



Saratoga County Clerk's Office

Craig A. Hayner, County Clerk

Charles A. Foehser II, Deputy County Clerk Shauna M. Sutton, Deputy County Clerk

40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020 P: (518) 885-2213 F: (518) 884-4726

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 1, 2022

CONTACT: Christine Rush, Director of Public Relations

PHONE: 518-884-4748

SARATOGA COUNTY DMV RECOGNIZES NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

Organ Donation in Saratoga County has increased each year since County DMV has Promoted Campaign

SARATOGA COUNTY, NY – Saratoga County Clerk Craig A. Hayner today announced the Saratoga County DMV will once again recognize Donate Life Month this April.

The Saratoga County DMV partners with Donate Life New York State (NYS) each year to recognize April as National Donate Life Month, an annual observance highlighting the critical need for increased organ, eye, and tissue donation in New York State.

During the month of April, the Saratoga County DMV office urges all residents to learn more about organ, eye, and tissue donation and to say yes to donation while completing transactions at the DMV. Promotional items and decorations are on display at all three Saratoga County DMV locations throughout National Donate Life Month as a reminder of the importance of the gift of life.

There are 8,500 New Yorkers currently waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant and 1,400 have been waiting five years or longer. In 2020, 615 New Yorkers died because the organ they needed wasn't donated in time.

Approximately 45% of New Yorkers statewide are enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry (Registry), the electronic database that documents a person's consent to be an organ and tissue donor at the time of their death. While more than 6 million New Yorkers are registered donors, this represents the second lowest percentage of registered donors in the country. Saratoga County residents are encouraged to make a difference and give hope to all those in need of a transplant by enrolling in the Registry at the DMV, where nearly 80% of donors sign up.

Saratoga County's enrollment has edged up each year since the County DMV began promoting the campaign with a significant increase from 2017 to 2021. As of 2021, 67% of the eligible population in Saratoga County are enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry, according to the most recent statistics from the New York State Association of Counties and Donate Life New York State. Saratoga County donor registry enrollment was 39.43% in 2017; 53.8% in 2018; 59.6% in 2019; and 61.3% in 2020.

(more)



www.saratogacountyny.gov



“The staff at the DMV engages with the public on this critical health issue more than any other agency,” said Aisha Tator, Executive Director of Donate Life in NYS. “The promotion of organ and tissue donation during Donate Life Month has a lasting impact on the number of registered donors and the lives that will be saved through transplantation.”

Saratoga County Clerk Craig A. Hayner said, “Saratoga County’s organ donor enrollment has gone up each year since we first began promoting April as Donate Life Month in 2014. Having such a high number of enrollees is a true testament to the good people of Saratoga County. Saratoga County DMV is proud to support Donate Life New York State year-round in its mission to grow the organ donor database.”

Additionally, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution recognizing April as Donate Life Month and will raise a Donate Life flag above the County Office Building complex in Ballston Spa throughout the month.

All New Yorkers age 16 and older can enroll in the New York State Donor Registry, regardless of their medical history. The enrollment option is available on forms used to apply for or renew a driver license or non-driver identification card. New Yorkers can also enroll in the Registry while applying for health insurance through the New York State of Health and on voter registration forms. In addition, online enrollment is available at any time at donatelife.ny.gov/register.

###