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 2023 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.

On April 4, 2022, the untimely passing of Stephanie Smith, 24, of Jackson, NJ, shattered the hearts of her many family members and friends. The middle child of seven, Stephanie’s fun-loving spirit and energy always shined through. In addition to her warm personality, loved ones admired her many talents as a certified medical assistant, makeup artist and even an accomplished softball player.  
  
“She was truly one of a kind and lived life to its fullest,” said Donna Smith, Stephanie’s mother. “She found joy in life’s precious moments together with family. Our family members would often call her ‘The Appetizer Queen’ because she loved going out to eat with everyone.”  
  
While Donna and Wayne Smith continue to feel the loss of Stephanie each day, they find some comfort in knowing that a special part of her will continue to live on as an organ and tissue donor. Stephanie’s generous gifts saved the lives of four women and also restored sight for another woman.  
  
“I am thankful that I had discussions with Stephanie about organ and tissue donation,” said Donna. “Looking back and now seeing the impact that she made on others, I am happy that we supported her wishes. I believe that organ and tissue donation is something that everyone should discuss with their family.”  
  
Wayne is also grateful for the care and support the family received from NJ Sharing Network and the medical team at [Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital](https://www.linkedin.com/company/robert-wood-johnson-university-hospital/).  
  
“What really touched me about Stephanie’s donation was meeting her family and hearing about who Stephanie was. It was very apparent from our first interaction with them that Stephanie was cherished and loved. It was an honor to be a part of her final act,” said Kristine Maticka, Advanced Clinical Hospital Services Manager at NJ Sharing Network.

**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:**

* Register as an organ and tissue donor at **NJSharingNetwork.org** and have a conversation with your friends and family about your decision.
* Learn more about organ and tissue donation including common myths and misconceptions about donation at **NJSharingNetwork.org/frequently-asked-questions**.
* 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 **NJSharingNetwork.org/DLM**.
* Visit **NJSharingNetwork.org/DLM** to download graphics to share on social media throughout April in celebration of National Donate Life Month.

***[Hospital logo*]**