2024 National Donate Life Month Hospital Newsletter Article Template

***[Hospital Name*] Celebrates National Donate Life Month**

April is National Donate Life Month—a special time to honor those who have given the generous gift of organ and tissue donation, celebrate the second chance at life made possible for transplant recipients, and give hope to patients waiting for a transplant.

Each year during the month of April, *[****Hospital Name****]* partners with NJ Sharing Network to recognize the life-saving legacy of donors and encourage everyone to register as a donor and share their wishes with their loved ones. Among the initiatives we have planned for 2024 are ***[add specific ways]***.

Nationally, there are over 100,000 individuals on the transplant waiting list, and nearly 4,000 of them are here in New Jersey. At [***Hospital Name***], we witness firsthand the power of donation to restore the health of a patient. Last year, [***Hospital Name***] helped save and enhance the lives of over ***[add specific hospital numbers here]*** individuals through organ and tissue donation.

Jordan Herron, 19, of Jersey City was a caring young man with a bright future. His selfless nature was often seen in how he helped care for his younger sister, Isabella, who suffers from muscular dystrophy and epilepsy. Jordan had big dreams of becoming a firefighter to follow in the brave footsteps of his uncle, Jersey City Fire Department Captain Bryan Tullock.

“From the time he was a little boy, Jordan always told me his goal in life was to help others in need,” said Tracey Tullock, Jordan’s mother. “He had a joyful smile and down-to-earth personality that everyone loved.”

On July 20, 2019, an unthinkable tragedy occurred as senseless street violence claimed Jordan’s life. According to many neighborhood parents who were nearby during the shooting spree, Jordan was a hero as he yelled to others to hide behind parked cars for safety.

“I loved him with all my heart, and our family has felt such an overwhelming loss,” said Tracey. “He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.”

A silver lining in this horrific story is that Jordan was a registered organ and tissue donor. His tissue donation enhanced the lives of 38 people from around the world. Jordan’s corneas were transplanted internationally, and his saphenous veins were transplanted in Alabama. His gifts of tendons, skin and bones are also helping others live healthier lives.

According to Tracey, she had spoken with Jordan about organ donation just two years before he passed away. “We had a conversation about being an organ donor while we were sitting at the MVC,” said Tracey. “He asked me if I checked the organ donor box, and I told him, ‘Absolutely because mommy wants to always help others – whatever I can give, I will give.’”

**We hope you will join us in celebrating the gift of life during Donate Life Month. Here are just some ways you can get involved:**

* Celebrate those who have been touched by the gift of life and show your support by wearing blue and green—the colors of donation—on National Blue & Green Day:   
  **Friday, April 12.**

* Ask your local elected official to declare April as Donate Life Month in your town. Download a sample proclamation (and other resources) at www.NJSharingNetwork.org/HRSA.
* Visit NJSharingNetwork.org/HRSA to download graphics to share on social media throughout April in celebration of National Donate Life Month.

To learn more, get involved and register as an organ donor, visit [www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org).

***[Hospital logo*]**