



ASSOCIATION OF ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Saving and improving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation

2023

**YEAR IN
REVIEW**



Thank you for another impactful year

As we conclude a dynamic 2023, I am proud to introduce AOPO's Year in Review, a comprehensive summary of our collective efforts and achievements throughout the year. This report reflects the tireless work of our community, highlighting the incredible strides we have made in organ donation and transplantation.

Throughout the year, we have faced challenges and celebrated milestones, each step reinforcing our commitment to saving and enhancing lives. Our collaborative endeavors in policy advocacy, education, and community engagement have not only strengthened our organization but have also made a tangible impact in the field.

As you read through this report, I hope you will share in our pride for what we have accomplished together. Each statistic, story, and success is a testament to the dedication and compassion that define our community. Looking ahead, we are inspired to continue this important work, driven by our shared vision and the ever-present need for organ donation. Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a part of this lifesaving mission.



Steve Miller, MBA, CAE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Miller".



Mission

Lead the nation's organ donation community to save more lives.



Vision

Pursuing the day when every donation opportunity results in lives saved.

The 2023-2034 AOPO Board of Directors is elected by its members, with terms beginning each year in June. Representing members from across the country, the **Board of Directors** provides leadership and strategic direction for the association.



Colleen McCarthy
President

Versiti Organ & Tissue



Dorrie Dils
President-Elect

Gift of Life Michigan



Barry Massa
Past President

*LifeCenter Organ
Donor Network*



Tasha Flowers, CPA, CGMA
Secretary-Treasurer

ARORA



Luke Shen, MD
Medical Advisor

*Texas Organ
Sharing Alliance*



**Stephanie Pouch, MD,
MS, FAST**

Medical Advisor-Elect
LifeLink of Georgia



Clint Hostetler
At Large Member

*LifeShare of
Oklahoma*



Jennifer Prinz
At Large Member

Donor Alliance



Wayne Dunlap
OPO Representative

*New Mexico Donor
Services*



Sarah Fewell
OPO Representative

Iowa Donor Network



Kurt Shutterly
OPO Representative

CORE



Rick Hasz
OPO Representative

Gift of Life Donor Program

The **AOPO team** is a committed, professional group of individuals dedicated to providing support, resources, and information to help save lives through organ and tissue donation. Reach out to us at any time - we are here for you!



Megan Cantwell
Program Manager



Roxane Cauwels, MBA
*Director of Program
Operations*



Jenny Daigle, MS
*Senior Manager,
Communications &
Public Affairs*



Max Daniel, MSW
Data Analyst



Robert Falb
*Director of
Government Affairs*



Steve Miller, MBA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer



Kimberly Mydland, CAE
Director of Operations



Kimberly Oleson, CEM, CMP
Meetings Manager



Denise Sears
Senior Program Manager



Setareh Soltani-Nia
Systems & Social Media Manager

The **AOPO Foundation** is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting research in the field of organ donation and transplantation. The organization endeavors to bring new knowledge and innovation to the community of practice specifically focused on advancing the mission of organ and tissue donation and transplant.



**ASSOCIATION OF ORGAN
PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS
FOUNDATION**



Mission

**Advancing research to improve the
outcomes of organ and tissue donation.**



Joe Nespral, MD, CPTC
President

Texas Organ Sharing Alliance



Tasha Flowers, CPA, CGMA
Secretary-Treasurer

ARORA



Suzanne Conrad

Iowa Donor Network



Kyle Herber

Live On Nebraska



Bill Leinweber

*National Disease Research
Interchange (NDRI)*



Lori Markham

*Midwest Transplant
Network*



Tom Mone

*OneLegacy
Foundation*



Michael Moritz, MD

*Gift of Life Donor
Program*



Marty Sellers, MD

*Tennessee Donor
Services*

AOPO is grateful for the ongoing and generous support from our Industry Partner organizations. Click on each Industry Partner's logo to learn more about them.

