



ANNUAL REPORT

Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee

2023

90% vs 60%

According to the most recent data from the National Survey of Organ Donation Attitudes and Practices, 90% of the U.S. adult population supports organ donation but only 60% are signed up as donors.

Register Today!





This page was intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

1 FROM THE ACTING CHAIR and VICE-CHAIRPERSON, and DHSS DIRECTOR

Kevin Lee, Chairperson of
the Governor's Organ Donation Advisory
Committee

Paula F. Nickelson, Director of the Missouri
Department of Health and Senior Services

2 GOVERNOR'S ORGAN DONATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

Program updates

4 LIVED LIFE, GAVE LIFE

Donor Family Recognition Program

7 EDUCATE, INSPIRE, SHARE

Increasing awareness about the importance
of organ, eye and tissue donation, including
the committee's financial summary

16 MISSOURI SNAPSHOT

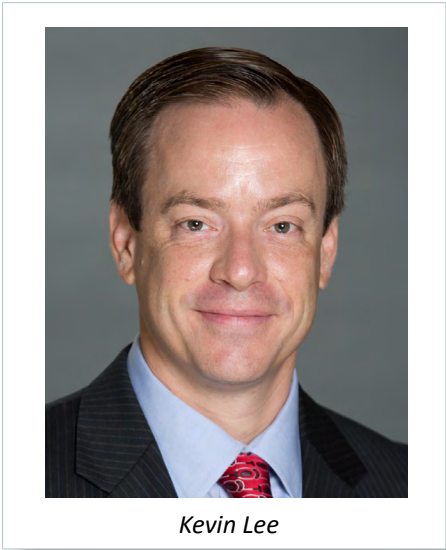
Data reports

19 LICENSE OFFICES

Achievements of local license offices

21 REGISTRY PARTICIPATION

Organ donor registration percentages and
percent of change from Missouri's local license
office registrations



Kevin Lee



Paula F. Nickelson

From the Chairperson

Across our great state, over 1,400 Missourians are waiting for a life-saving solid organ transplant. Every day, thousands of healthcare professionals and volunteers work to educate the public on the benefits of organ, tissue and eye donation while encouraging individuals to join the registry at [DonateLifeMissouri.org](https://www.donatelifeMissouri.org).

Missouri is fortunate to have the Governor's support in coordinating many of these efforts. Currently, the Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee (GODAC) consists of representatives from donor families, recipients, the Department of Health and Senior Services, Midwest Transplant Network and Mid-America Transplant. Together, we are committed to serving those who are waiting for a transplant.

We live in a state where individuals and their families say "Yes" to organ, tissue and eye donation at high levels. These donor heroes provide the "Gift of Life" to complete strangers creating a ripple effect that improves the lives of the recipient and their friends and families. As you read through the 2023 annual report, I invite you to spend time reading the story on Donor Family Recognition Day. This day celebrates the legacies of these donor heroes. It also reminds us that we can make a difference.

We anticipate the process of committee appointments to change in FY24. The Governor's Office historically made these appointments, and we expect this responsibility to transition to the department director. This report highlights collective efforts in Missouri and we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely, Kevin Lee

From the Director

As we reflect on the year gone by, it is with deep gratitude and appreciation that we extend our sincerest thanks to each member of this committee. Your commitment to advancing organ, eye and tissue donation initiatives is the driving force behind our collective success. Your support and guidance have not only enriched the committee's endeavors but have also reverberated across communities statewide, inspiring action and fostering a culture of generosity and compassion.

Together, we have made strides in increasing public awareness and improving access to transplantation, and you have been advocates for policies that promote organ donation. Your invaluable contributions have been pivotal in creating a legacy of hope and healing.

The department wishes to especially thank Deb Simaitis for more than 12 years of service to this committee. As a donor wife and mother, she truly displayed to Missourians how she turned her tragedy into a source of hope and promise for the future. Deb, we appreciate your efforts and heartfelt support of this program.

Let us continue to unite in our commitment, drawing inspiration from the lives touched by our collective efforts, many of whom we are able to hear from annually at the recognition event (read about this poignant event on p. 4).

We would also like to give special thanks to those who are registered as donors and those who advocate for organ, eye and tissue donation. We are profoundly grateful for your generosity.

Respectfully, Paula F. Nickelson

Advisory Committee Members



Kevin Lee

Member

Term: 2022-Present
Organ Procurement
Organization
Representative



Debra Simaitis

Vice-Chairperson

Term: 2011-Present
Donor Family
Representative



Jan Finn

Member

Term: 1999-Present
Organ Procurement
Organization
Representative



Peter Nicastro

Member

Term: 2006-Present
Organ Recipient
Representative



Lori Clark

Member

Term: 2022-Present
Organ Procurement
Organization
Representative



Mary Ann Burns

Member

Term: 2022-Present
Donor Family
Representative



Virginia Beatty

Secretary

Term: 2006-Present
DHSS Representative

The committee recommends expenditure priorities from the Organ Donor Program Fund; assists in the development of organ donor awareness programs and submits an annual report of activities and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly and the Department of Health and Senior Services Director (RSMo 194.297, 194.299, and 194.302). The committee is dedicated to this service through collaboration with partners across the state.

APPOINTMENTS & ACTIVITIES

The GODAC Committee monitors the Organ Donor Program Fund balance and registry data, engages with donor families, and continues to monitor, discuss and make recommendations related to organ, eye and tissue donation to the department. During the 2023 legislative session, members provided feedback about proposed legislation. Legislation impacting organ, eye and tissue donation in Missouri was the passage of HB402 which modifies advisory committee appointments and do-not-resuscitate orders. Read bill content at <https://house.mo.gov/bill.aspx?bill=HB402&year=2023&code=R>. The committee members elected Kevin Lee as the Chairperson and Debra Simaitis continued as Vice-Chairperson through June 29. Discussions about the Donate Life Missouri Facebook page continue. Committee vacancies are anticipated to be filled in early 2024. Mr. Nicastro is in need of a kidney transplant and we continue to keep him in our thoughts.

Advisory Committee Members

Saying Goodbye *by Kevin Lee*



Deb Simaitis served the Committee from January 26, 2011-June 29, 2023.

"Please extend my deepest appreciation to Governor Parson for allowing me the profound privilege of serving the donors and donor families in Missouri."

Many of us are familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan. In this story, the Good Samaritan does not focus on what divides us but rather what unites us. The Good Samaritan acts for the benefit of all.

For over a decade, the Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee has been served by a Good Samaritan, Deb Simaitis. She has dedicated countless hours in service in Missouri and to the Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee uniting people from across Missouri around organ, tissue and eye donation.

Deb served to honor her donor hero, her daughter Laura. She and her late husband San, also a donor, attended countless events and meetings together, working diligently and tirelessly to increase awareness and knowledge regarding organ, tissue and eye donation across our state. Through this work, they told Laura's story and inspired hundreds, if not thousands, of other families to celebrate the legacy of their own donor hero and to encourage others to register as donors.

We have all benefited from knowing and serving alongside Deb. After 12 1/2 years of service, and careful consideration, Deb has decided to step down from the Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee. On behalf of committee members past and present, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Deb for her leadership, compassion, dedication and understanding.

Kevin Lee, Chairperson

Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

Donor Family Recognition Program *by Ian Collins*

Organizations Involved

Many organizations and their staff assisted the 2023 Donor Family Recognition Program. Their support helps make this event possible for our Missouri families whose loved ones were organ, eye and or tissue donors.

