

Live. Love. Share.

The Record's Newspaper In Education Program is working with **NJ Sharing Network** to present a special series for students, as well as adults. This series will examine organ and tissue donation from different angles, and may benefit classes studying medical issues, STEM subjects, as well as contemporary issues.

Saving lives through organ & tissue donation

“What is the Organ & Tissue Donation Process?”

Every death that occurs in a New Jersey hospital must be reported to the local organ procurement organization (OPO). NJ Sharing Network is the OPO for North and Central New Jersey. The organization works closely with its 54 hospital partners and six transplant centers to recover and place organs and tissue.

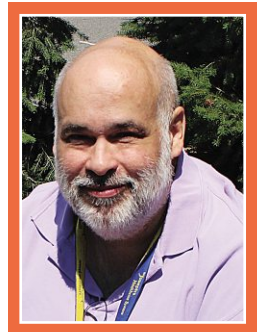
The recovery and transplant process includes:

- A potential donor is identified due to cardiac or brain death and hospital staff calls *NJ Sharing Network* to initiate the referral process
- Consent for donation is obtained either through the Motor Vehicle Commission database or from the patient's family
- Tests are conducted to determine if the patient's organs and tissue are suitable for donation
- Transplant recipients are identified via the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) list
- Specialized transplant surgeons recover the organs and they are transferred to transplant centers where recipients wait
- Donated tissue goes to a tissue bank where it is made ready for transplant

“Hero's Corner”: Alan Sori, M.D.

Dr. Sori works with NJ Sharing Network staff, transplant physicians and donor hospitals to help address clinical issues concerning potential donors. His years working in critical care and trauma have shown him much in dealing with unexpected tragedy.

“I see my role at NJ Sharing Network as an outgrowth of my work in trauma. Most of the times when we work in trauma, the outcomes are good. But, unfortunately, there are times when a patient does not survive, even though we've done everything possible. In those times, I have seen the incredible value of the sharing network's work. When you see someone whose life was saved through an organ transplant, it is very powerful. I've seen how organ donation can help donor families as well. By giving them the opportunity to help others, they are able to make some sense of their loved one's death.”



Alan Sori, MD, F.A.C.S., Donation Services Medical Director, NJ Sharing Network

Today's Exercise:

Search *The Record* to find hospital advertisements and articles that deal with health issues. Pretending that you were in a marketing position, create a letter to be sent to the public about some pressing health issue, or even one about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Compare letters with your classmates to find the one which is most persuasive.



For more information and age-appropriate educational materials, or to become a registered donor, visit www.NJSharingNetwork.org or call 800-742-7365.