

THE BEST OF DONOR NETWORK WEST

2025 FEBRUARY
NEWSLETTER

Written by Maxwell | Designed by Brooke

Celebrating Black History and Healthy Hearts

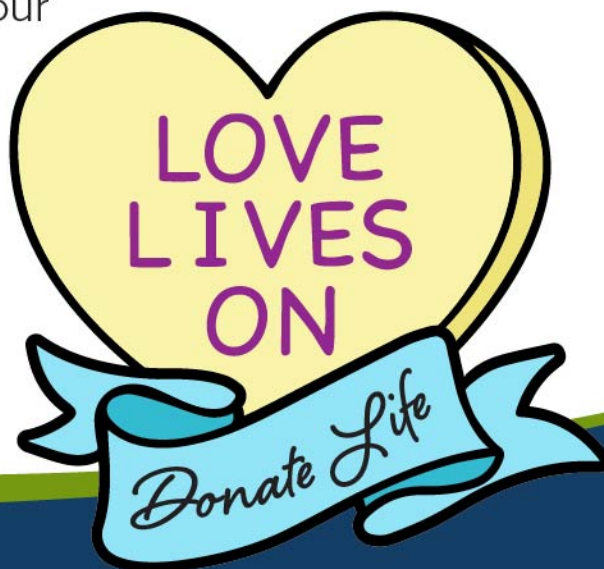
Happy February! This time of year comes with an incredible purpose in multiple facets. Black History Month, American Heart Month, and National Donor Day serve as phenomenal points of emphasis for educating our communities on the importance of healthcare in the Black/African American community, the importance of maintaining a healthy heart, how donor heroes empower our community, and how far a heart transplant can go.



Please visit our observance page



Best of Donor Network West
Newsletter Library



"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." — **Helen Keller**

DONOR
NETWORK WEST



The Difference Decades Make

By Kim Patton

Thirty years ago, I took a leap of faith into the organ donation field—a journey that transformed my career and my entire perspective on life and loss. I've had the ability to reflect over my time within this lifesaving field, and I wanted to share some observations I've made during my time. I started as a single woman, no children and looking for something rewarding to pin my hat on. I didn't realize that hat would still be hanging thirty years later (and two adult children later!)

I began as a Clinical Coordinator in 1995 when we were CTDN (California Transplant Donor Network). One night, a fellow coordinator stayed all night just to support a young woman losing her father. That moment inspired me to pursue a role where I could provide that same support. With no openings, I volunteered until a position became available.

As the first clinical coordinator hired, I took on multiple roles and witnessed both personal and organizational growth. Back then, I balanced supporting families and caring for donor heroes. Today, specialized professionals provide dedicated care, and advancements allow us to save more lives than we ever imagined—yet the need continues to grow.

When I started thirty years ago, before the blessings of modern technology and transportation, we recovered the organs we could and transplanted them as quickly as possible, not sending them too far. Now, we have pumps and perfusion devices where we can ensure better allocation, get the organs wherever needed thanks to modern transportation, and improved outcomes over the course of years.

Our donor management and testing systems over the course of decades has improved dramatically, ensuring safety and good matches for organs and recipients. We can recover organs that we would have never considered even trying to allocate.

Since then and almost every year since we have grown and overall, about a 60% growth in the last 14 years. Think of ripples in a lake when a stone is cast into the water – that's what the reach of our work is – all of us strive to honor our mission – every single number we report impacts ripples of lives – the care system of the donor and the recipient; the friends and families of the same; relatives come next; then the workmates, social media contacts and the circles go on, getting bigger and bigger.

Just think of what we do, the advancements we make and the growth we achieve – and every single one of us plays a part in that. There have been so many improvements in donation and transplantation over the course of my career, I can't even begin to think what the next thirty years will bring.



Kim Patton, RN

V.P. Organ Operations

DONOR NETWORK WEST Celebrates

BLACK HISTORY MONTH**Ronald Carpenter Singleton, Jr.***Organ Donor, Saved 5 lives***HONOR. REFLECT. CELEBRATE.**

In Honor of Black History Month, we celebrate Ronald's gift to 5 other individuals who now have renewed hope and a second chance at life.

Ronald Carpenter Singleton Jr. entered into eternal rest on October 5, 2005. He was a beloved son, father of 5, brother, uncle and friend.

Ronald passed at Highland Hospital. His legacy lives on through his selfless act of donating to five individuals. Donor Network West is honored to remember Ronald's generosity and the lives he touched through his remarkable gift. Through his act of kindness, Ronald has left an enduring legacy that reminds us of the power of compassion and the profound difference one person can make in the world.



