time staff and is guided by an active Board of Directors which meets monthly.

To learn more about the Dater Foundation, please visit [daterfoundation.org](http://daterfoundation.org).

## Letter from Leadership

As I reflect on 20 years of the LifeCenter Celebrate Life Calendar, I'm reminded of the Søren Kierkegaard quote, "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards." The LifeCenter 2023 Calendar represents reflections on where we were, and the gift of where we are now.

There is no more **powerful truth** than when we look back at our reflections, which mirror our many successful stories. Recipients look at their reflections with new hope. Living donors see their reflections filled with the joy of selfless giving. Donor families who worked with LifeCenter are honored through their loved ones' decisions to bestow the ultimate gift of life and healing.

This calendar and our mission to save, heal, and change lives through organ, eye and tissue donation, while honoring those who gave is truly representative of the word "us." A community of giving has been made possible, thanks to our donation champions and our amazing hospital partners. Their stories are also in this calendar.

Looking back on 14 years as the Executive Director of LifeCenter, I am truly honored to have served during such growth in our organization, and to oversee the roots we are establishing in the community. None of this would be possible without the hard-working, dedicated staff at LifeCenter, our generous sponsors, and everyone in the community working together.

Organ, eye and tissue donation starts with **"YES"** and is honored through **"US."**

Barry C. Massa  
Executive Director, LifeCenter  
President, Association of Organ Procurement Organizations

**We hope you enjoy the 20<sup>th</sup> annual LifeCenter Celebrate Life calendar for 2023 and join us in reflecting on the gift of life.**



**BARRY C. MASSA**  
Executive Director



Family of Gail Randall, Cornea Donor



# JANUARY



## This is my reflection

Organ, eye and tissue donation have impacted our family in many ways. My cousin was an organ/tissue donor in 2006, which led me to my career here at LifeCenter. Then in January, my mother-in-law became a cornea donor after she lost her battle with cancer.

Gail was simply amazing. She had the kindest soul and would do anything for anyone. She lived her life to serve others, so when given the opportunity to honor her wishes as a registered donor, we were thankful that her cancer didn't stop her from being a hero. Losing Gail was extremely hard, but knowing someone can now see again because of her, provides us with comfort.

I encourage other families when faced with the tough decision to have their loved ones become a donor to say, "YES." It may not make it easier right now, but down the road, it does ease the pain knowing that your loved one impacted the world so positively even after they have passed.

When asked if you want to be a registered donor, say, "YES." If you have the chance to save others and change the world, wouldn't you want to do that upon your passing? Be that HERO someone may need; you and your actions will never be forgotten. Gail will forever be our shining light and her recipient's hero.

*- Erica Randall*

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### Holidays

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

### TRUTH

Cornea donation is life-changing with more than 95% of all corneal transplants successfully restoring the sight of the recipients. A cornea donor can restore sight to two people.

SPONSORED BY



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Family of Hadlee Rohman, Heart Recipient



# FEBRUARY

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26	27	28	American Heart Month			

## Holidays

- 14 – Valentine’s Day, National Donor Day
- 20 – Presidents’ Day
- 22 – Ash Wednesday

## TRUTH

Currently, there are nearly 2,000 pediatric patients on the national transplant waiting list. More than 500 children waiting for an organ transplant are between 1 and 5 years old. Organ size is critical to a successful transplant as children often respond better to child-sized organs.

SPONSORED BY



STELIZABETH.COM



## This is my reflection

Hadlee Mae was born in 2017 with hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS), a complex congenital heart defect. After two open-heart surgeries, she began to decline toward the end of 2019, going into complete heart failure.

In February of 2020, Hadlee was admitted to Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, where her only hope of survival was to receive a heart transplant. After what seemed like an eternity, including a pandemic, Hadlee received the beautiful gift of life on May 28th, which ironically happens to be her older brother’s birthday. So, there are many celebrations on that day!

As a family, we have grown so much and cherish each moment that we have with each other; not taking a second for granted. The gift of donation has allowed Hadlee to start pre-school, go to the beach, play soccer, play on her playground, make friends, and just be a kid with her siblings. The moments, hopes, and dreams that we thought we were going to lose with Hadlee were given back through the selfless decision of donation.

To Hadlee’s donor family: we are eternally grateful and cannot express the magnitude of thanks for your selfless decision and your loved one’s gift of life. Know that with each experience Hadlee gets, your child is not forgotten.