Governor's Organ Donation
Advisory Committee

Mid-America Transplant

Midwest Transplant Network

Saving Sight

Gift of Life

Missouri Kidney Program

Missouri Department of
Conservation

Missouri Department of Revenue,
Motor Vehicles Division

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed
Company

Missouri Department of Health and
Senior Services

City of Jefferson

Jefferson City Parks and Recreation

Missouri State Museum



Kim Hamilton, kidney recipient, spoke about the person who saved her life because of the decision to be an organ donor.

The eighth annual Donor Family Recognition Program was held on April 11, 2023, at the Capitol Complex in Jefferson City, Mo. The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Organ and Tissue Donor Program and its partners honored 95 organ, eye and tissue donors from across Missouri.

At the start of the event, donor families had the opportunity to visit staff from Midwest Transplant Network, Mid-America Transplant, Saving Sight, Gift of Life, and the Missouri Department of Revenue. While visiting at the Capitol families also enjoyed interacting with other families, visiting the museum and participating in one of the guided tours.

continued on page 5

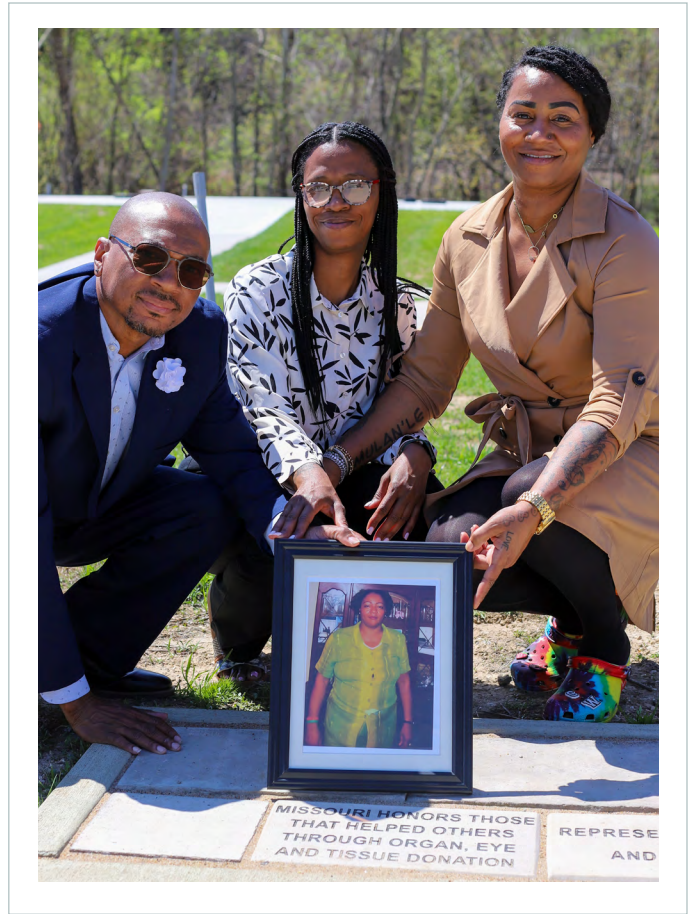
Continued from page 5

This year, the DHSS had the honor of dedicating a memorial paver at Deborah Cooper Park on Adrian’s Island. The paver reads, “Missouri honors those that helped others through organ, eye and tissue donation.” The dedication ceremony had a great family turnout; many shared stories about their loved ones. It was an amazing part of the day for all involved. The paver will be a reminder of those who gave the gift of life in the past, present and future for years to come.

The Donor Family Recognition program occurred at the Harry S. Truman State Office Building. Families enjoyed painting rocks, making bracelets and visiting with each other. Families received flower seeds donated by Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company and plants from the Missouri Department of Conservation to plant in honor of their loved ones. Families were provided a picture of their loved one in a photo mat with the words “Lived Life, Gave Life” to place on the picture wall. The DHSS Director Paula F. Nickelson presented a certificate and tribute coin to each donor family during the ceremony.

Program speakers shared powerful stories of how donation or transplantation impacted their lives.

That evening, the families gathered in the Carnahan Memorial Garden. With the donor photo wall displayed in the garden, donor families had time to visit with one another and share their loved ones' stories. Kevin Lee, Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee Chairperson and CEO of Mid-America Transplant, thanked families for their loved ones' decision to give the gift of life. Rev. Jeff



Vickie Younes’ family honors their mother who gave the gift of life.

Higbie invited families to come forward and share their thoughts or stories of their loved one. Many families accepted the invitation. The evening closed with a prayer by Rev. Jeff Higbie and family members collecting their loved one’s photo to take home.

Donor Family Recognition is a memorable event. It brings together families with a shared experience that many do not understand. It is a time to reflect on their loved ones and the gift of life they provided to, in many cases, a total stranger.

Planning is underway for the 2024 event scheduled for April 16, 2024, in conjunction with the annual Missouri Donate Life Day. Program staff look forward to continuing the tradition of honoring donors and their families.

95

Donors
Honored

185

Donor Family
Participants

155

Video Views

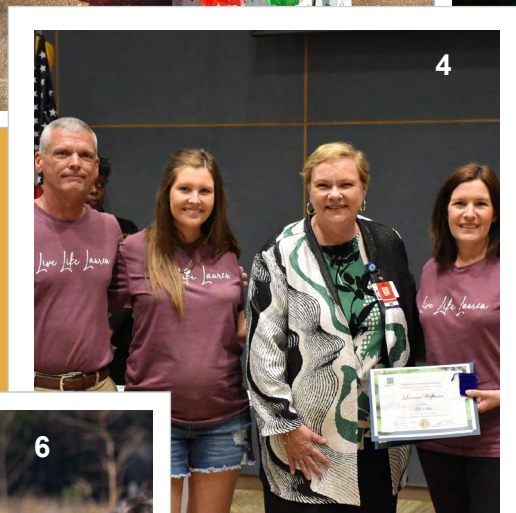


Photo 1: Photo by Laurie Hines, Missouri Kidney Program, of donor mother at the donor photo wall. Photo 2: Heart design created by DHSS staff at the Governor's Garden. Photo 3: Kevin Lee, Mid-America Transplant, reflects on the gift of life given by those being honored. Photos 4 and 7: DHSS Director Paula F. Nickelson, presents certificates to donor families being honored. Photo 5: Deb Simaitis, donor mother and spouse, with a family member. Photo 6: Donor family members attending the memorial paver dedication.



Educate, Inspire, Share

Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

Organ Donor Program Fund *by Virginia Beatty*

Governor Michael L. Parson signed HB 2331 and SB 710 in June 2022, which gave the Organ Donor Program Fund the ability to receive contributions from grants, gifts, bequests, the federal government and other sources.

Since January 2023, the state treasurer has invested funds not required for immediate disbursement and in the manner that surplus state funds are invested. Investing contributions that the generous people of this state voluntarily provide embodies responsible planning and management. It also encapsulates the Department's strategic value of integrity. The investment earned

\$12,059.71 during the first six months and was deposited into the fund.

Missourians are generous people with many contributing to the Organ Donor Program Fund while visiting their local license office. During FY23, Missourians donated over \$330,000 when renewing a license and over \$18,000 with the purchase of "Be a Donor" license plates.

Funds support the Donate Life Missouri registry, donor family recognition program, educational efforts and the Organ and Tissue Donor Program.

