2025 National Donate Life Month Hospital Newsletter Article Template

**[Hospital Name] Honors the Gift of Organ and Tissue Donation During National Donate Life Month**

April is National Donate Life Month - a time to celebrate the power of organ and tissue donation, honor the selfless donors who have saved and enhanced lives, and inspire more people to register as donors. At [Hospital Name], we are proud to stand alongside our partners at NJ Sharing Network in championing this lifesaving mission.

Throughout April, we will join communities across the state in raising awareness about the critical need for organ and tissue donation and recognizing the incredible impact of donors and their families. This year, [Hospital Name] has planned [add specific initiatives] to encourage our team members, patients, and the community to learn more and take action.

Every day, lives are transformed through the gift of donation, yet the need remains great. More than 100,000 people across the country are waiting for a transplant, including nearly 4,000 here in New Jersey. At [Hospital Name], we see firsthand the hope that donation brings, and we remain committed to making a difference in the lives of those in need. Last year alone, our hospital helped save and enhance the lives of [add specific hospital numbers] individuals through organ and tissue donation.

 ***Dennis Vaccaro***

***Organ Donor***

*U.S. Army Sergeant Dennis Vaccaro of West Long Branch, NJ, lived a life of purpose and bravery. A dedicated soldier, son, husband, and friend, Dennis embodied selflessness and service, values that endured beyond his time on earth.*

*Dennis joined the Army in February 2016, serving as an airborne combat medic with the 82nd Airborne Division, including a tour in Afghanistan. Known for his commitment to his fellow soldiers, he often went above and beyond, even volunteering his leave time to ensure a friend could be with family.*

*“Dennis had a way of always putting others first, even in the smallest things”, said his mother, Teri Vaccaro. “That’s who he was—selfless, thoughtful, and always looking out for others.”*

*In June 2023, Dennis’s life was tragically cut short in a motorcycle accident, but his dedication to helping others continued through his final act of service as an organ donor. His heart, kidneys, and liver were transplanted to save four lives in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, giving each recipient a renewed chance at life.*

*“Dennis’s caring spirit lives on,” said Teri. “Our family likes to say he gave ‘super gifts’—and that’s who Dennis was strong, generous, and truly heroic.”*

*Dennis’s legacy extends further through the Dennis A. Vaccaro Foundation, established to honor his memory. The foundation raises funds to support veterans, promote organ donation, and provide scholarships for students at Shore Regional High School pursuing academic or vocational careers.*

*Dennis left a proud legacy of love, bravery, and generosity. Although his family feels his loss deeply, his gifts as an organ donor and the lives he saved bring them comfort, knowing his spirit of giving continues.*

**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 11.**

* Ask your local elected official to declare April as Donate Life Month in your town. Download a sample proclamation (and other resources) at <https://www.njsharingnetwork.org/dlm-hospitals/>.
* Visit <https://www.njsharingnetwork.org/dlm-hospitals/> 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*]**