– Felicia Rohman



Karyn Frost, Kidney Recipient

# MARCH



## THIS IS MY REFLECTION

"I **was** on the list," I love saying that. For 20 years, I had systemic lupus, resulting in end-stage renal disease. After four years of waiting, I received my kidney in March, 2022.

Being on the waiting list was frustrating, but life goes on. I did dialysis in Spain, France, and all over this country while I continued to do what I like to do. Dialysis is hard on your body; it drains you of energy and impacts your quality of life. I learned it takes a village and I learned to advocate for myself. To those still waiting, I would say your turn is coming. Think positively. Talk to people when you are feeling down. Just don't give up.

After 20 years of health challenges culminating in something positive, I am so content, so at peace, and cannot believe I am still here. To be able to not wake up for dialysis at 5:45 a.m. Monday morning is amazing.

I want everybody who needs a kidney to get one. I am positive the reason I received a kidney is publications like this calendar, and people who volunteer and have passion about getting the word out about organ donation. Lifecenter staff and volunteers work hard to make sure people like me can extend their lives. I have two teenage daughters and I want to be around for them.

Through your willingness to donate an organ, you not only impact the person who receives that organ, but all the people who love them.

*- Karyn Frost*

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### Holidays

- 6 - Purim
- 8 - Holi, International Women's Day
- 9 - World Kidney Day
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 23 - Ramadan

### TRUTH

85% of patients on the national transplant waiting list are waiting for a kidney. The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is 3 to 5 years. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the organ waiting list.

### SPONSORED BY



KIDNEY.ORG

Dr. Don Hayes,  
Lung Transplant Program Medical Director,  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital



Patricia Soulas, RN, BSN, Kidney Transplant  
Coordinator, Cincinnati Children's Hospital



# APRIL

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30	<b>Holidays</b> 5 – Passover, Living Donor Day 9 – Easter    22 – Eid al-Fitr, Earth Day 14 – Blue and Green Day					

## TRUTH

April is National Donate Life Month, and every day people across the U.S. make a special effort to celebrate the tremendous generosity of those who have saved and healed lives through their gift of donation, as well as encourage those in our community to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

SPONSORED BY



CINCINNATICHILDRENS.ORG



## *This is my reflection*

My journey with transplant started when I was a medical student; I met a young lady who had cystic fibrosis and underwent a lung transplant. She was special, full of energy — full of life. It impacted me that a 16-year-old kid should not have to be living through this. Instead of preparing for prom or going to movies with her friends, she was having difficulty breathing, she was dying, and that experience changed my life.

On the night of a transplant, I am both happy and sad; I know the story of sadness on the donor end of the spectrum, and I know the story of pure happiness on the recipient end. The powerful truth about organ donation is that it saves lives.

*– Dr. Don Hayes*

## THIS IS MY REFLECTION

Working as a nurse on a transplant team for 20 years, I get to see somebody go from being chronically ill, in and out of the hospital, not living to their fullest; and then they receive a kidney transplant, and now can do the things they wanted to do. I have taken care of toddlers who started day-one of birth on dialysis and seen how transplants allow these kids to grow, develop and learn. Whereas, when they are on dialysis, they can't develop their full capability for cognitive and behavioral growth. Getting someone in kidney failure off of dialysis because of a transplant gives them back both quality and quantity of life.

*– Patricia Soulas*

Aimee Cordrey, Mother of

Nick Cordrey, Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor



# MAY



## This is my reflection

Nick was 15 years old when he passed unexpectedly from a brain aneurysm in 2020. Nick decided to be an organ donor when he obtained a state ID card for a class trip. Nick made a well-researched decision, as many others have done. So, when the unthinkable happened, we, as his family, honored his decision.

Nick had just completed his first year of high school. He was a geography expert, who loved politics, history, art, the French language, and being the goalkeeper for his high school and club soccer teams. Nick loved life, our community, and wanted to be the Mayor of Cincinnati one day. For a high school art project, Nick created a bucket list of ten items. It consisted of some fun things, like being in a movie, visiting all fifty states, seeing a World Cup game, learning how Sunny D is made, but he was only able to complete one of the items on the list, and it was number seven – to save a life. And he did it five times when he saved five lives with seven organs.

You can designate your decision to become an organ and tissue donor if you are under eighteen, provided that a legally responsible adult witnesses your signature on your driver's license or state ID card. It's important that we take the time to explain our wishes to avoid confusion later and that we honor the wishes of our loved ones, as we would want them to honor our wishes. We should all formally designate our intent to be organ, eye and tissue donors, but also tell our families and friends.