FY 2023

7.1.2022 - 6.30.2023

	Budgeted	Actual
Available Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 660,813.18	\$ 660,813.18
Revenue	\$ 331,160.00	\$ 371,099.56
Expenses	\$ (460,289.00)	\$ (481,616.11)
Personnel	\$ (241,001.00)	\$ (230,674.98)
Education & Program Initiatives	\$ (46,400.00)	\$ (66,848.88)
Program Operations	\$ (12,120.00)	\$ (11,910.91)
Registry Operations	\$ (160,743.00)	\$ (172,181.34)
Refunds	\$ (25.00)	\$ 0.00
Projected Available Ending Cash Balance	\$ 531,684.18	\$ 550,296.63
Dept. Operations & Network Costs		\$ 94,816.98
Fund Ending Cash Balance		\$ 645,113.61

Program Highlights *by Ian Collins*

Registry Updates

This year, the Organ and Tissue Donor Program modified the registry system and public facing website pages to create a better user experience. Enhancements included a list of commonly asked questions and automated responses; thus delivering citizens better and faster access to information. The addition of the donor symbol and pop-up in the on-line “register” and “edit pages” has reduced confusion about the pre-printed symbol versus the donor sticker on the driver license and state ID. Lastly, the addition of search criteria and indexing updates increased speed and search accuracy for authorized users.

New Logo

The department released its new logo September 2022. The new symbol and colors align with the department mission and its collaboration with public health partners throughout the state.

Features of the new logo include:

- The curved line in the middle of the logo has dual representation. The curve is seen as Missouri’s journey toward better health. Additionally, the line is viewed as a stream. DHSS and its partners work to move health care upstream in order to improve overall population health. Upstream efforts seek to create community-level impact and improve community conditions by addressing social determinants of health. Midstream efforts seek to create individual-level impact by meeting individuals’ social needs through screenings, referrals and other individually-focused processes. Downstream efforts seek to create patient-level impact by providing clinical care.
- The medical cross is one of the most internationally known medical symbols. It represents non-biased health for all people. DHSS works to protect the health of Missourians, working alongside the state’s health care providers.

To learn more about the DHSS logo, read the September 1, 2022 press release titled "Missouri DHSS launches new department brand" at <https://health.mo.gov/news/>.

HB 402

Governor Parson signed House Bill 402 which gives the DHSS Director appointing authority for the Organ Donation Advisory Committee effective August 28, 2023. The legislation also removes the Senate confirmation process. The committee’s name will change to Organ Donation Advisory Committee and function the same as before.

55 Years

The Organ and Tissue Donor Program and advisory committee will be celebrating 55 years of service to Missouri beginning January 1, 2024.

Program staff looks forward to another year of serving the citizens of Missouri through organ, eye and tissue donation in collaboration with our partners.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES**



Missouri Kidney Program *by Laurie Hines*

Cynthia Smiles

Delta Dental of Missouri funded a Missouri Kidney Program (MoKP) pilot project in partnership with seven federally qualified health centers. The project, called Cynthia Smiles, is ending in the fall after serving 52 patients. Cynthia Smiles provided financial assistance for critical oral health issues that needed to be addressed in order for people to qualify for a kidney transplant. The MoKP has learned a lot about the demand, challenges, successes and work effort needed to expand and maintain this pilot project as a permanent program. Currently, there is no funding to continue or expand this program.

Ms. Laurie Hines and Missouri State Dental Director Jacquelyn Miller, DDS, will present together at the Missouri Primary Care Association conference on October 27, 2024, in St. Charles, Mo. The audience will consist of federally qualified health enter staff, chief medical officers and dentists.

ETCLC

Missouri Kidney Program Director Laurie Hines continues to be active in the federal learning collaborative quality improvement (QI) focused on best practices for increased kidney donation and transplantation. Ms. Hines serves as the patient/family representative on the Region T10 QI team. This QI team includes transplant centers, organ procurement organizations and donor hospitals from several states.

My Transplant-Ready Workbook Second Edition

The DHSS continues to collaborate with MoKP and Health Literacy Media on the second edition of the "My Transplant-Ready Workbook." This edition is nearing completion and should be in

audience testing in the fall, with final edits being made during the winter.

The revised workbook is expected to be in print by spring 2024, and the release of a Spanish language version shortly after. This will be the first time the workbook will be available in a language other than English.

Transplant Assistance

MoKP reimburses for non-medical related expenses for a transplant recipient and/or a living donor. This can include lost wages due to time off from surgery and travel expenses. There are many barriers to transplant and these funds help alleviate some of those barriers. The Transplant Assistance Program will reimburse up to \$1,000 for each applicant. In an effort to continue to reach recipients, MoKP continues to cultivate relationships with transplant centers throughout Missouri.

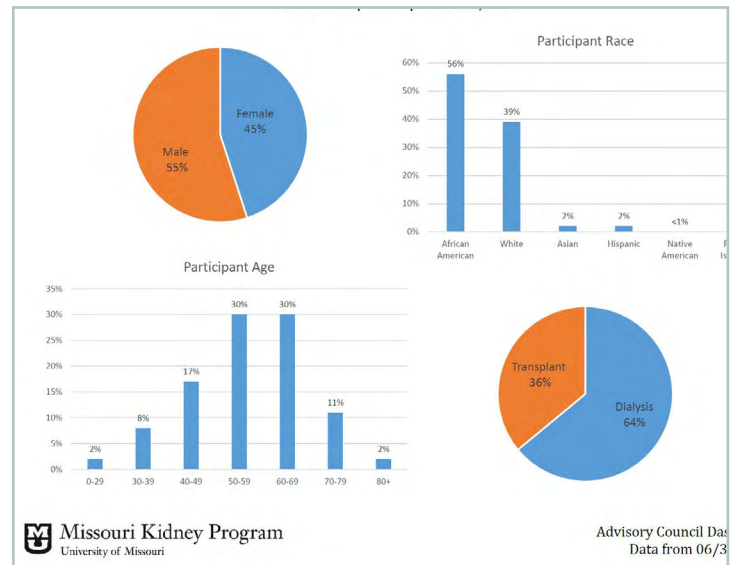
CKD ECHO

The fifth year of the Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) ECHO kicked on September 7, 2023. An excellent series of short didactics and case presentations are planned. Guest speakers for the upcoming ECHO series include Dr. Susan Reed, internal medicine at Washington University presenting on obesity and CKD. Dr. Samantha Gelfand, dual board-certified neurologist and palliative care, Brigham and Women's Hospital, will present on palliative care and end of life.

The CKD ECHO occurs on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from noon until 1 p.m. Show Me ECHO is offering Maintenance of Certificate Part II credits for the Kidney ECHO this year. Join the Kidney Disease: Prediction, Prevention, Protection-Show-Me ECHO at <https://showmeecho.org/clinics/kidney-disease/>.

Show Me CKDintercept Initiative

MoKP continues partnership and collaboration with the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) to advance a shift in primary care toward increasing early diagnosis and management of CKD. Three qualitative research focus groups were conducted in Missouri to increase resource engagement, CKD understanding and patient activation. Missouri payor roundtable discussions continue and allow senior leaders from Missouri health plans to discuss kidney disease strategies and priorities. In addition, nearly 5,000 at home urine albumin-creatinine ratio home tests have been distributed in Missouri as part of the collaborative outreach with Affinia Healthcare; Missouri residents were reached through Missouri federally qualified health centers. These tests increase awareness of CKD and patient activation in their own care.



