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The Newspaper In Education Program is working with NJ 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

How does a funeral director raise awareness about the importance of tissue donation?

Funeral directors play a critical role in the tissue donation process; their compassion and support of donor families is crucial. They help explain the donation process and reassure families that the decision to donate will not interfere with the funeral or viewing. After a death, a funeral director coordinates with a hospital and NJ Sharing Network to have tissue recovered. Donated tissue is used in numerous reparative surgeries, and enhances lives in so many ways. At the wake and funeral, special recognition is given to the donor for the gifts they gave.

VIP Corner

Ken Vander May

“You have to be supportive of the family in their time of grief. By the time a family gets to us they’ve already made the decision to donate. It helps them to know they’ve made the right choice. Funeral directors work very hard to help families celebrate their loved one’s life. Knowing their loved one was able to help others can provide a comfort.”



Ken Vander May

Today’s Exercise:

Research the tissue that can be donated, then explore the different kinds of surgeries that they are used in. Write a Letter to the Editor that explains the many benefits of tissue donation.

What Can I Do?

Speak to your family, friends and classmates about the different ways donor tissue is used. Ask them if they or anyone they know has ever needed donor tissue for reparative surgery.



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.