There is no age limit on who can donate. You are never too old or too young to be an organ donor. The concept of giving a part of yourself to someone to make them healthy is an amazing opportunity.

*- Aimee Cordrey*

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### Holidays

- 2 – National Teacher Appreciation Day
- 5 – Cinco de Mayo
- 14 – Mother's Day
- 6 – National Nurses Day
- 29 – Memorial Day

### TRUTH

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, race, income, celebrity and social status are never considered.

### SPONSORED BY



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Mark Stephens, Living Kidney Donor



# JUNE

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## Holidays

- 14 – World Blood Donor Day
- 18 – Father’s Day
- 19 – Juneteenth
- 29 – Eid al-Adha

## TRUTH

Living donation is an opportunity to save a life while you are still alive. Living donors don't have to be related to their recipients. On average, one in four living donors are not biologically related to the recipient.

## SPONSORED BY



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## This is my reflection

I've thought about donating for years. 2020, though, was a tough year for hundreds of millions of people. My family and I were fortunate. We needed to make adjustments, but we mostly were able to keep living and enjoying life. News and conversations showed me we were lucky. We were not immune to the problems, though. My wife's grandma was in a nursing home. We weren't allowed to visit her. She died from the virus before Christmas. We also lost our uncle, our aunt's mom, and our grandmother's best friend to COVID. COVID caused numerous job losses every week. Protests and struggles seemed to be occurring daily. I thought, "I can do more. Where can I help?" A sign popped up in my neighborhood about kidney donation. I told my wife, "I want to do this."

Donating a kidney is completely free! That's amazing! Admittedly, I did give them a kidney, but the whole procedure didn't cost me any money. Also, I learned, should my one kidney ever fail, I would be bumped to the top of the list for receiving a kidney because I donated. They even had an answer for "What if someone in your family needs a kidney?" Five family members can be added to a voucher program. Should one of them need a kidney, they use the voucher and move up the kidney recipient list.

My kidney was couriered from Christ Hospital, to the airport, to Bethesda, Maryland, then to the recipient's hospital before the end of the day. The operation was a success that night! My kidney left my body and had a new home hundreds of miles away all before midnight.

*- Mark Stephens*



Lilly Karschner, Cornea Recipient



# JULY



## THIS IS MY REFLECTION

When I was 6 years old, I received a cornea transplant from a family who made the noble decision for their child to be an organ and tissue donor. This family's brave choice has changed my life for the better and given me the chance to continue to see this ever-changing world. Without them, I would have lost my eye completely. For a little context, I was hit in the eye with a puzzle piece, rupturing my cornea. After receiving the transplant, I was still considered legally blind in my left eye, but eventually was able to see 20/80 with glasses.

I'm now eighteen and was able to have PRK corrective laser eye surgery to help restore some vision to the eye. Surpassing all expectations, I can now see 20/25 without my glasses. Honestly, I never thought I would see with that eye again. For people considering being a donor, do it. You may not get to see it, but you will change and potentially impact so many lives—your generosity will have been well-worth it. To the kids and individuals my age who are going through this, I want you to know that you're not alone. This process can feel incredibly isolating, but you are never truly alone in this. It is going to be scary, and it is going to be tough. You can do this. Your feelings are valid. But most of all, remember that others like you will understand.

*- Lilly Karschner*

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## TRUTH

While we use the term "eye donation," there is no whole eye transplantation. Most often only corneal tissue is recovered for transplantation. Corneal transplants can restore vision, reduce pain, and improve the appearance of unhealthy corneas.

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Kelly Gunnels-Valines



Sister of Reco Gunnels Sr., Tissue and Cornea Donor

# AUGUST

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## Holidays

**National Minority Donor Awareness Month**  
21 – Senior Citizens Day

## TRUTH

August is National Minority Donor Awareness Month and it is a collaborative effort, by national organizations, to help improve the quality of life of diverse communities by creating a positive culture for organ, eye and tissue donation.

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ALLOSOURCE.COM



## This is my reflection

My brother, Reco Gunnels Sr., was an amazing advocate for others, his children, his family, his friends, and the community. My beloved brother was taken from us August 24th, 2017. He was murdered as he sat on his motorcycle. What the people who were there saw was vague, and they were scared, but one lady stayed with my brother until he took his last breath. I was devastated. We, as a family, were devastated. My entire family lost our brother, our champion, who protected and always showed up for us no matter what zip code or area code we were in. He showed up for family and friends. Who would show up for him?