Did you know ...

MoKP served 1,170 participants during FY23¹

Participants enrolled in MSPs²
QMB 319
SLMB 202

MoKP dispensed \$5,305,990 in medications while only spending \$88,212⁷

MoKP has four MO-SHIP Certified counselors

MoKP has its own in-house FSD caseworker

Assistance Provided to Participants

	# of participants	Amount Spent
Transportation ³	183	\$231,104
Private Premiums ⁴	78	\$239,789
Transplant Assistance ⁵	33	\$32,169
Centralized Drug Program ⁶	1,025	\$128,881

Other Assistance Provided by MoKP

	# of participants	Amount Spent
Spenddown Pay-In ⁸	517	\$534,338
Ticket to Work ⁹	68	\$52,863

"Everyone is so very helpful at all times. Great at explaining to me concerning meds and how to take them and why."

99% of participants say transportation assistance makes it more likely they will get to dialysis regularly and maintain a weekly schedule

"You guys have been awesome. I've been with you for six years now and I deeply appreciate everything you do for me. It's nice to know there's still good people left."

100% of participants say medication assistance makes it more likely they will take their medicines regularly and as prescribed



Gift of Life

Celebrating 25 Years *by Kim Harbur*

Gift of Life began in 1998 and has been educating high school students as well as mentoring transplant patients, caregivers, and living donors for 25 years. The impact of the organization's work has been life changing as well as lifesaving.

Founders Kim and Nate Harbur did not realize that 25 years later their work would remain so important. Their infant child Luke received a liver transplant and is now a thriving 28-year-old. They were grateful for his second chance at life and felt it was important to educate others about organ, eye, and tissue donation.

The Life Savers classroom program educates high school students about organ, eye, and tissue donation so they can make an informed decision. This program is offered in 100 Kansas City metro high schools. Thanks to a generous grant from Mid-America Transplant, the Life Savers program has expanded to the St. Louis area.

It is impossible to present to all school districts in person across the state of Missouri. So a subcommittee of the Governor's Organ Donation Advisory Committee developed Learn Life Savers (learnlifesavers.com), an online tool for teachers to educate high school students about donation and to encourage discussion with family. The hope is that learnlifesavers.com will be used in school districts that we cannot reach in person.

If it saves one life at a time ... 25 years is not long enough!

Gift of Life also offers Transplant Mentors. They match a transplant recipient, caregiver or living donor with individuals that are getting ready to face their personal journey of a transplant. This program is offered in 40 transplant programs from coast to coast. This year, Gift of Life will set a record of mentoring over 100 individuals during 2023.

Twenty-five years is a long time to do something. But if it is saving one life at a time...25 years is not long enough!



Gift of Life

25 YEARS

Mid-America Transplant

Nursing and Funeral Home Scholarships *by Karen Spector*

One of the key ways we can nurture advocates for donation is by educating those who interact with families during the difficult time of loss – including nurses and funeral home professionals.

Nurses are at the front line when a family grapples with end-of-life decisions, often answering questions to help families make a decision regarding organ and tissue donation. Also integral to the success of donation are funeral directors, who are influential in helping families choose donation and reassuring them they are able to have funeral/memorial services of their choice to say goodbye to their loved one.

To educate and develop these advocates, the Mid-America Transplant Foundation has donated over \$30,000 to support nursing and mortuary science students through scholarships and apprenticeships. We're working to make careers in nursing and funeral services more accessible to the next generation of professionals by supporting their education, so they can make an impact in supporting organ and tissue donation.

Students who receive the scholarships will also visit Mid-America Transplant to observe the on-site surgical recovery center and learn how their chosen careers connect to donation. They will have the opportunity to interact with Mid-America Transplant staff, many of whom started their own careers in hospitals and funeral homes.

“Both nurses and funeral service professionals are important to Mid-America Transplant’s mission to save lives through organ and tissue donation, and it is critical that we build relationships with them from the beginning of their careers,” said Kevin Lee, Mid-America Transplant President and Chief Executive Officer. “By supporting today’s students, we are helping to create compassionate professionals that will be better prepared to support families as they choose donation and bring hope and healing from death.”



Lacy Ipoc, left, is a nursing scholarship recipient through Mid-America Transplant Foundation. She attends Missouri State University and visited Mid-America Transplant for a presentation and site tour. She was accompanied by Undergraduate Program Director Alison Alaimo and Clinical Assistant Professor Karla Conner, below.





Midwest Transplant Network

Celebrating a Donor Care and Surgical Recovery Unit *by Becky Storm*

On Sept. 1, 2022, Midwest Transplant Network (MTN) opened its new world-class Donor Care and Surgical Recovery Unit (DCU) after years of careful planning, preparation, and training on the processes and technology associated with an in-house facility. Since then, with support from many hospitals, and professional and community partners, MTN has cared for 131 donor patients from 29 area hospitals in their DCU, 35 donor patients were from Missouri.* These 131 donor heroes provided 415 lifesaving organs to those who desperately waited for a second chance.

The DCU features a seven-bed on-site intensive care unit, two state-of-the-art operating rooms, a CT scanner with technology to conference remotely with physicians, a specialty laboratory, and a family support lounge for donor heroes' loved ones to gather if desired. Deceased patients who meet certain clinical criteria may be eligible to move to the DCU, where MTN staff members continue administering high-level critical care to maintain organ viability until surgical teams begin organ recovery.

Since the DCU opened, MTN has enabled more organs per donor to be transplanted than before, with the average number of organs transplanted per donor increasing from 3.1 pre-DCU to 3.35 post-DCU when compared to the same type of donor characteristics recovered in donor hospitals.

"It's an honor to fulfill the mission of MTN in this incredibly important work and also recognize the need to continue innovating and improving to honor donor heroes

and their families," said Jan Finn, RN, MSN, president and chief executive officer at MTN. "We are proud to see our staff and facility working so well allowing us to extend the gift of life to even more recipients and provide hope for those awaiting a transplant."

MTN staff members are highly trained in the complexity of caring for organ donor heroes in the DCU, which was designed specifically to maximize the gift of life; this can free up critical resources in area hospitals — such as intensive care unit beds and operating rooms — to serve other patients in need.

"My team has complete confidence in sending our patients to Midwest Transplant Network's DCU," said Carol Perry, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Stormont Vail Health; MTN Advisory Board. "The state-of-the-art facility allows MTN's team of expertly trained staff members to provide specialized care for donors as their gifts are matched with recipients and throughout the organ, eye, and tissue recovery process. Knowing our donor heroes are receiving

high-quality care at the DCU allows us to dedicate resources to critically ill patients in our ICU."

Out of 56 organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the U.S., MTN is just the 12th organization with a donor care and recovery center that is not based in a hospital. The DCU is one of many ways MTN works to honor donor decisions while improving outcomes for transplantation.

* All DCU data pulled from Sept. 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023.



