ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION BY THE NUMBERS

8 - The number of people’s lives saved by signing up to be an organ donor.
50 - The number of lives that can be improved by being an organ/tissue donor.
77 - The average number of people who receive a transplant each day.
101,000 - The number of Americans waiting for an organ transplant at this very moment.
300 - The number by which the waiting list grows every month.
19 - The number of people who will die today waiting for a transplant.

MOST PEOPLE CAN DONATE ORGANS AND/OR TISSUE

People of all ages should consider themselves potential organ and tissue donors. There are few absolute exclusions (HIV positive, active cancer, systemic infection) and no strict upper or lower age limits. Potential donors will be evaluated for suitability when the occasion arises. No one is too old or too young. The condition of the organs is more important than age. Someone 35 years old with a history of alcohol abuse may have a liver that is in worse condition than someone 60 years old who has never consumed alcohol. Doctors will examine the organs and determine whether they are suitable for donation if the situation arises.

ORGAN DONATION FACTS

✓ Organ donation costs the donor family nothing.
✓ The donor may still have an open-casket funeral.
✓ An organ recovery team is not notified until all life-saving efforts have failed and the donor is declared brain dead.
✓ The medical team treating the potential donor is completely separate from the medical team that performs the transplant.
✓ Organ transplant success rates are as high as 95 percent.

HOW YOU CAN BE AN ORGAN & TISSUE DONOR

1. Register with your state donor registry. In Minnesota, you can register online at https://www.lifesourcedonorregistry.org/donate.aspx If you have any questions or concerns about completing the form, please call 1-888-5-DONATE.
2. Designate your decision on your driver’s license. Do this when you obtain or renew your license.
3. Sign a donor card now. Carry the donor card with you until you can designate your donation decision on your driver’s license or join a donor registry. If you are under 18, you will need the permission of a parent or guardian to donate. Donor cards are available in Student Health Services (HS140) and at a variety of locations around campus.
4. Talk to your family now about your donation decision. Help your family understand your wish to be an organ and tissue donor before a crisis occurs. They will be prepared to serve as your advocate for donation. Encourage your family and friends to sign up to be donors too! It may save someone’s life someday.

"Be a blood and organ donor. All it costs is a little love.”
~ Author Unknown