

"Organ donation is a blessing. It's a blessing you can find someone able to give life. A person has a big heart to do that. To the families of organ donors: thank you for raising someone willing to give a part of their life to help others out."



David Robinson, awaiting a kidney transplant, Gainesville

# LifeQuest

Organ Recovery Services

LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services is a federally-designated organ donor program serving a 36-county region of northern Florida. Our mission is to honor individuals' donor designations, to ensure families' opportunities to donate and to maximize the Gift of Life through organ and tissue donation. We are a founding member of Donate Life Florida.

To learn more about donation or to become involved in our volunteer efforts, please contact us at:

720 SW Second Avenue, Suite 570 North  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
(352) 733-0350 or (800) 535-GIVE  
PRDept@LifeQuest.ufl.edu  
[www.LifeQuestFla.org](http://www.LifeQuestFla.org)



[www.Facebook.com/LifeQuestFla](http://www.Facebook.com/LifeQuestFla)

If you have any feedback for our program, please email:

[Feedback@LifeQuest.ufl.edu](mailto:Feedback@LifeQuest.ufl.edu)



Donate Life Florida is a not-for-profit coalition of the state's organ and tissue donor programs and other individuals and organizations that share a common interest in saving lives through donation. Donate Life Florida manages the state's donor registry and educates Floridians on the importance of donation and how to join the registry.

Designate yourself as an organ and tissue donor by joining Florida's donor registry at [www.DonateLifeFlorida.org](http://www.DonateLifeFlorida.org) or when you receive or renew your Florida driver license at a local tax collector office.

You have the power to Save Lives.



"My students were wonderful to me. They would always look out for me in the classroom before my transplant. I'm now retired and lead the church choir. I have the freedom to enjoy life."

Shirley Brill, double-lung recipient, Jacksonville

## Fact vs. Fiction

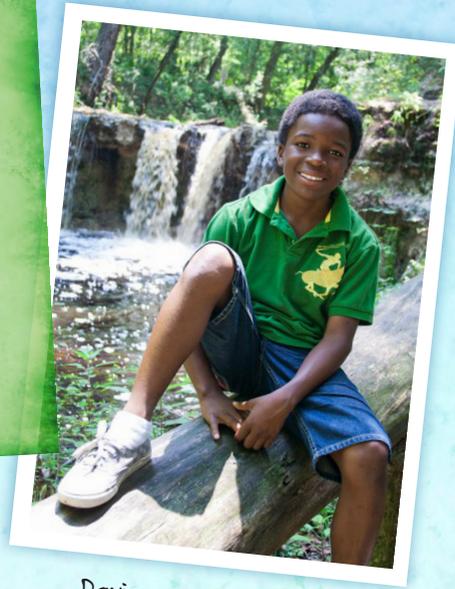
- Medical personnel make every effort to save a patient's life. Registering as an organ donor does not impact the quality of care received in the hospital.
- There are no costs to the donor's family for the recovery of organs. The procurement programs are responsible for those costs.
- Organ and tissue donation does not disfigure the body, allowing for open casket funeral arrangements.
- Nearly all major religions support organ and tissue donation, viewing it as one of the greatest acts of compassion.
- People of all ages and medical histories are able to register as donors.
- In the U.S., it is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissues.

Register to be an organ and tissue donor.



# Davion Smith's Loving Legacy Lives On

Davion Smith, a 13-year-old student at Lake City's Richardson Middle School, was known for his genuine kindness and sense of adventure. He was a gifted athlete, and he was on the football, basketball, track and wrestling teams. Davion was two days away from starting eighth grade when he entered into eternal rest on August 21, 2012.



Davion, organ donor, Lake City

"Davion always had a smile on his face," his mother, Charita Johnson, said. "He was always loving. He was always caring."

After his death, Davion's generous, loving legacy continues, as his mother chose for Davion to be an organ, tissue and eye donor.

"I felt that Davion would want to be an organ donor because he was a giver at heart," Charita said. "I believe if he had lived long enough to make the choice on his own, he would have wanted to give the Gift of Life."

Davion's life-saving gifts include the donation of both his kidneys and his liver, and the recipients range in age from 47 to 69 years old. He also enhanced the lives of many others through tissue and eye donation.

Davion's mother is an outstanding advocate for organ, tissue and eye donation, and she encourages others to support the cause.

"I believe everyone deserves the Gift of Life if they can have it," Charita said. "Many people lose loved ones due to the lack of organ donors. Through donation, I believe you live on by giving someone else life."



Shirley, double-lung recipient, Jacksonville

from the cover...

## Shirley's Story

"As an educator on the north side of Jacksonville, my students were amazing during my struggle to breathe prior to my transplant. I'm still in contact with many of the students. As minister of music at my church, attending services was still a top priority for me, despite the hardship of breathing with a lack of oxygen.

"Because of one 'yes,' I am alive. After transplant, I was able to return to work and later retire. I now volunteer by tutoring at local elementary schools, teaching piano and working with my church. It's great giving back to the community I love so dearly."

## The best gift of all is the Gift of Life.

By registering as an organ and tissue donor, you can save lives and provide patients with healthy lives, allowing them to return to their families and friends. An organ donor can save up to eight lives, and a tissue donor can enhance the lives of 50 or more.

Many people are not aware of the critical shortage of organs available for life-saving transplantation.

More than 122,000 people currently are on the national waiting list for organ transplants, and nearly a third of those waiting are African-American.

African-Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population and 14 percent of all organ donors. African-Americans also account for nearly **35 percent of all patients waiting for kidney transplants.**

### Donated organs and tissues can include:

Organ	Tissue
Lung	Bone
Kidney	Cornea
Heart	Heart valve
Liver	Skin
Pancreas	Ligament
Small intestine	Tendon

Sadly, the need for donors grows at a faster rate than those making the decision to become donors. Every 10 minutes, a person is added to the national organ transplant waiting list, and 22 people die each day while awaiting transplants.