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For the next eight weeks, in honor of April's National Donate Life Month, the Newspaper In Education Program is working with New Jersey's Sharing Network to present this special series. More than 1.5 million Americans have their health restored each year through tissue donation. This series will examine tissue donation and transplantation from different angles.

Saving lives through organ & tissue donation

"Why are tissue transplants necessary?"

Every year, there are approximately 40,000-45,000 tissue donors and 43,000 eye donations in the US. One tissue donor can provide up to 50 life-enhancing transplants. Potential tissue donation includes bones, veins, skin, corneas, heart valves and tendons. Medical conditions such as severe trauma, degenerative joint disease, arthritis, burns, sports injuries, birth defects, some cancers and other conditions require the use of donor tissue.

VIP Corner

Donation Resource Coordinator

"As donation resource coordinator I contact families after a loved one has passed away to offer them the opportunity to donate tissue to help others. Every conversation is different. Sometimes the family cries, sometimes they can't even speak. Sometimes a call will end with a donor's family saying 'thank you.' That's really nice. There's nothing I could say or do at that particular moment to bring their loved one back. I just give them a brief respite from their grief and an opportunity for their loved one to help someone else".



Tatiana Martinez,
Donation Resource Coordinator

Today's Exercise:

Look through the Sports section of the newspaper. Find articles on athletes who have been injured and who might benefit from donor tissue.

What Can I Do?

Use social media to let your family and friends know what organ & tissue donation means to you.



For more information and age-appropriate educational materials, or to register as an organ and tissue donor, visit:

www.NJSharingNetwork.org or call 800-742-7365.