**He was a great son, nephew, brother, uncle, friend,
and husband to all of us.**

**He gave the BEST HUGS -
ones that made you feel special!**

Celebrating Black History

Of the total candidates currently waiting for a kidney transplant, 27.8% were Black/African American. With more than 29,000 African Americans waiting for an organ transplant, Black Americans make up the largest group of multiethnic people needing an organ transplant. This is why it is vital for more people to register to become organ donors. The need for intercultural donations is even more significant as organ transplantations' success rate and future success increase interculturally.



Ronald Carpenter Singleton, Jr.
 Organ Donor, Saved 5 Lives

Ruby Lockhart
 Heart & Kidney Transplant Recipient

How Far a Heart Can Go American Heart Month

American Heart Month is imperative because heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups. One person dies every 33 seconds from cardiovascular disease.

Heart Disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States. More than half of U.S. adults are unaware that heart disease is the leading cause of death despite its long-standing prevalence. Coronary Heart Disease, Stroke, High Blood Pressure, and Heart Failure are all leading causes of cardiovascular death.



National Donor Day

Thank you to the donor heroes, both living and passed, and their donor families, who have inspired millions nationwide.

You make our mission possible. You bring hope. You gave the #GiftOfLife.

Check out some of the incredible donor heroes we had the privilege of honoring on National Donor Day.



Blake and Aleah



Cindy



Dominique



Year of The Snake

2025 is the Year of the Snake, symbolizing wisdom, transformation, and resilience. We embraced the spirit of togetherness and new beginnings this Lunar New Year by sharing stories of our amazing community members who celebrate. May it bring joy, abundance, and good health to you and your loved ones!

Please take a moment to learn about some of the incredible community members we had the privilege of spotlighting.



Haley & Jennifer



Justin Wang



Shawn Ying



The Tournament of Roses & the Gift of Life

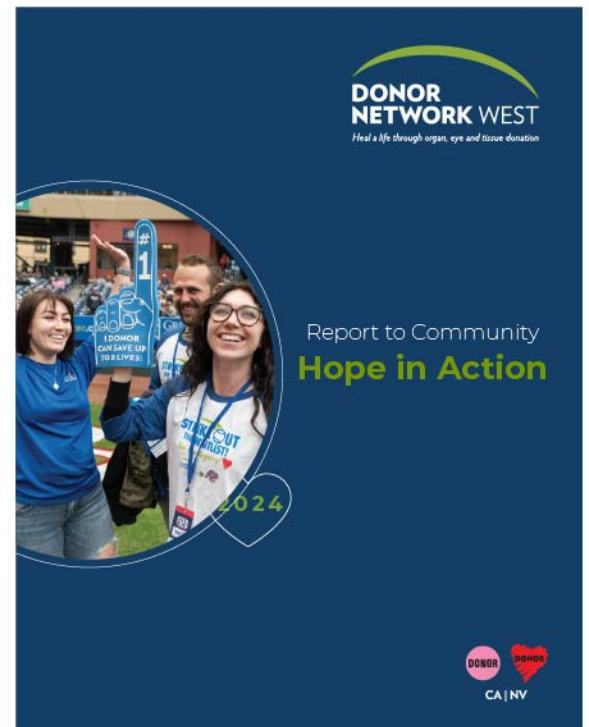
This recent Rose Parade and Donate Life Float experience was one we will never forget. What an incredible way to kick off the new year, honoring the lives of donor heroes, families, and transplant recipients worldwide. The work we are honored and privileged to do daily is impossible without those we celebrate daily.

Hope in Action Our 2024 Report To Community

We invite you to take a look at our latest Report to Community and learn about how Donor Network West was able to put HOPE into action in 2024.

Last year, we achieved a record-breaking milestone, saving more lives than ever before by facilitating 1,390 organ transplants and 2,590 tissue donations - each gift saving and healing a life.

CLICK HERE to read all about our purpose, what we achieved as a community, the heroes and families we honor, and the lives we're able to change together.



National Kidney Month

This coming National Kidney Month, we wish to raise awareness about the importance of Kidney Health and organ donation's impact on those affected by kidney disease.