Saving Sight

Impactful Collaboration *by Annie Kuhl*

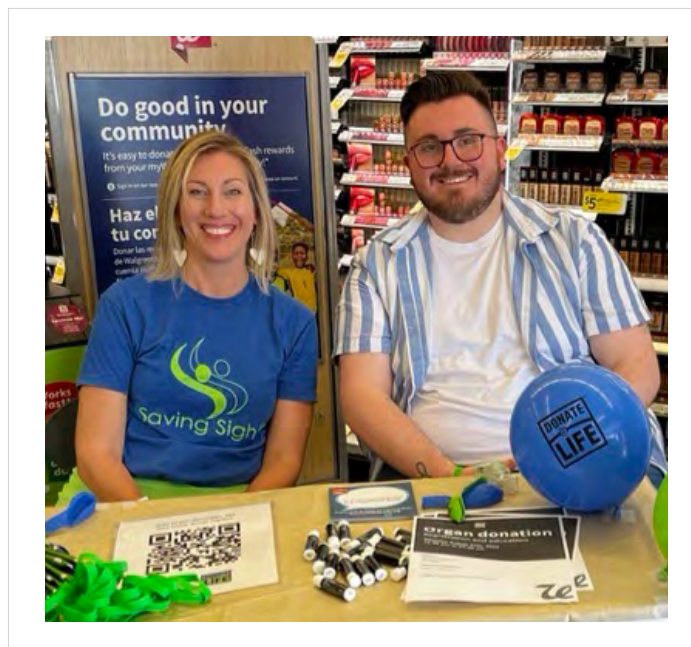
Saving Sight, in partnership with Donate Life America and Walgreens, made significant strides in supporting donor designation in Missouri during this past year. August, designated as National Multiethnic Donor Awareness Month (NMDAM), served as a focal point for their joint efforts to encourage donor registration and raise awareness about the need for diverse eye, organ, and tissue donors.

Across 14 stores in Missouri, Saving Sight's dedicated volunteers and staff, supported by Walgreens and Donate Life America, engaged with many individuals on a busy Saturday afternoon. While many of those encountered were already registered donors, the interactions provided valuable opportunities to connect with donor families and transplant recipients. These firsthand conversations highlighted the profound impact of organ, eye, and tissue donation, showcasing stories of restored sight and life-saving organ transplants.

The role played by Saving Sight's exceptional volunteers



Saving Sight's Hospital Development Manager, Courtney Welch, and Digital Media Specialist, Mehalet Kesate Birhan, manning their booth at a local Walgreens.



Saving Sight's Chief Communication Officer, Annie Kuhl, and Digital Communications Specialist, Jonah Durbin, manning their booth at a Walgreens store near their office.

cannot be overstated. Their commitment, coupled with the support of staff and local Lions Clubs, contributed to the success of this event and demonstrated a dedication to the cause. Witnessing the direct influence of their efforts within their own communities was a powerful and empowering experience for everyone involved.

The collaborative spirit between Saving Sight, Donate Life America, and Walgreens exemplifies how sharing information with the public and the hard work of staff and volunteers can make a big difference. The conversations had during these interactions have the potential to offer many individuals a renewed chance at life and sight. Through their combined efforts, these organizations have not only raised awareness but have also paved the way for tangible, life-changing outcomes in the realm of organ, eye, and tissue donation in Missouri.



Educate, Inspire, Share

Missouri Department of Revenue *by Gina Wisch*



The Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR) Motor Vehicle and Driver Licensing Division (DMV) and its contracted license offices and central branch offices continue as a proud partner supporting donor registry enrollment and collection of monetary contributions. At the time of processing each applicant for a driver license, ID, or permit is provided the option to enroll in the registry, elect to have a donor symbol added to their printed card, or give a monetary donation of \$1 or more to the donor fund. During FY 2023, DOR offices offered these options during processing of approximately 1.5 million driver licenses, nondriver identification cards, and permit transactions statewide. Additionally persons completing motor vehicle registration transactions may also elect to give a monetary donation of \$1 or more to the donor fund.

As of September 2023, DOR has issued 898 Missouri motor vehicle license plate registrants have been issued a "Be An Organ Donor" specialty plate to show their support of donor programs. To learn more about how to obtain the "Be An Organ Donor" specialty plate visit the department's "Personalize and Reserve" web page at <https://dor.mo.gov/motor-vehicle/plates/personalize-reserve.html>.



Order your Be An Organ Donor specialty plate at dor.mo.gov
[Click to learn how.](#)



Missouri Department of Conservation *by Jake Buxton*

In 2023, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) provided continued sponsorship of the Donor Family Recognition program that takes place yearly in April. MDC provided swamp milkweed plant roots for each of the donor families to plant in honor and memory of loved ones who gave the gift of life. The milkweed plant is also a source of life for monarch butterflies by providing food and nesting materials.

Missouri hunters and anglers can enroll in the Donate Life Missouri Registry after completing MDC's on-line hunting and fishing permit purchasing portal.



Registrants by Age

65+	862,900
55-64	637,894
45-54	690,654
35-44	871,671
25-34	785,947
18-24	387,766
15-17	73,286
≤14	4,026

Source: Donate Life Missouri Registry system, does not include out-of-state registrants. (7.1.2023)

Missouri Registrants

4,210,598

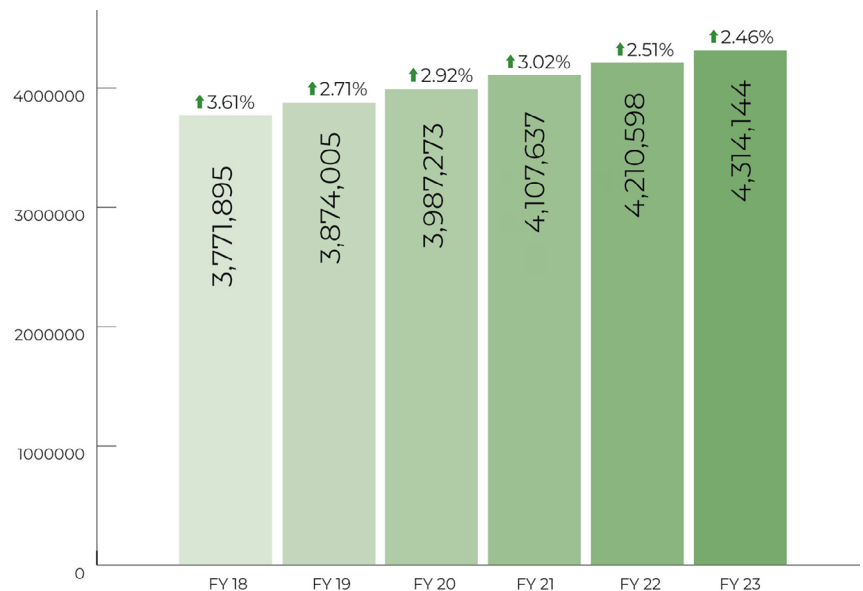
Source: Missouri Donor Registry System, does not include out-of-state registrants. (6.30.2023)

