

# Only the Facts Matter

10 important facts you should know about organ, tissue and eye donation.

**Fact** **Nationally**, there are **more than 110,000 people waiting for an organ to survive.**

**Fact** Every year, more than 1.75 million Americans receive tissue transplants of bone, heart valves, tendons, ligaments, corneas and skin.

**Fact** 95% of Americans are in favor of being a donor but only 56% are registered.

**Fact** All major religions support organ, tissue and eye donation and see it as a final act of love and generosity toward others.

**Fact** In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation.

**Fact** An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process, the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

**Fact** There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

**Fact** African Americans are the largest diverse race in need of organ transplants. Contributing factors are high rates of diabetes and high blood pressure which increase the risk of organ failure.

**Fact** **In Wisconsin**, currently 2,000 people are on the organ waiting list and more than 400 are African Americans.

**Fact** Only a quarter percent of African Americans and Hispanics who reside in Milwaukee are registered organ, tissue and eye donors.



414.937.6648  
CodeR@Versiti.org

[www.versiti.org/  
community-resources](http://www.versiti.org/community-resources)

Additional facts  
to remember:

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Versiti (formerly BloodCenter of Wisconsin) partners with faith-based communities in southeast Wisconsin through its CodeR initiative, or Churches for Organ Donation Education and Registration. This program invites people in diverse communities to learn more about and become advocates for organ and tissue donation.

