Donate Life Month
2021 Fact Sheet

Organ Donation Facts
- Every 10 minutes, a new person is added to the national organ donor waiting list.
- Sadly, 22 people die each day while waiting for an organ transplant.
- In Wisconsin, there are currently more than 1,600 people on the waiting list for an organ transplant. Nationally there are almost 108,000. To help put that into perspective, that is nearly 10,000 more people than it would take to fill Lambeau Field and Fiserv Forum, combined.
- Of the more than 1,600 people on the waiting list in Wisconsin, nearly 600 come from diverse communities.
- Black and African American individuals are the largest minority population in need of organ transplants. These communities experience higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, increasing the risk of organ failure and the need for transplants.
- The shortage of organs persists, despite the fact that more than 90% of Americans voice support for organ, tissue and eye donation. This is because too few members of the public (60% nationally) have taken the step to register to be donors or discussed the issue with their families.
- Versiti Organ and Tissue facilitated 353 organ transplants from 116 donors in 2020.
- People 15 ½ years or older can register today by visiting versiti.org/sharinglife.

Tissue/Eye Donation Facts
- Every year, more than 2.5 million Americans receive tissue transplants of bone, heart valves, tendons, ligaments, corneas and skin.
- Every year, more than 85,000 corneal transplants are performed to improve lives across the U.S.
- One tissue donor can save and heal the lives of more than 75 people.
- Versiti Organ and Tissue serves approximately 120 hospitals throughout Wisconsin.
- In 2020, Versiti supported 545 families who gave the gift of tissue donation.
For more information on donation, visit versiti.org/sharinglife.