PLATINUM LEVEL



GOLD LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL



BRONZE LEVEL



We are grateful for the chairs, vice chairs, and members of our eight AOPO Committees. Their dedication and collaborative efforts have been instrumental in driving the success and impact of our Association throughout the year.

Advocacy



Danielle Bumarch
Chair

HonorBridge



Salama Gallimore
Vice-Chair

Midwest Transplant Network

Theresa Daly *Lifeline Foundation*

Dorrie Dils *Gift of Life Michigan*

Michael Kenney *CORE*

Anne Krueger *Versiti Organ and Tissue*

Susan Mau Larson *LifeSource*

Lisa Paolillo *New England Donor Services*

Kevin Stump *Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency*

Craig Van de Walker *Cascade Life Alliance*

Kim Van Frank *Mid-South Transplant Foundation*

Jan Weinstock *Gift of Life Donor Program*

Data



Bruno Mastroianni
Chair

CORE



Brandon McKown
Vice-Chair

New England Donor Services

Nicole Berry *LifeNet Health*

Amy Bonser *DCI Donor Services*

Kristin Delli Carpini *Gift of Life Michigan*

Robert Glazner *Donor Network of Arizona*

Stacey Hay *Versiti Organ and Tissue*

Christy Keahey *Legacy of Hope*

Rachael Ketcham *LifeShare of Oklahoma*

Paula Lawrence *LifeLink Foundation*

Caitlin Miller *Gift of Life Michigan*

Jennifer Murielt *Donor Alliance*

Jason Narverud *LifeSource*

David O'Hara *NJ Sharing Network*

Noell Olsen *Cascade Life Alliance*

Tom Seto *OneLegacy*

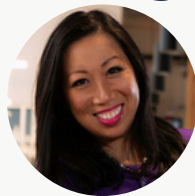
Christy Tonsey *DonorConnect*

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging



Matt Niles
Chair

*LifeCenter Organ
Donor Network*



Kyla Aquino Irving
Vice-Chair

Sierra Donor Services

Levi Allen *Infinite Legacy*

Serena Altamirano *Donor Alliance*

Joe Ferreira *Nevada Donor Network*

Timothy Hand *Nevada Donor Network*

Laura Jeffries *Donor Alliance*

Ileasha Johnson *Infinite Legacy*

Clifton McClenney *Life Alliance*

Ingrid Palacios *New England Donor Services*

Michael Pollock *LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services*

Ron Ruybal *New Mexico Donor Services*

Nichole Salaam *LifeSource*

Elena Sandoval *Lifesharing*

Finance



Tasha Flowers
Chair
ARORA

Marilou Donley *Texas Organ Sharing Alliance*

Barbara Drobney *Lifebanc*

Dawn Hense *Versiti Organ and Tissue*

Sal LaMantia *NJ Sharing Network*

Kirk Mizelle *HonorBridge*

Joe Weber *CORE*

Leadership Development



Leonard Licina
Chair

Legacy of Life Hawai'i



Michelle Reef
Vice-Chair

Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency

Jan Finn *Midwest Transplant Network*
Jill Grandas *DCI Donor Services*
Todd Hubler *LifeNet Health*
Sara Levinson *Nevada Donor Network*
Jeff Orlowski *LifeShare of Oklahoma*
Susan Rabel *LifeLink of Florida*
Matt Saavedra *LifeCenter Northwest*
Andrew Shunk *Legacy of Hope*
Kevin Stump *Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency*
Mike Thibault *Center for Donation & Transplant*

Strategic Planning



Dorrie Dils
Chair

Gift of Life Michigan

Mike Anderson *UW Organ and Tissue Donation*
Kenny Boyd *Infinite Legacy*
Suzanne Conrad *Iowa Donor Network*
Dave DeStefano *We Are Sharing Hope SC*
Jan Finn *Midwest Transplant Network*
Santokh Gill *LifeCenter Northwest*
Kevin Gramlich *ConnectLife*
Colleen McCarthy *Versiti Organ and Tissue*
Andrew Mullins *Lifeline of Ohio*
Helen Nelson *New England Donor Services*
Sean Van Slyck *Sierra Donor Services*
Chuck Zollinger *DonorConnect*

