



Fact Sheet: Tissue Donation

Tissue donations save and dramatically improve the quality of life for people who receive them. Read more below to learn more about the incredibly healing gift of tissue.



What tissue can be donated?

BONE TISSUE - hip, leg or rib tissue for orthopedic and reconstructive treatments

HEART VALVES - to repair defective valves and improve heart function

BLOOD VESSELS - to restore blood flow; often used for heart bypass, to make continued kidney dialysis possible, to re-establish circulation in a diabetic's limb and to repair aneurysms

SKIN TISSUE - for burn patients, trauma, reconstruction and wound-care treatments

CONNECTIVE TISSUE - ligaments or tendons to increase or restore mobility



How does tissue donation help?

Bone, cartilage, veins, tendons, ligaments and heart valves can cover burns and stop infections, replace veins and mend damaged connective tissue and cartilage in recipients. For example, heart valves can save the lives of infants born with heart defects, and ligaments can repair torn ACLs.



Tissue Donation by the Numbers

1,500,000 Close to 1.5 million people benefit from tissue donation each year.

58,000 Each year, approximately 58,000 tissue donors provide life-saving and healing tissue for transplant.

75 Just one tissue donor can save and heal more than 75 lives!

24 Tissue donation must be initiated within 24 hours of a person's death.

5 Organs must be transplanted within hours of recovery, but tissue donations can be packaged and kept for up to five years.