My brother Reco made a choice a month prior to his death to become an organ donor. He had just recently updated his driver's license and said, "YES." So, the decision to donate his organs was an easy one for me. Someone is walking this earth today seeing through my brother's eyes and embracing their loved ones without pain, with new skin, because he made the decision to give life. I changed my driver's license to "YES," to the gift of life in memory of my brother Reco, who I see every time I touch my green Donate Life wristband, that hangs in his memory. In my position at UC Health, I get a chance to be a part of the experiences of others who are either giving or receiving organs. When God touches my heart, I share Reco's story and I bless them with a piece of him through the very bracelet I am wearing to give them strength and encouragement on their journey to give or receive a new life, a new beginning. Reco, you are never forgotten, my little big brother.

- Kelly Gunnels-Valines

Steven Dragon, Heart Recipient



# SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER

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## National DMV Appreciation Month

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## Holidays

4 - Labor Day

24 - Yom Kippur

15 - Rosh Hashanah

29 - World Heart Day

LifeCenter 

## This is my reflection

I received a heart transplant almost five years ago. I was a healthy 47-year-old husband and father of three children, spending my days working and nights playing outside with the kids. I began having trouble breathing and after several tests, I was told I had a blood clot in my heart. After a few weeks in the hospital, I was told I needed a transplant. My family and I prayed that a donor heart would become available before it was too late. Miraculously, in only three days, our prayers were answered! The thrilling news came with the sad knowledge that another family was grieving a devastating loss.

If I could speak with that family, I would tell them how deeply grateful I am for their loved one's generous and selfless act of registering to be a donor. He has made an immeasurable difference in my life and the lives of the people I love. It is a blessing that has allowed me to see two daughters graduate high school and a son grow up from a little boy to be a young man. It has allowed me to return to a normal life, although for me and my family, it will never truly be normal again. We will forever hold in our prayers someone we will never know and a family we have never met. I want everyone to know that the decision to become an organ donor spreads enormous joy and changes lives.

- Steven Dragon

## TRUTH

Each Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) location is required by the law to ask each unregistered person if they want to join their state's donor registry. The DMV was selected to acquire an individual's decision because it's the one agency that interacts with the community on a consistent basis.

## SPONSORED BY

Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks'



DONATELIFEKY.ORG



**Kenneth Parker, Liver Recipient**

# OCTOBER

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29	30	31	<b>Breast Cancer Awareness Month Liver Awareness Month</b>			

**Holidays** 9 – Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Columbus Day  
31 – Halloween



## *This is my reflection*

I do not wish on anyone the despair and hopelessness a person can feel who needs an organ transplant to live. The circumstances surrounding my ordeal seemed overwhelming. However, I kept my faith and remained close to my family and friends. I did not know there was someone out there, someone who had never met me, yet prepared to bless me with life in the event they lost theirs. Every day, I appreciate and honor the person who donated their liver to me. My family and friends are extremely appreciative as well. While I will never meet my donor in this life, I look forward to thanking them many times over in the next.

*– Kenneth Parker*

### TRUTH

Livers are the second-most-needed organ after kidneys. Currently, 12% of patients waiting on the national transplant list are in need of a liver. Living organ donation offers another chance for these patients and reduces their time on the waiting list.

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GLOBALTRANSPLANTSOLUTIONS.COM

Rev. Damon Lynch Jr., Donation Champion



# NOVEMBER



## This is my reflection

As a longtime member of the UC Health Board, I became involved in LifeCenter as a part of my board responsibility. For ten or fifteen years, I prayed at the flag raising in the circle at University Hospital. Many of my congregants at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church have donated and received organs over the years.

When many members of the Black community believed that it was unbiblical to donate an organ, the New Jerusalem Baptist Church held an open-air service at Fountain Square, at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, to promote organ donation. Hundreds of people attended, and it helped to tell the truth about donation. I say to all who might be skeptical, don't be. God has given us life and if, at all possible you could be a donor, do it.

*- Rev. Damon Lynch Jr.*

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## Holidays

- 1 - Día de los Muertos
- 10-12 - National Donor Sabbath
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 12 - Diwali
- 23 - Thanksgiving

## TRUTH

National Donor Sabbath is an annual observance in November that is dedicated to creating resources and opportunities for faith leaders, of all religious denominations, to help build awareness and inspire their community members to register as organ, eye and tissue donors. All major religions encourage donation as an act of charity and goodwill.

