

"I'm dedicating my life to honoring my donor's gift and making her proud of me. I'm a nurse practitioner because of her. I'm enrolled in a Ph.D. nursing education program because of her. I'm alive because of her, and I will never ever forget it."



Kimberly Clayton, kidney and pancreas transplant recipient, Jacksonville



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:

(352) 733-0350 or (800) 535-GIVE
 PRDept@LifeQuest.ufl.edu
www.LifeQuestFla.org

 Facebook.com/LifeQuestFla  Instagram: @LifeQuestFla

If you have any feedback for our program, please email:
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 or when you receive or renew your Florida driver license at a local tax collector office.

You have the power to Save Lives.



"Organ donors are life-givers. They give people like me a second chance at life and a new perspective on the world."

Keron, kidney recipient, Ocala

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.



A Hero Lives on: Shaquille Purifoy

"Shaq told me, 'You can't take organs with you. Why not give them to someone else once you've passed away?'"
Dewayne Purifoy said.

Shaquille "Shaq" Purifoy was a gifted multi-sport athlete, having played football, basketball and track at Pensacola's Pine Forest High School and continuing on to play football at Grambling State University. At GSU, his goal was to study to become a physical therapist.

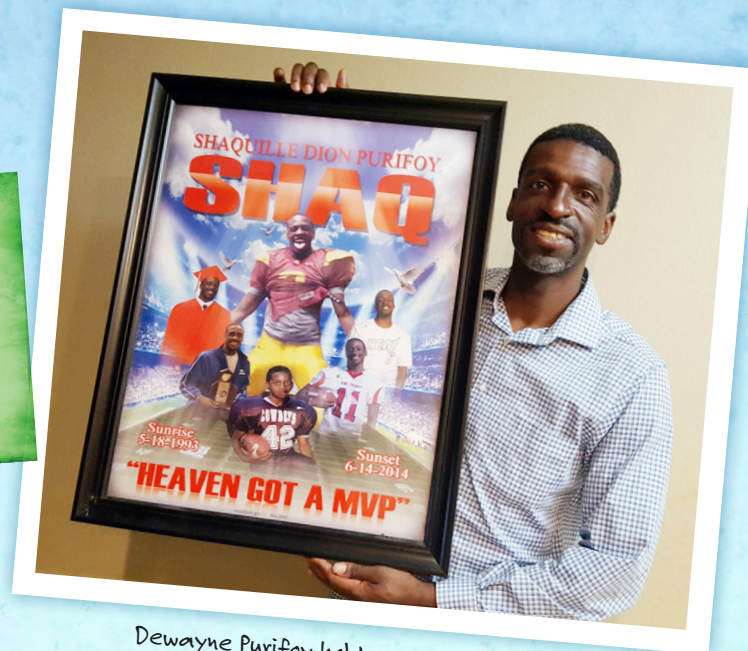
Shaq's future was tragically cut short when he was fatally shot on June 13, 2014. Shaq died at Pensacola's Sacred Heart Hospital the following day. He was 21 years old.

While Shaq's family waited in the hospital and learned that he had the opportunity to be an organ donor, his older brother, Dewayne, was reminded of a conversation he had with Shaq about eight months prior.

"I told our mom, 'Mom, we already talked about this. Yes, he will be a donor. I know it's what he wanted,'" Dewayne said.

By providing the Gift of Life, Shaq donated six organs to five recipients, ranging in age from 30 to 72. He donated his liver, left lung, pancreas, both kidneys and heart.

"It's comforting to know parts of him are living on," Dewayne said. "Knowing he saved five people's lives helps us find comfort in his death. He's a hero."



Dewayne Purifoy holds a poster of his brother, Shaq.



Keron, kidney recipient, Ocala

from the cover...

Keron's Story

Keron Johnson was a sophomore football player at Trinity Catholic High School when he received an abnormal physical leading into the season. Despite showing no symptoms, his blood pressure and creatinine levels were very high, and he would need a kidney transplant.

A few months later, on February 28, 2017, 15-year-old Keron received a kidney transplant at UF Health Shands Hospital.

"Organ donors are true heroes," Keron's mother, Donna Miller, said. "Organ donation has changed Keron's story."

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 more than 75.

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

Roughly 114,000 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 15 percent of all organ donors. African-Americans also account for nearly **32 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 20 people die each day while awaiting transplants.