

# 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*

### **“How Does a Volunteer Help Spread Important Messages to the Community?”**

A volunteer is a person who does some act or enters into a transaction without being under any legal obligation to do so and without being promised any remuneration for his/her services (Collins English Dictionary). *NJ Sharing Network* is grateful for its Donate Life Regional Group volunteers who raise awareness and educate the community on the importance of organ and tissue donation. Their goal is to increase the number of registered organ and tissue donors in New Jersey.

#### **“Hero’s Corner”:**

“I am Barbara Kuzminski, the co-leader of Donate Life Bayonne-Jersey City volunteer group, and a donor family member. To me, organ and tissue donation is the ultimate “Gift of Life.” My 20-month-old grandson, Jonathon Paul Kuzminski, died in 2011, and through Jonathon, two NJ children’s lives were saved because my family said “yes” to organ donation. We knew it was the right decision, and it was reaffirmed when we met Jonathon’s liver recipient, three-year-old Wyatt. During our darkest hours we were able to make a life-saving decision that allowed Jonathon’s legacy to live on in others.”



Barbara Kuzminski and Maryann Rosenberg, *NJ Sharing Network* Volunteers

“I am Maryann Rosenberg, and my family received the “Gift of Life” on August 14, 2004, when a family decided to donate life-saving organs of their loved one. Through this family’s generosity and strength, my husband, who had been living with an untreated genetic disorder and in the end stages of liver failure, remained here with his four children and me. It is my goal to allow other families to receive the same gift. Through our volunteer efforts we have seen an enormous increase in donations. Together, we hope that one day there will be no waiting list.”

#### **“Student Activity”:**

Think of school, sports, religious or any other types of groups to which you belong. Create an advertisement to recruit more members to your group. Now use those same skills to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Compare the advertisements with your class and choose the most persuasive one.



For more information and age-appropriate educational materials, or to become a registered donor, visit [www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org) or call 800-742-7365.