Registrants by Sex

Female	Male
2,279,119	2,035,023
52.83%	47.17%

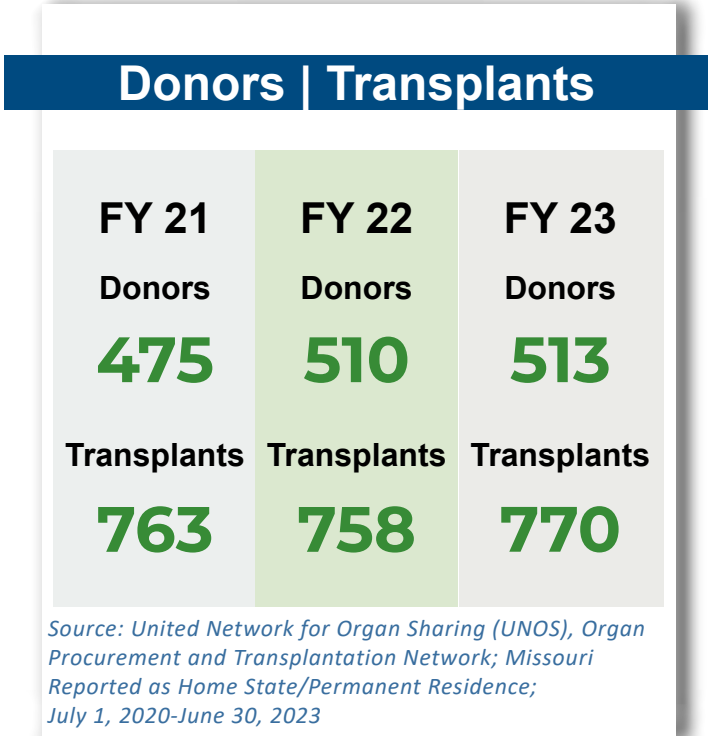
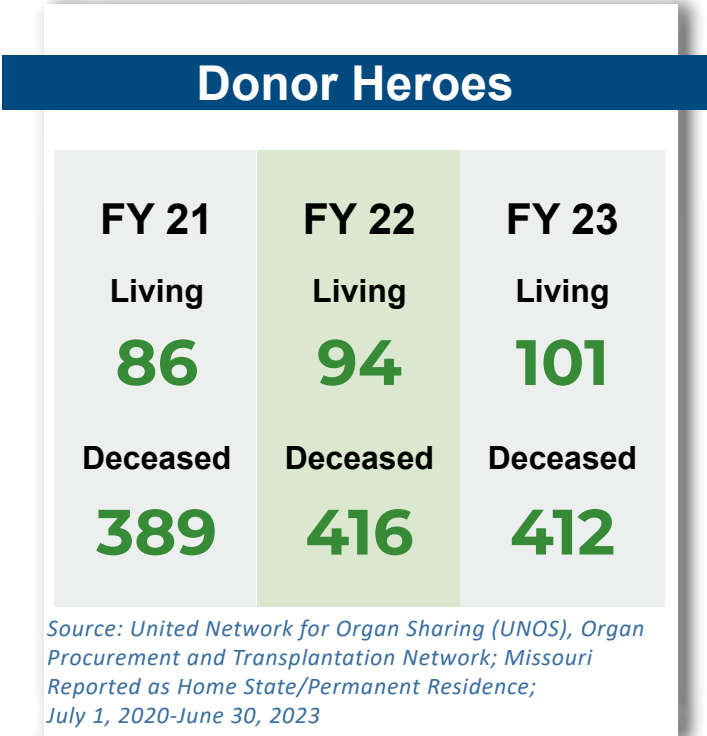
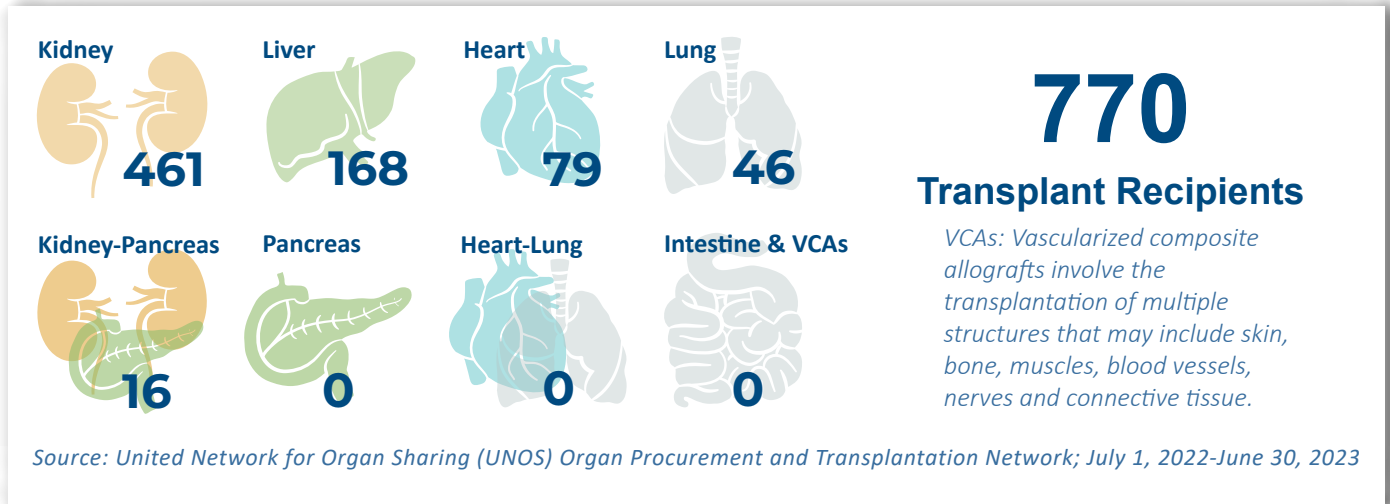
Source: Donate Life Missouri Registry system, does not include out-of-state registrants. (6.30.2023)

Total Registrants By Fiscal Year



Source: Donate Life Missouri Registry system age distribution report. Data does not include out-of-state registrants. (6.30.2023)

Transplant Statistics



One deceased organ donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of 75 or more.

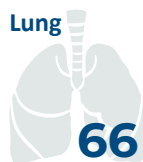
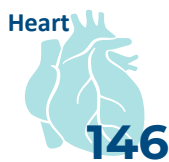
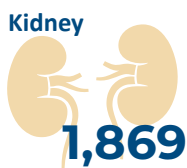
A living donor can donate a kidney or part of their liver to help save a life.

Notes: All data in the Missouri Snapshot section reflects people whose permanent residence is or was Missouri. Some data in this report is from United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) data requests. The content is the responsibility of the authors alone and does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. Data from OPTN is based on the recipient or the donor information indicating that the individual's permanent residence or primary residence is Missouri. Data is subject to change due to future data submission or correction.

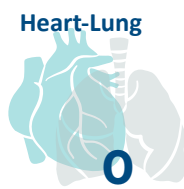
Ever Waiting	
Organ	Individuals Waiting
Heart-Lung	0
Heart	34
Intestine	1
Kidney	1,197
Kidney-Pancreas	34
Liver	141
Lung	18
Pancreas	6
Total*	1,406

*Source: United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) as of July 31, 2023, the number of residents waiting for an organ transplant whose permanent residence at listing was Missouri. Note: *Total number of patients in all organ types is less than the sum of the organs due to patients listed for multiple organs.*

Wait List Removal: Death or Too Sick



2,440
 Removed From Wait List



VCAs: Vascularized composite allografts involve the transplantation of multiple structures that may include skin, bone, muscles, blood vessels, nerves and connective tissue.

Source: United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network; Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2022



Donation Awareness *by Stefanie Dotson and Becky Storm*

DMV Spotlight — Maryville Licensing Bureau

The Maryville Licensing Bureau is one of many licensing offices that the Midwest Transplant Network partners with to grow Missouri's organ, eye, and tissue donor registry. This office regularly goes above and beyond to share the message of donation with its patrons.

Assistant Manager Stefanie Dotson talked with Midwest Transplant Network about her important role in the donation process and shared her personal ties to donation in this Q&A.

Q: Tell us a bit about the role the DMV plays in organ, eye, and tissue donation.