SPONSORED BY



HARRISMEDIACO.COM

Jesiah Brock, Tissue Recipient



# DECEMBER

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**Holidays**

- 8 – Hanukkah
- 24 – Christmas Eve
- 25 – Christmas Day
- 26 – Kwanzaa
- 31 – New Year's Eve



## This is my reflection

When I was 18 months old, I was involved in a horrible accident that left me burned over a great area of my body. I underwent a skin graft procedure to improve my quality of life. At the time, skin grafting procedures were still fairly new and uncommon, and I like to think my experience helped inspire and encourage the medical community. My story has certainly inspired my family and has been a true testament of God's love.

In my faith tradition, we believe that when you give to others out of the kindness of your heart, you will be blessed with much more than you can even imagine. There are few greater acts of kindness than to give the gift of life to another.

My transplant allowed me to live a normal life through adolescence. I played sports, attended school dances, and started a family of my own. I now dedicate my life to the service of God through showing his love in our community.

I would encourage others to seriously consider becoming an organ, eye and tissue donor because the investment of life in others is one of the greatest testaments to our own humanity.

*- Jesiah Brock*

### TRUTH

In the United States, more than 2.5 million life-saving and healing tissue transplants are performed each year, offering patients a new chance at healthy, productive, and normal lives.

SPONSORED BY



COMMUNITYTISSUE.ORG



# JANUARY 2024



## This is my reflection

Being a registered organ donor means you may one day save or improve someone's life. It is truly a gift to the community, and I am proud to be among those who are on the tissue and organ donation registry. I did not consider donating my organs until about ten years ago when a friend shared the facts about organ and tissue donation. As president and CEO of the Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati, my knowledge has grown along with our partnership with LifeCenter. Organ donation became even more personal when I learned my brother needs a heart transplant. There are thousands of people in our community in need of a life-saving donation. I pray that each of them, along with my brother, will one day receive a donor's gift that will save their life. Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor today!

*— Renee Mahaffey Harris*

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### Holidays

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

### TRUTH

Nationally, more than 106,000 people are waiting for life-saving organ transplants, and each day 20 people die because an organ wasn't available in time.



## Read It. Share It. Inspire Others to *Donate Life!*

Today, 90% of Americans are in favor of being a donor, but only 60% are registered. Help us bridge the gap by sharing your story and ours! Be a donation champion for this life-saving mission and inspire others to say **"YES"** and register as organ, eye and tissue donors. You can register at your local driver's license agency, or online by visiting [lifepassiton.org](http://lifepassiton.org).

You can find these stories and many more, at [lifepassiton.org/inspiring-stories](http://lifepassiton.org/inspiring-stories) and at [youtube.com/LifeCenterOH](https://www.youtube.com/LifeCenterOH).

On behalf of the nearly 110,000 men, women and children who are currently waiting for the call that will end their wait, **THANK YOU** for your support!



Act as if  
what you do  
will make  
a difference.

# IT DOES.

– William James



## Our Sincere Gratitude

LifeCenter extends special thanks to the Jason Beck Memorial Fund and the Caudill Family, for their continued support of the annual LifeCenter Celebrate Life Calendar and Community Breakfast.

