



News from Livingston County, NY

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Livingston County Recognizes National Donate Life Month

Geneseo, NY, April 15, 2021 — The Livingston County Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is partnering with Donate Life New York State (NYS) to recognize April as National Donate Life Month, an annual observance highlighting the critical need for increased organ, eye and tissue donation in New York State.

During the month of April, the Livingston County DMV office urges all residents to learn more about organ, eye and tissue donations and to say yes to donation while completing transactions at the DMV. Promotional items and decorations will be on display throughout National Donate Life Month as a reminder of the importance of the gift of life.

Nearly 9,000 New Yorkers are currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant and 1,500 have been waiting for five years or longer. Each year, an estimated 400 men, women and children in New York State die because an organ does not become available in time.

Approximately 42% of New Yorkers are enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry (Registry), the electronic database that documents a person's consent to be an organ and tissue donor at the time of their death. The national average is 69%.

"As of December 31, 2020 Livingston County had approximately 56.6% of our residents enrolled in the registry as a percentage of the county population," Andrea Bailey, Acting County Clerk, said. "I encourage Livingston County residents to make a difference and give hope to those in need of a transplant by enrolling in the registry at the DMV, where nearly 80% of donors sign up or look for the Donate Life link on our website."

"The staff at the DMV engages with the public on this critical health issue more than any other agency," says Aisha Tator, Executive Director of Donate Life NYS. "The promotion of organ and

tissue donation during Donate Life Month has a lasting impact on the number of registered donors and the lives that will be saved through transplantation.”

All New Yorkers age 16 and older can enroll in the New York State Donor Registry, regardless of their medical history. The enrollment option is available on forms used to apply for or renew a driver license or non-driver identification card. New Yorkers can also enroll in the Registry while applying for health insurance through the New York State of Health and on voter registration forms. In addition, online enrollment is available at any time at donatelife.ny.gov/register.

Donate Life NYS is a non-profit organization comprised of organ and tissue recovery organizations, health professionals and individuals whose lives have been affected by donation. Their mission is to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in NYS through collaborative advocacy, education, promotion and research.

*Photo of Geneseo Student Zachary Mogavero who provided pastel chalk art work for the Livingston County DMV Office – Thank you Zachary!



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