OPO IMPACT



Sara Pace Jones
Chair

Donor Network of Arizona



Melinda Locklear
Vice-Chair

HonorBridge

Joel Baucom *HonorBridge*
Sara Bowman *DonorConnect*
Blanca Cohen *OneLegacy*
Debra Cooper *Lifebanc*
Michael Gerusky *CORE*
Robbie Glazner *Donor Network of Arizona*
Emily Goldbloom *Infinite Legacy*
Bailey Heiting *Versiti Organ and Tissue*
Cassie Hertert *Donor Alliance*
Christy Houston *Midwest Transplant Network*
Katie McKee *LifeSource*
Jennifer McNary-McIlvain *Mid-South Transplant Foundation*
Gwen O'Shaughnessy *Gift of Life Donor Program*
Jaclyn Russe *Nevada Donor Network*
Carolyn Welsh *NJ Sharing Network*
Brandon Williams *LifeSource*

Programs & Education



Julie Schneider
Chair

Iowa Donor Network



Jessica Yokubeak
Vice-Chair

CORE

Terri Cagle *Gift of Hope*
Kristen Deyling *Lifebanc*
Brooke Garvis *Midwest Transplant Network*
Melissa Hengesteg *Iowa Donor Network*
Jenna LaSota *Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates*
John LeMay *LifeSource*
Michelle Moring *Versiti Organ and Tissue*
Megan R Sopher *HonorBridge*
Charles Wainaina *Lifesharing*

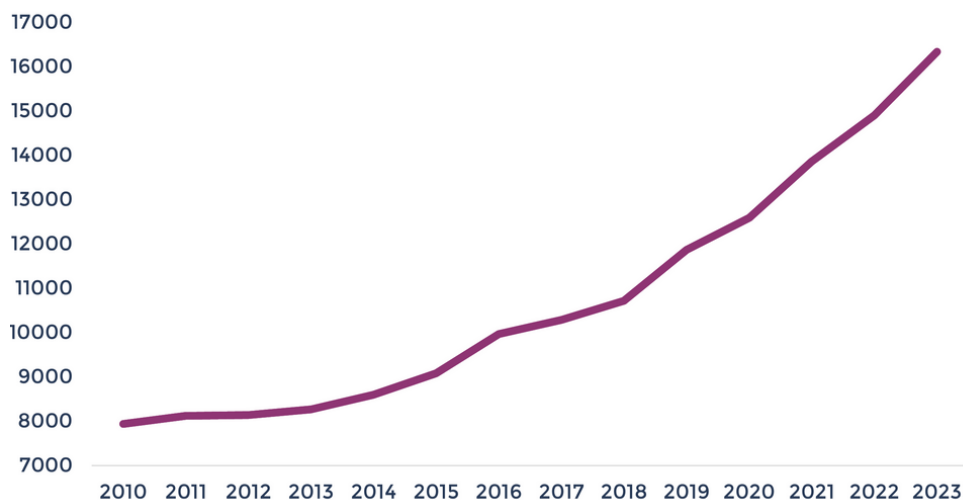
The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) released 2023 year-end data showing record increases in organ donation and transplantation. The results continue to demonstrate upward progression toward our goal of **50,000 annual organ transplants in 2026**.