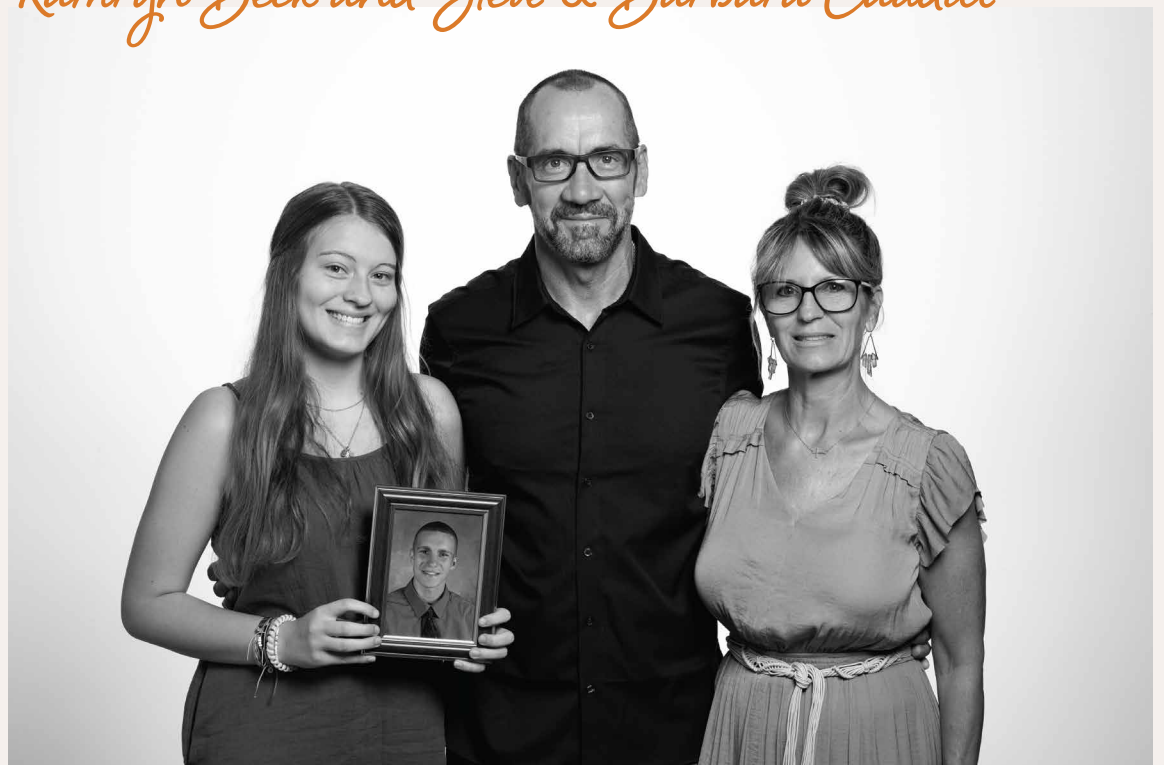
Jason Beck, a beloved young man, was tragically killed as a passenger of a vehicle in March, 2006. Prior to this, Jason had made the decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor and shared his decision with his parents. As a result of giving this miraculous gift, Jason helped to save the lives of others, including the 55-year-old who was his heart recipient and the 10-year-old girl who received the gift of his kidneys.

Though he is missed by his family and his daughter, Kamryn, Jason is truly a hero to them and to others! He was able to do more in his short 23 years than most could do in a lifetime. Each year, Steve and Barbara Caudill, Jason's parents, host a memorial golf tournament in his honor at the Aston Oaks Golf Club. This event raises funds for worthy organizations such as LifeCenter.

Jason's family is very proud of his decision to register as a donor; his decision to give the gift the life helped them make the informed decision to also register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

For more information on the Jason Beck Memorial Golf Outing, contact Steve and Barbara Caudill at [ifnot4@gmail.com](mailto:ifnot4@gmail.com).

*Kamryn Beck and Steve & Barbara Caudill*



### JASON BECK MEMORIAL FUND

Sponsor, Donor Family  
and Advocate





# About LifeCenter

LifeCenter, a Donate Life organization, began operating as an independent, non-profit organ procurement organization (OPO) in 1981. In 2006, LifeCenter also became a tissue recovery agency.

LifeCenter has been designated and approved by the Centers for Medicaid/Medicare (CMS) as the primary OPO serving eight counties in Southwestern Ohio, six counties in Northern Kentucky and two counties in Southeastern Indiana. LifeCenter is also accredited by the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO), and American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB).

As an expert in managing donation services, LifeCenter works in partnership with more than 50 local facilities, including three transplant centers. LifeCenter is committed to serving the Greater Cincinnati community with the highest standards of honesty and integrity, and to providing exceptional service to families touched by donation.

LifeCenter is also committed in building a diverse workforce reflective of the communities we serve and creating an inclusive culture that enables staff to perform at their best and deliver on our promise to Honor, Inspire, and Connect with our community until all in need receive the gift of donation.

## OUR MISSION

To save, heal, and change lives through organ, eye and tissue donation, while honoring those who gave.

## OUR VISION

Honor, Inspire, and Connect with our community until all in need receive the gift of donation.



Learn the

# POWERFUL TRUTHS

about organ, eye and tissue donation

There is a lot of misinformation about donation which creates distrust. The Powerful Truths campaign is LifeCenter's commitment to educating our communities on the truth about organ, eye and tissue donation. Knowledge is key. Educate yourself about these powerful truths and take a proactive role in your health and the health of your community.

### TRUTH

One donor can save up to 8 lives and heal more than 75 more through organ, eye and tissue donation.

### TRUTH

Saving your life is the top priority. Doctors don't know your donor status.

### TRUTH

60% of patients waiting for a life-saving transplant are people of color.

### TRUTH

Anyone can register to be an organ donor regardless of age, ethnicity or medical history.

### TRUTH

More than one third of all deceased donors are age 50 or older.

### TRUTH

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation.

