



## Everyone Can Choose to Give the Gift of Life

Less than half of all Californians are registered to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. As the need for lifesaving transplants continues to grow, so must our collective efforts to increase donation.

As part of a national network of 57 Organ Procurement Organizations, OneLegacy works with hospitals, physicians, transplant centers and donor families to facilitate donation for patients in need. But, with some 20,000 Californians waiting for a transplant, our work goes far beyond facilitation. We are also working to immerse ourselves in your community, educating and advocating for donation in partnership with local leaders in order to break down barriers that keep families from saying “yes” to giving the gift of life.

### Anyone Can Register to Be a Donor

Organ donation offers a second chance at life for thousands of Americans each year.

A single donor can:



Save up to **eight lives** through organ donation



Restore sight to as many as **ten people**



Save and heal more than **seventy-five lives** through tissue donation

Donation knows no racial, gender, age, sexuality, ethnic or religious bounds, everyone can become a donor at [www.OneLegacy.org/register](http://www.OneLegacy.org/register)

### How We Can Save More Lives

If a donor is not registered, families may authorize donation on their behalf. This means there are two ways to increase donation:



**1. Increase Number of Registered Donors**



**2. Increase Rate of Family Authorizations**

This work begins long before a potential donor reaches the hospital. It begins by educating our community and working together to break down the most common factors impacting registration and authorization:

**Community-Specific Mistrust & Misconceptions**

**Misunderstandings about Religious Allowances**

**Myths about How Organ Donation Works**

### Race and Donation

Factors including a lack of trust in the healthcare system, cultural preconceptions towards donation and lack of access to care have led to a 15–30% lower rate of donation amongst communities of color.

**OneLegacy is Working to Close the Donation Gap in Communities of Color**

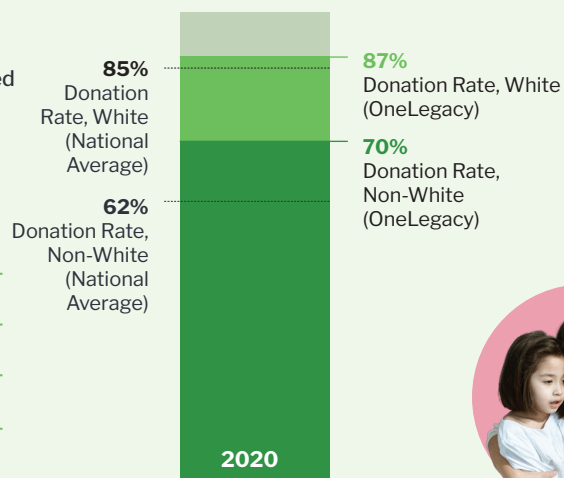
**Conducting targeted education**

**Dispelling myths**

**Creating community partnerships**

**Employing culturally and linguistically diverse staff**

**Working directly with trusted community leaders**





## Does My Religion Support Donation?

Every major religion supports donation and views it as the final act of kindness.

- ✓ Christianity    ✓ Judaism
- ✓ Islam           ✓ Buddhism
- ✓ Shintoism      ✓ Hinduism

*"It is not merely permissible for a Jew to bequeath his organs for transplantation following his death, it is a Mitzvah for him to do so, in order to save one life, or several lives."*

**RABBI DAVID GOLINKIN**

*"Organ donation is not only an act of social responsibility, but also an expression of the universal fraternity which binds all men and women together."*

**POPE FRANCIS**

*"The Fiqh Council agrees with many individual scholars and national and international fatwa councils in considering organ donation and transplantation to be Islamically permissible in principle. Done with a good intention, organ donation may be regarded as a rewarded act of charity."*

**FIQH COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA**

## The Facts About Donation

### Myth #1

If I have a pink donor dot on my driver's license, doctors won't try as hard to save my life.

### Fact:

Doctors are focused on saving your life—not somebody else's. Emergency and hospital caregivers have no access to the donation and transplant systems and are not incentivized or rewarded for facilitating donation. While a donor dot on your license is a powerful symbol of your decision to save lives, it will not affect the medical care you would receive in an emergency.

### Myth #2

My family will receive a bill if I'm an organ donor.

### Fact:

Donor families are never charged for donation.

### Myth #3

My family can't have an open-casket funeral if I donate organs.

### Fact:

The decision to give life is celebrated and donors are respected throughout every step of the process. An open-casket funeral is still possible after donation.

### Myth #4

Organ donation mostly benefits wealthy, white Americans.

### Fact:

Organs are allocated to those who need them most. One's position on the waiting list is never privileged or disadvantaged by race or wealth. 72% of local transplants facilitated by OneLegacy were received by a person of color.

### Myth #5

Race and ethnicity has no role in organ donation.

### Fact:

The need for organ transplants disproportionately affects many communities of color. Less access to medical care, cultural and community barriers to health and nutritional information, and mistrust of the medical system are some of the problems driving the higher rates of organ failure in communities of color. Unfortunately, these factors are also responsible for lower donation rates. Targeted outreach and education is working to address some of these factors, but communities of color saying yes to donation is part of the solution.