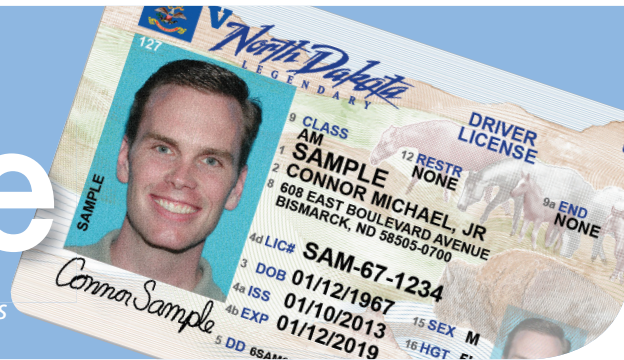


# DrivingHope

A newsletter for ND driver's license partners



## Cass County Honored

This year as part of Donate Life Day, we awarded one county in each of our three states with the Donor Registry Impact Award. This award recognizes each county's contributions and ongoing support for the mission of saving lives through organ, eye and tissue donation.

We were excited to recognize Cass County for their partnership and support of the mission of donation. In 2015 in the state of North Dakota, Cass County had the highest percent of adults registered as an organ, eye and tissue donor on their license or ID at 69.5%. Congrats to the DL team members in Cass County!



Rachel Mount, Supervisor at the Fargo office

Issue 2 | August 2016

### Upcoming Events

Save the date!  
National DMV  
Appreciation Week  
Sept. 19-23

## Data Update

Thanks to a strong partnership with the state, we now have richer data about the number of registered donors in the state as of January 2016. What you may notice is that the percentage of donors is lower than we've reported in the past. We want to assure you that the support for donation and the number of registered donors in North Dakota has not changed. What has changed is the ability to clean the data and remove old or invalid records from the database.

North Dakota remains the state with the highest donor designation in our service area, and surpasses the national average by 15%. This is something we can all be proud of, and we appreciate your support of this life-saving gift.

## Surveys

This fall we will be surveying all driver's license offices in the state to learn more about your experience as a service provider, talking with customers about donor registration and donation. We are partnering with a research company called The Research Edge, LLC who will be conducting the survey for us. All answers will be sent directly to them and kept confidential and anonymous.

Our goal is to improve our programs and services to driver's license offices and the community. A link to the survey will be sent out via email and we hope everyone will take a few minutes to share your feedback. Results and next steps will be shared in an upcoming newsletter.

We also recently completed a community survey in the state to assess attitudes and opinions about donation among North Dakotans. We look forward to sharing those results with you soon.

### Did you Know?...

On average, 22 people die every day while waiting for organ transplants in the U.S., and every 10 minutes, another name is added to the waiting list.

### Materials

All materials are free of charge and can be ordered at [www.DonateLifeND.org](http://www.DonateLifeND.org)

- Brochures
- Donor document cards
  - Pens
  - Wrist bands
- Counter mats
  - Posters

# Spotlight

## Alexa Kersting, West Fargo



A young girl from West Fargo, Alexa's short life ended tragically early when she died at the age of 14 while waiting for a life-saving lung transplant. "She was a very talented little girl that we loved very much," says her father, Loren. "There's not a day that goes by that there's not an emptiness in the house... it's just not the same."

By the age of seven, Alexa was diagnosed with lung disease, and by the age of twelve she developed pulmonary hypertension, which triggered her placement on the transplant waiting list. For the seven months that Alexa was on the list, she was either at home or in the hospital, on oxygen 24 hours a day.

"Alexa couldn't do the things that most young girls are able to do, whether it was attending her first middle school dance, or riding bikes after school," says her mother, Monica. "All of her activities had to be quiet, like piano, art,

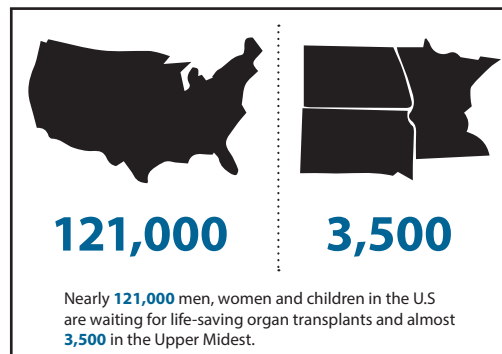
or visiting with friends on the phone or at the house."

Alexa was a brave and courageous young girl who never gave up hope. She talked about all the things she was going to do when she received her transplant; dancing, earn her black belt in tae kwon do, learn to drive. "We were very, very hopeful," said Loren, "and we never gave that up."

Sadly, the call that would save her life never came and in July of 2004 Alexa died while waiting for her transplant. It's frustrating for Alexa's parents to know that the cure for their daughter existed, and all that it would have taken for her life to be saved is a generous grieving family, somewhere, who said 'yes' to donation.

"When you're a parent, you expect to be a parent for a long time," says Monica, "and it's hard to figure out a life without her."

Donor Designation	%
Minnesota .....	61
North Dakota .....	65
South Dakota .....	63
<b>Region Total (Q1, 2016) .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>National Total (2015) .....</b>	<b>50</b>



**ONE PERSON**  
can save and heal up to 60 lives  
through organ, eye and tissue donation.

## Good Question!

### *What happens if I haven't made a decision about donation?*

If you don't make a decision about donation, your family will be asked to make a decision for you. It is extremely important that you talk with your family about your donation decision.



**Emily Laughlin**  
Community Partnership Coordinator  
LifeSource  
elaughlin@life-source.org

2225 West River Road N.  
Minneapolis MN 55411  
612.800.6252 (ph)  
612.845.8840 (cell)