### TRUTH

You can make a difference by saying YES to donation when getting your driver's license.

### TRUTH

Organ failure is highest among African Americans due to diabetes and high blood pressure. More than 30,000 African Americans need life-saving kidney transplants.



## CONNECT WITH US

To learn more powerful truths about organ, eye and tissue donation, please scan the QR code or visit [lifepassiton.org/powerful-truths](http://lifepassiton.org/powerful-truths)

# We Are a Resource

## Grief Support

LifeCenter's Family Aftercare Department supports donor families after the donation process is complete. This includes sending 'thinking of you' and anniversary cards, obtaining recipient updates for interested donor families, and facilitating correspondence between donor families and recipients. We also facilitate the process of direct communication when donor families and recipients would like to release confidentiality, and we provide yearly events honoring our donors and their families. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or we can be of help.

### FAMILY AFTERCARE COORDINATORS

**Katie Wright**

kwright@lifepassiton.org  
513-558-5555, ext. 619

**Kelly Smith**

kmsmith@lifepassiton.org  
513-558-5555, ext. 402



For tips on writing to your donor family, scan the QR code or visit [lifepassiton.org/writing-to-donor-families](https://lifepassiton.org/writing-to-donor-families)



For tips on writing to your loved one's recipients, scan the QR code or visit [lifepassiton.org/writing-to-recipients](https://lifepassiton.org/writing-to-recipients)

## Volunteer

LifeCenter provides a quarterly Donate Life Ambassador Orientation during the months of March, June, September and December. The orientation includes a detailed discussion about our organization, our role in the donation process, community outreach and education initiatives. All ambassadors are required to attend at least one of the orientations in order to help us in the communities we serve in the Greater Cincinnati area.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact [jkuhn@lifepassiton.org](mailto:jkuhn@lifepassiton.org)  
Visit [lifepassiton.org](https://lifepassiton.org)



Become an ambassador to make a difference and save lives! Complete a volunteer application today by scanning the QR code or by visiting [lifepassiton.org/volunteer](https://lifepassiton.org/volunteer)



## Donate Life. Share your Decision.

In addition to making a donation decision, sharing your decision about organ, eye and tissue donation is important. In fact, having the conversation with your family before something happens is the ultimate gift you can give your family. Letting them know that you have decided to be a registered organ, eye and tissue donor will help clear up any potential confusion, especially during a time of crisis and loss.

While conversations about end-of-life decisions are difficult, they don't need to be overwhelming. Acknowledge that this is an uncomfortable topic, but keep in mind that you're helping your family by letting them know your decision in advance, so there's no question about how to honor your wishes later.



## START THE CONVERSATION

### TALK

about the reasons you support organ, eye and tissue donation, and explain to your family how your decision to donate at the time of your death will offer hope to others.

### MENTION

a video, social media post or news story you've seen about donation.

### SHARE

your copy of the 2023 LifeCenter Celebrate Life Calendar, which features stories of hope, healing, and second chances.

You can help end the wait by being a Donation Champion and encouraging others to register their decisions as organ, eye and tissue donors at [lifepassiton.org](https://lifepassiton.org) and sharing their decisions with their families.



# HOW DOES ORGAN DONATION WORK?



## Waiting for a Transplant

When someone's organ fails, he or she may be evaluated for a potential transplant and placed on the national organ transplant waiting list. This list is very long and not everyone survives while waiting for a donor. Donors of all ages are needed.



## Becoming a Donor

Doctors work hard to save the patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option. The hospital contacts the organ procurement organization (OPO), which checks the donor registry. If the person is registered, the OPO will inform the family. If not, the family will be asked to authorize donation. Donation can provide solace to a grieving family.



## Saving Lives

A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list. Once matches are found, the wait-listed patients are contacted by their transplant teams. Organs are recovered from the donor with care and respect, and sent to hospitals for transplantation. Transplants restore lives and return recipients to be active members of their families and communities.



With Host

*Andi Johnson*



## Have You Heard?

*This Thing Called Life* is a podcast dedicated to sharing stories about acts of giving, kindness, compassion, and humanity. Host Andi Johnson will introduce you to powerful stories of individuals, families and healthcare teams whose experiences will, hopefully, inspire you and warm your heart. As we share heroic stories about organ, eye and tissue donors, recipients, and healthcare professionals on the front lines of life-changing, life-saving transplantations, our goal is to celebrate life and lift each other up. We will be having meaningful conversations about staying connected to what matters most, and share facts about organ, eye and tissue donation and keep you updated on medical advances.



