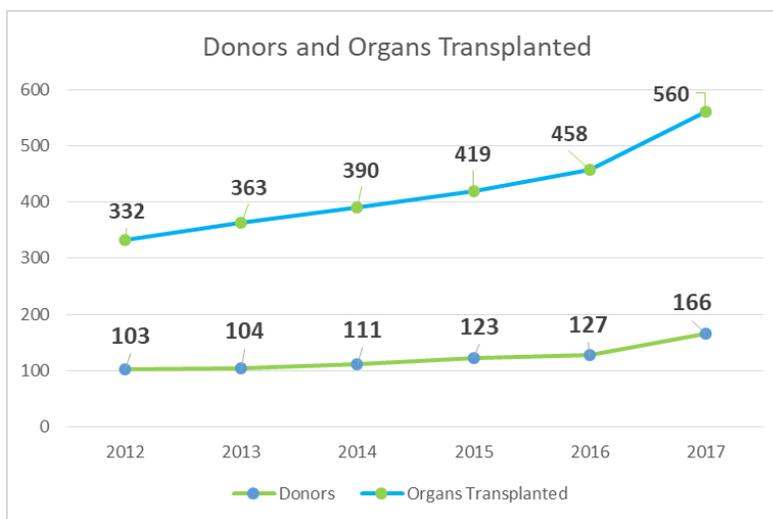




A Record Lifesaving Year in South Carolina

Charleston, SC – January 11, 2018: Because of the generosity of South Carolinians in 2017, the state became one of the top 5 most giving areas of the country. Sharing Hope SC, the designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) in South Carolina, reports a remarkable increase of 31% of organ donors in South Carolina with 166 people giving over 500 others a second chance at life in 2017. Nationwide, the number of people who became organ donors at the time of their deaths, giving others a second chance at life, topped 10,000 in the United States for the first time, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). In fact, 10,281 people became donors at death; this represents a 3% increase over 2016.

While this increase in number of donors is significant, even more impactful is the fact that these generous donors and their families impacted 501 lives not only in South Carolina but throughout the nation. In fact, 560 organs were actually transplanted (some recipients received multiple organs) which is the highest number in Sharing Hope SC's 33-year history. Of the 58 organ procurement organizations (OPOs) nationwide, Sharing Hope SC is one of 35 that experienced an increase in donors from 2016 to 2017.



"The 'gift of life' is a precious one and we are grateful for the decisions South Carolinians make every day to register as organ, eye and tissue donors in order to help others." states David DeStefano,

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President and Chief Executive Officer of Sharing Hope SC. “Hundreds of people across the country are alive today because of the decisions these donors and their families made.”

Even with the increasing numbers of organ donors, the number of people in need of transplants continues to rise at a faster pace. Currently, approximately 115,000 people are on the national transplant waiting list and over 1000 of those are on the South Carolina waiting list. In fact, an average of 20 people in the U.S. die each day because of the shortage of lifesaving organs. Without more donors, many on the waiting list will die waiting. The solution to this problem is to continue educating the public about the lifesaving effects of donation and transplantation. We encourage everyone to make their decision known by signing up on the state’s donor registry.

Individuals can now register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor at online **DonateLifeSC.org** as well as through the iPhone Health App Medical Tab. Everyone is then encouraged to always check “**YES**” to donation when filling out the **SCDMV** credentials form and remain in the registry. By doing so, the heart and “Y” symbol will indicate one’s legal authorization to become a donor when registering through the SCDMV.

SCDMV Driver’s License Registered Donor Symbol:



For more information or to set up an interview with someone touched by donation/transplantation contact Mark Johnson, Media Relations Coordinator for Sharing Hope SC, at 1-800-462-0755 or 843-763-7755.

About Sharing Hope SC (SharingHopeSC.org)

Sharing Hope SC is the designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for organ recovery services in South Carolina. Sharing Hope SC actively provides organ and tissue donor services to 62 hospitals throughout the state. Sharing Hope SC also helps support and educate families at an emotionally devastating time, so they can make well-informed decisions about organ and tissue donation.

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SOUTH CAROLINA ORGAN & TISSUE RECOVERY SERVICES

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Working
Together to
Save Lives



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