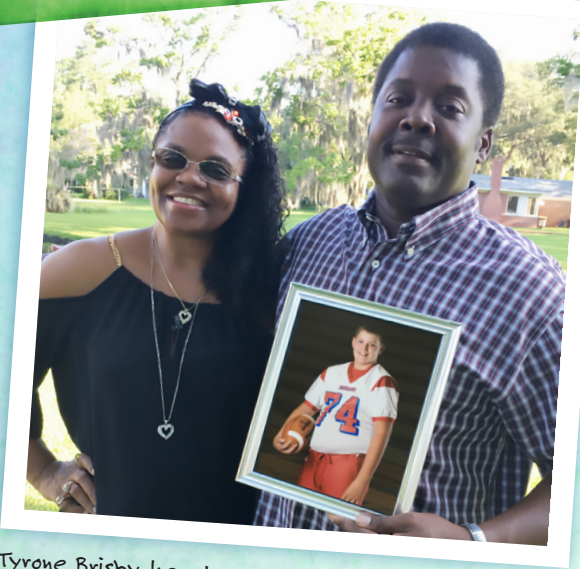


The best gift of all is the Gift of Life.

By registering as an organ and tissue donor, you can save lives and provide patients in need with healthy lives, allowing them to return to their families and friends.

"Organ donation is a selfless act of kindness. It's the greatest gift a person can give - the Gift of Life."

Tyrone Brisby



Tyrone Brisby, heart recipient from Jacksonville, and his wife, Dee, share a photo of his donor, Kyle Rodger

One organ donor can save up to eight lives, and a tissue donor can enhance the lives of more than 75.

Donated organs and tissues can include:

Organ

Lung
Kidney
Heart
Liver
Pancreas
Small intestine

Tissue

Bone
Cornea
Heart valve
Skin
Ligament
Tendon

Sadly, the need for donors grows at a faster rate than of those making the decision to register as donors.



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.



"Every day is a blessing. We are forever grateful for the Gift of Life and will cherish it. Organ donor - the true meaning of hero."

Ann Thomas (Wyatt's mother)

Wyatt Thomas, heart recipient, Bell, Fla.

Register to be an organ and tissue donor.



Donor Family Meets Heart Transplant Recipient

During their darkest time, the Evans family felt like they received a miracle. Through organ donation, Peyton's legacy lives on. Her generous gifts saved the lives of four people.



Peyton, organ donor, Ocala



Peyton's mother, Amy, listening to Peyton's heart beat inside Bailey's chest



Bailey's family and Peyton's family meeting for the first time

Peyton Evans was known for her infectious smile. She was a bright honors student whose positive energy touched those around her.

Peyton was a 15-year-old cheerleader at Ocala's Forest High School. After a morning workout with her father, Brian, in May 2014, Peyton mentioned having a terrible headache, then collapsed in the parking lot.

She was transferred to UF Health Shands Hospital, where she had emergency brain surgery. Following the surgery, she fought for her life for seven days. Sadly, Peyton's condition declined, and she passed away.

Following her passing, Peyton's heroic gifts included the donation of both her kidneys, her heart and her liver. The recipients ranged in age from 7 to nearly 50.

Bailey Baldwin, age 7, received Peyton's heart. Bailey had been in the hospital awaiting a heart transplant for more than eight months.

"From the beginning, the heart worked perfectly," Tia Aultman, Bailey's mother, said. "I can never express how grateful I am."

Since getting her heart transplant, Bailey has taken up multiple sports. She hopes to make the middle school tennis team.

One year following Peyton's death, both families met for the first time. Amy was able to listen to Peyton's heart beat inside Bailey's chest.

"To hear and feel my daughter's heart beating inside of Bailey's chest was indescribable," Amy said. "It is so comforting to know that Peyton lives on through her and others."

Statistics

- In 2017, more than 34,000 people in the United States received organ transplants, with more than 2,000 of them receiving their transplants at Florida hospitals.
- Roughly 114,000 patients currently are awaiting life-saving transplants in the U.S. In Florida, the waiting list has more than 5,300 patients.
- Every 10 minutes, a person is added to the national transplant waiting list.
- **Twenty people die each day while awaiting transplants.**
- 95 percent of Americans are in favor of being a donor, but the national designation rate is only 54 percent.

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.
- People of all ages and medical histories are able to register as donors, as the medical condition at the time of death will determine which organs and tissues can be donated.
- Nearly all major religions support organ and tissue donation, viewing it as one of the greatest acts of compassion.
- Organ and tissue donation does not disfigure the body, allowing for open-casket funeral arrangements.
- In the U.S., it is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissues for transplant.