**SCAN THE QR CODE** or go to [lifepassiton.org/podcast](https://lifepassiton.org/podcast) to learn more about This Thing Called Life and preview one of our episodes featuring former Cincinnati Bengal Ickey Woods.



**SUBSCRIBE** wherever you get your favorite podcasts to make sure you get updates on all new episodes. We truly appreciate receiving feedback, ratings and reviews.

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION MATTER

As an organization, LifeCenter is committed to creating a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment where staff, volunteers, and the communities we serve feel valued and respected. We believe in building a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming workforce culture reflective of our vision to Honor, Inspire and Connect with our community until all in need receive the gift of donation.

LifeCenter engages with all of our communities with curiosity and understanding while listening without judgement, especially in our communities of color, LGBTQIA+, youth and senior populations. Through our community outreach and education efforts, we connect with thousands of high school students and adults throughout our service area to help them make an informed donation decision.

Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers remain inspired and excited to make a difference in our communities as we talk about the positive impact of organ, eye and tissue donation in a respectful and meaningful way.



Event participants at LifeCenter's 2nd annual Live Healthy and Move event.



# LA DIVERSIDAD, LA EQUIDAD Y LA INCLUSIÓN SON IMPORTANTES

Como organización, LifeCenter se compromete a crear un entorno diverso, inclusivo y equitativo donde el personal, los voluntarios y las comunidades a las que servimos se sientan valorados y respetados. Creemos en la construcción de una cultura laboral diversa, inclusiva y acogedora que refleje nuestra visión de Honrar, Inspirar y Conectar con nuestra comunidad hasta que todos los necesitados reciban el regalo de la donación.

LifeCenter involucra a nuestras diversas comunidades con curiosidad y comprensión mientras escucha sin juzgar, especialmente en nuestras comunidades de color, LGBTQIA+, jóvenes y poblaciones de adultos mayores. Nuestros educadores comunitarios conectan con miles de estudiantes y adultos cada año en nuestra área de servicio para ayudarles a tomar una decisión informada.

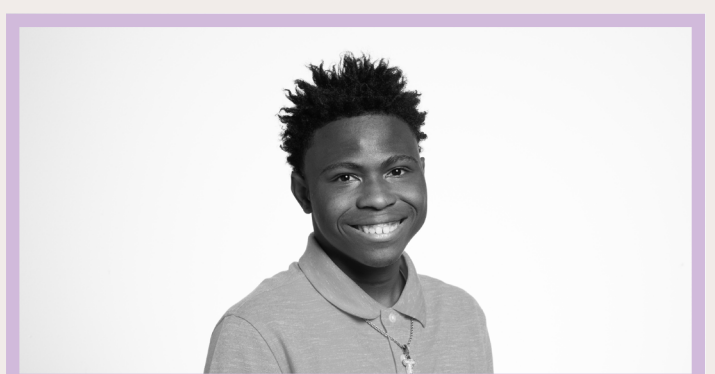
Nuestro dedicado personal y voluntarios siempre están emocionados e inspirados para hacer una diferencia en nuestras comunidades mientras hablamos del impacto positivo de la donación de órganos, córneas y tejidos en una manera respetuosa y valiosa.



Participants at a Cincinnati pride parade  
Participantes en un desfile del orgullo en Cincinnati



**Maryellen Witte**  
Liver Recipient / Receptora de hígado



**Taiquese "Tater" Hicks**  
Small Intestine, Pancreas & Liver Recipient  
Receptor de intestino delgado, páncreas e hígado



## Additional Sponsors

A special **THANK YOU** to the Aubrey Rose Foundation and KTO Classic in honor of Keith and Kurt Oblinger for their generous support of the 2023 LifeCenter Celebrate Life Calendar. Sponsor and community support is vital to continue our important work in the communities we serve. We cannot succeed without the generosity and unwavering support of our sponsors!

## Thank You

Words of appreciation are not enough for me to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow colleagues, sponsors, community and hospital partners, for their time and support of this worthwhile and humbling annual initiative; and to the thirteen calendar families who graciously and courageously shared their journey of donation and transplantation. Nonetheless, I want to convey my deepest thanks for being a true donation champion and for your dedication to helping save and heal lives in the Greater Cincinnati community.

*"I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks." —William Shakespeare*

—Jeannie Kuhn

Community Relations Manager, LifeCenter



*The LifeCenter Team*

## Credits

### PHOTOGRAPHY

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### CALENDAR COORDINATION


Jeannie Kuhn  
lifepassiton.org

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