A: As a DMV worker, any time I issue a permit or driver's license, we ask if they would like to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor. I have found that many people are unaware of the program and have no knowledge of the benefits. At that time, I am able to inform them with the facts and use my personal experiences so they can make the right decision for them.

Q: Tell us about your connection to organ, eye, and tissue donation.

A: I have several connections to organ, eye, and tissue donation. I have a friend who has received two kidneys, and I'm happy to report she's doing great! My mother-in-law had three kinds of cancer, and she was still able to donate her corneas when she passed. The one most dear to my heart is my organ donor hero nephew. He was 16 years old when tragedy struck, and we found ourselves devastated by the news he would not be going home with us. I looked at my sister and said, "You know what the next question is, right?" She said, "No, what?" I said, "Do you want to donate his organs?" She took a bit to talk it over and decided she would. The honor walk was amazing. My sister has since received letters from some of the recipients, which have been amazing to read.

Q: How does your specific office help inform and educate patrons on the importance of joining the donor registry?

A: Our office always tries to find fun ways to open up the conversation about being a donor. We like to participate in any decorating contests that are available. We have different displays with facts about being a donor and we include the people we know are recipients or have become a donor hero in our display. Around the holidays, we decorate a tree with the donation colors and add bracelets for the public.

Q: Why do you feel your office's efforts to promote the need for organ, eye, and tissue donors are so important?

A: I feel it is important to inform people of the facts about being a donor. There are lots of misconceptions out there about the details that scare people away. When people are informed with facts, it's easier for them to make the decision to be an organ donor.

Q: What is the biggest misconception you hear about donation in your personal and/or professional life?

A: The biggest misconception I hear is: "I was told I can't donate my organs by this doctor because of this."

My mother-in-law's corneas were still used even though she had three different cancers.

Q: If there is one thing you could share with others about the importance of joining the donor registry, what would it be?

A: I just would like people to realize how life-changing it is to be a recipient of an organ. Your loved one gets to live on and is celebrated by people you never knew existed because they have a part of your loved one, with them, every day.



FY 23 Recognition

The local license offices with the highest percentage of registrations and contributions per transactions receives recognition in the form of a certificate and listing in the

annual report. Awards are calculated on a quarterly and yearly basis. Each list begins with the license office with the highest ranking.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Yearly
Registrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant City Platte City Rock Port Columbia South Ozark 	Registrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Columbia South Liberty Des Peres Platte City Kingston 	Registrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platte City Des Peres Columbia South Pacific Maplewood 	Registrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Des Peres Platte City Pacific Columbia South Nixa 	Registrations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platte City Columbia South Des Peres Liberty Pacific
Contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creve Coeur Jackson Princeton Ozark Perryville 	Contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Princeton Arnold Salem Ozark Cuba 	Contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maplewood Princeton Jefferson City Salem Cuba 	Contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salem South County Maplewood Perryville Princeton 	Contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salem Princeton Perryville Maplewood Ozark

Percent of Change

These tables reflect the highest percent of increase from the previous fiscal year for registrations and contributions. The calculation is by location and is independent of the contractor. A full report showing the percent of change for registrations by office over the previous fiscal year begins on page 22.

Registrations		
Office	County	Percent of Change
New Madrid	Reynolds	37.7
New London	Ralls	30.2
Van Buren	Carter	24.6
California	Moniteau	11.1
Mountain Grove	Wright	10.9
Potosi	Washington	10.9
Poplar Bluff	Butler	9.3
Crane	Stone	9.1
Monroe City	Monroe	8.9
Viburnum	Iron	8.3

Contributions		
Office	County	Percent of Change
Salem	Dent	40.2
Perryville	Perry	33.0
Poplar Bluff	Butler	28.4
California	Moniteau	24.1
Jackson	Cape Girardeau	19.9
New London	Ralls	19.8
O'Fallon	St. Charles	19.5
Nixa	Christian	18.6
South County	St. Louis	18.5
Maplewood	St. Louis	14.7

Note: Contractor change, office closure, or new office during FY 22 or FY 23 may alter the percentage. Data is subject to change based on future data submission or correction.



Missouri Registry Participation

Participation by License Office by Ian Collins

According to the 2019 National Survey of Organ Donation Attitudes and Practices, the U.S. adult population supports organ donation; however, only 60% are actually registered donors. To every clerk that asks every individual if they want to be a registered donor, thank you. Your work helps record donor designations that save lives!

DATA LIMITATIONS: Registry participation is for July 2022 through June 2023 and is based on the total transactions and number of individuals responding "yes" to being placed on the registry. Percentages are calculated by location independent of contractor. A contractor change, new office, or office closure may alter the percentage. Percent of change refers to change from the previous fiscal year.

**The Elsberry and Gallatin offices opened in 2023 and no comparison data available. The Grant City, Fredericktown, Houston, New London and New Madrid Offices were closed for a period of time either this fiscal year or the previous fiscal year skewing percent of change. Data is subject to change based on future data submission or correction.*

County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change	County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change
ADAIR			CALDWELL		
Kirksville.....	53.20%	+5.8	Kingston.....	64.21%	+4.4
ANDREW			CALLAWAY		
Savannah.....	52.89%	-12.3	Fulton.....	56.23%	-1.4
ATCHISON			CAMDEN		
Rock Port.....	63.48%	+1.8	Camdenton.....	61.98%	-0.9
AUDRAIN			CAPE GIRARDEAU		
Mexico.....	53.99%	+0.8	Cape Girardeau.....	55.35%	-1.4
BARRY			Jackson.....	62.41%	-2.1
Cassville.....	52.68%	+2.0	CARROLL		
Monett.....	53.67%	+3.2	Carrollton.....	53.21%	-2.0
BARTON			CARTER		
Lamar.....	59.94%	+6.0	Van Buren.....	48.4%	+24.6
BATES			CASS		
Butler.....	59.09%	-4.1	Belton.....	60.49%	+3.5
BENTON			Harrisonville.....	62.57%	+0.3
Warsaw.....	52.79%	+5.3	CEDAR		
BOLLINGER			Stockton.....	56.81%	+0.1
Marble Hill.....	46.54%	-0.9	CHARITON		
BOONE			Keytesville.....	50.94%	+4.4
Columbia.....	53.52%	+0.5	CHRISTIAN		
Columbia South.....	68.90%	+0.1	Nixa.....	66.17%	+1.0
BUCHANAN			Ozark.....	65.95%	-1.1
St. Joseph.....	51.98%	+1.0	CLARK		
BUTLER			Kahoka.....	59.82%	+3.4
Poplar Bluff.....	50.21%	+9.3			