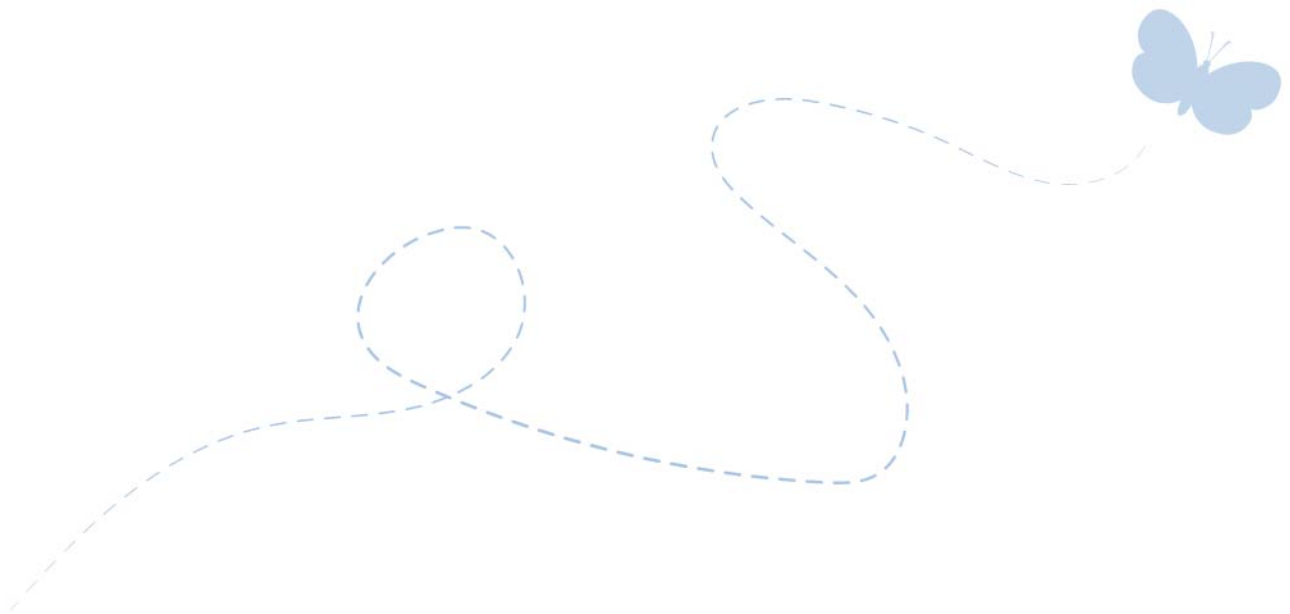
We will share stories of hope, highlighting the incredible individuals who have received kidney transplants, the heroic donors who made it possible, information about kidney health, and ways to reduce risk for kidney diseases and maintain good health.

Join us in spreading the word! Share this post and help us raise awareness about the importance of kidney health and the need for #DonorHeroes. Together, we can make a difference.



International Women's Month

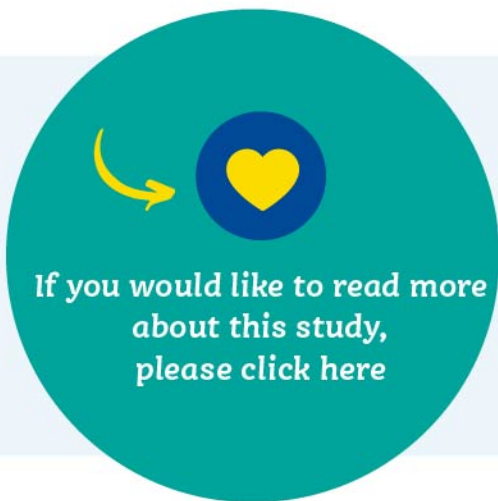
This March is International Women's Month & Women's History Month, and it is our privilege to celebrate and honor the incredible, esteemed, and endearing women in our communities and across the world who continue to make change and create a better world for us all.



Our Leaders' Connection to Purpose

From an altruistic donor to a heart transplant recipient, at Donor Network West, members of senior leadership have a deep connection to the organization's mission to save and heal lives. We are led by a passionate leadership team with lived experiences and connections to the work being done at the organization.

Our President & CEO, Janice F. Whaley, PhD, MPH, Vice President of External Affairs and Strategic Partnerships & Living Kidney Donor, Luis Mayen, Associate Medical Director & Heart Transplant Recipient, Dr. Alin Gragossian & Vice President of Quality Systems, Mark Borer, all shared their incredible stories and deep connections to our everlasting mission & the gift of life.



Samples from DNWest used for Nature Research

Researchers at MIT and NIH officially published their first research paper, 'The human and non-human primate developmental GTEx projects,' using samples from Donor Network West and other OPOs in Nature.



♥ **follow @mydnwest on social media** ♥
and don't miss a beat!



There are plenty of events and celebrations that we're privileged to be a part of! The best way to stay updated on everything we have going on is to follow us on social media @MyDNWest across all platforms! Our Instagram is a fantastic place to start, or maybe you enjoy Facebook. Either way, we're everywhere, and we'll see you there!