Missouri Registry Participation



County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change	County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change
CLAY			GRUNDY		
Excelsior Springs	64.24%	-2.3	Trenton	48.13%	+6.5
Gladstone.....	54.02%	-4.7	HARRISON		
Liberty.....	66.77%	+1.4	Bethany.....	52.36%	+3.1
North Kansas City.....	47.62%	+3.5	HENRY		
CLINTON			Clinton	56.55%	+2.6
Cameron	59.81%	+2.6	HICKORY		
Plattsburg.....	62.59%	-1.7	Hermitage.....	55.45%	+6.0
COLE			HOWARD		
Jefferson City	57.70%	-0.1	Fayette	57.10%	+3.6
Jefferson City Mini Branch	59.59%	-1.1	HOWELL		
COOPER			Mountain View	48.47%	+5.1
Boonville	58.39%	+6.0	West Plains	52.47%	+0.5
CRAWFORD			Willow Springs	53.7%	-1.4
Cuba.....	56.9%	-3.8	IRON		
Steelville	53.10%	-5.2	Arcadia Valley	49.23%	+4.6
DADE			Viburnum.....	41.56%	+8.3
Greenfield	58.98%	+0.8	JACKSON		
DALLAS			Blue Springs	59.39%	-5.4
Buffalo	50.66%	+7.0	Grandview.....	45.97%	-1.8
DAVIES			Independence.....	45.23%	-2.1
Gallatin*	59.47%	+0.0	Kansas City.....	38.03%	-1.6
DENT			Lee's Summit	61.03%	-1.2
Salem	48.91%	+3.3	Raytown.....	37.90%	-17.3
DOUGLAS			Sugar Creek.....	55.66%	+1.7
Ava	43.55%	+5.2	JASPER		
DUNKLIN			Carthage	53.75%	+2.93
Kennett.....	44.64%	+1.1	Joplin.....	60.15%	-1.4
Malden.....	42.31%	+5.1	Sarcoie.....	55.32%	+6.5
FRANKLIN			JEFFERSON		
Pacific.....	66.37%	+0.3	Arnold	60.47%	+4.9
St. Clair.....	54.14%	+3.6	DeSoto	57.60%	-0.3
Union	62.14%	-1.4	High Ridge.....	61.16%	+2.4
Washington.....	64.03%	-1.0	Imperial.....	64.62%	-0.3
GASCONADE			Twin City	58.51%	+1.5
Hermann.....	58.06%	+3.5	JOHNSON		
Owensville	55.06%	+5.0	Warrensburg	62.31%	+2.2
GENTRY			KNOX		
Stanberry	61.87%	+5.0	Edina	49.43%	-4.1
GREENE			LACLEDE		
Glenstone	59.34%	+0.6	Lebanon	54.09%	+3.3
Republic.....	62.82%	+3.9	LAFAYETTE		
South Springfield	61.88%	+3.2	Lexington	57.12%	+1.3
Springfield.....	49.34%	-5.4			



Missouri Registry Participation

County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change	County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change
LAWRENCE			NEW MADRID		
Aurora	55.05%	+1.4	New Madrid*	43.34%	+37.7
Mount Vernon	61.17%	+4.1			
LEWIS			NEWTON		
Monticello.....	63.01%	+0.7	Neosho	54.80%	+0.6
LINCOLN			NODAWAY		
Elsberry*	48.31%	+0.0	Maryville	58.11%	-1.8
Troy	45.21%	+3.3	OREGON		
LINN			Alton.....	39.65%	-4.5
Brookfield	57.12%	+1.8	OSAGE		
LIVINGSTON			Linn.....	60.66%	+2.5
Chillicothe	61.00%	+2.5	Gainesville	50.28%	+2.4
MACON			PEMISCOT		
Macon	57.19%	+0.3	Caruthersville	42.13%	+3.7
MADISON			PERRY		
Fredericktown*	25.47%	-44.8	Perryville	51.45%	+1.5
MARIES			PETTIS		
Vienna	54.95%	+2.1	Sedalia.....	49.90%	+2.5
MARION			PHELPS		
Hannibal.....	60.32%	+4.4	Rolla	51.09%	-2.0
Palmyra	58.71%	-0.9	PIKE		
MCDONALD			Bowling Green.....	53.38%	+2.7
Pineville.....	49.21%	+3.5	Louisiana	52.35%	-7.9
MERCER			PLATTE		
Princeton.....	50.31%	-6.0	Parkville.....	60.44%	+3.9
MILLER			Platte City.....	68.91%	+5.6
Eldon	62.28%	+2.2	POLK		
MISSISSIPPI			Bolivar	57.73%	+2.7
Charleston	40.72%	+1.5	PULASKI		
MONITEAU			Waynesville	54.99%	-4.0
California	59.25%	+11.1	PUTNAM		
MONROE			Unionville	51.23%	+1.3
Monroe City	62.06%	+8.9	RALLS		
Paris.....	55.53%	+1.1	New London*	55.98%	+30.2
MONTGOMERY			RANDOLPH		
Montgomery City	60.86%	+3.6	Moberly.....	56.77%	+0.7
MORGAN			RAY		
Versailles	53.52%	-1.0	Richmond	52.48%	+0.1
			REYNOLDS		
			Ellington	46.00%	-0.5

Missouri Registry Participation



County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change	County/Office Name	FY 23	% of Change
RIPLEY			STODDARD		
Doniphan.....	44.57%	-1.2	Dexter.....	50.92%	-2.1
SALINE			STONE		
Marshall.....	49.57%	+3.5	Branson West.....	57.88%	-0.4
SCOTLAND			Crane.....	59.45%	+9.1
Memphis.....	44.65%	-0.4	SULLIVAN		
SCOTT			Milan.....	45.39%	+1.8
Chaffee.....	53.86%	+0.3	TANEY		
Sikeston.....	46.64%	+1.1	Branson.....	54.67%	-2.4
SHANNON			Forsyth.....	60.70%	+1.3
Eminence.....	45.50%	-5.4	TEXAS		
SHELBY			Houston*.....	23.15%	-36.7
Shelbina.....	56.39%	+2.6	VERNON		
ST CHARLES			Nevada.....	56.78%	-2.4
Harvester.....	60.82%	-0.1	WARREN		
O'Fallon.....	59.27%	+3.2	Warrenton.....	57.2%	+1.6
St. Charles.....	52.24%	-1.6	WASHINGTON		
Wentzville.....	63.80%	+0.8	Potosi.....	44.00%	+10.9
ST CLAIR			WAYNE		
Osceola.....	54.48%	+5.1	Piedmont.....	47.49%	+0.5
ST FRANCOIS			WEBSTER		
Bonne Terre.....	55.55%	-0.3	Marshfield.....	57.31%	+3.7
Farmington.....	49.55%	+7.3	WORTH		
ST LOUIS			Grant City*.....	18.42%	-70.1
Affton.....	52.19%	+2.9	WRIGHT		
Bridgeton.....	33.71%	-7.4	Hartville.....	45.85%	+5.0
Chesterfield.....	60.01%	-0.1	Mountain Grove.....	48.13%	+10.9
Clayton.....	58.82%	+6.7			
Creve Coeur.....	53.05%	-7.2			
Des Peres.....	68.11%	+2.6			
Ferguson.....	9.95%	-7.7			
Florissant.....	37.03%	+0.1			
Maplewood.....	64.90%	+0.1			
North County.....	18.86%	+0.5			
Oakville.....	48.12%	-1.2			
Olivette.....	39.33%	-5.4			
Overland.....	34.39%	-0.4			
South County.....	60.52%	-0.3			
West County.....	61.97%	-1.0			
ST LOUIS CITY					
Central West End.....	26.16%	-15.4			
Downtown.....	30.02%	-5.4			
South Kingshighway.....	39.17%	+0.2			
STE. GENEVIEVE					
Ste. Genevieve.....	61.98%	+2.3			



This page was intentionally left blank.

This page was intentionally left blank.

Give Life

Missouri Organ and Tissue Donor Program

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

P.O. Box 570

Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570

573-522-2847 or toll-free 888-497-4564

DonateLifeMissouri.org

Health.Mo.Gov/OrganDonor



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES**

Individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or have a speech disability can dial 711 or 1-800-735-2966.