16,337

deceased organ donors in **2023**



Deceased Organ Donors



13th

CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF INCREASED DECEASED ORGAN DONATION

128

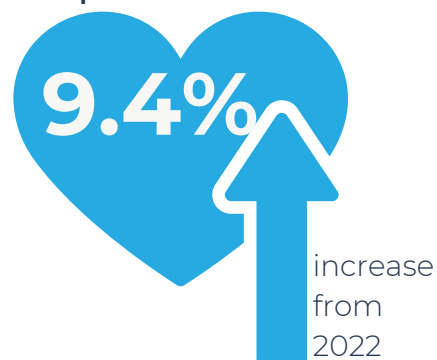
ORGAN TRANSPLANTS PERFORMED EVERY DAY ON AVERAGE

23%

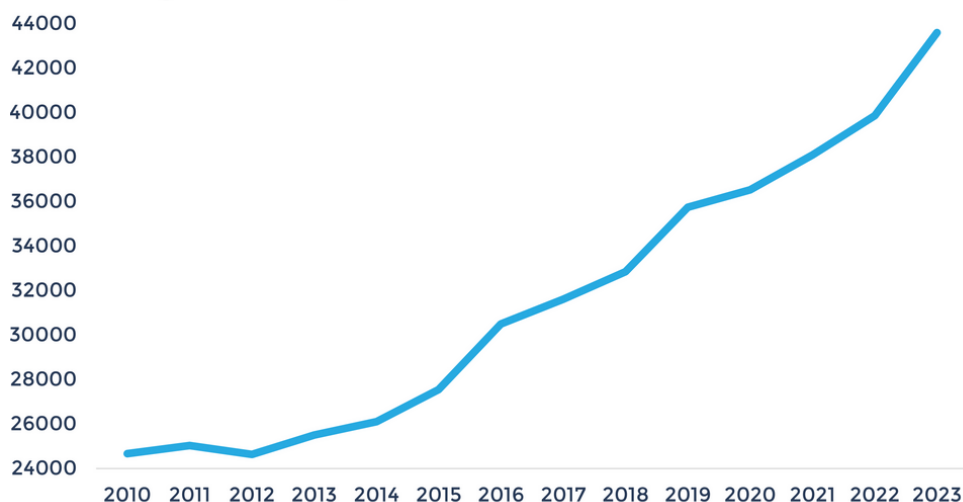
INCREASE IN DONATION AFTER CIRCULATORY DETERMINATION OF DEATH (DCDD) DONORS

43,603

organs from deceased donors transplanted in **2023**



Organs Transplanted From Deceased Donors



Based on OPTN data as of January 10, 2024

Throughout the past year, the collaborative achievements of AOPO and our member OPOs have been featured in various media outlets, shining a light on our lifesaving mission. Scan the QR codes and click the various links to witness the power of collaboration in organ donation and transplantation.

Press Releases

- [AOPO Names 2023-2024 President and Board of Directors](#)
- [AOPO Recognizes OPO Leaders with Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- [AOPO Names New Foundation Board President and Secretary-Treasurer](#)
- [HBCU Medical Schools and Organ Procurement Organizations Launch Pilot Programs to Increase Organ Donation and Transplant Among Black Americans](#)
- [AOPO Report: OPOs Quickly Advancing Towards Goal of 50,000 Annual Organ Transplants in 2026](#)



Op-Eds



[Report Recommendations Offer Ways to Reduce Inequities in Transplantation](#)

[Black Patients with Kidney Disease Want Transplants; More Black Surgeons May Help](#)

[High Rate of Donated Organs Going Unused is Costing Lives](#)

[Breaking Records in Organ Donation](#)

Statements

- [AOPO Supports Congress and President Biden's Efforts to Strengthen Organ Transplantation System and Save More Lives](#)
- [AOPO Urges Congressional Action to Address Key Concerns in U.S. Organ Transplant System Reform](#)
- [2023 CMS OPO Performance Report: AOPO Raises Concerns About Implications for the Organ Donation and Transplantation System in the U.S.](#)
- [HRSA OPTN Modernization Initiative Announcement](#)
- [Senate Finance Committee Letters to OPOs on Pancreata for Research](#)
- [NY Times Op-Ed "Tonya Ingram Feared the Organ Donation System Would Kill Her. It Did"](#)

The AOPO Advocacy Committee focuses on promoting effective policies to enhance organ donation and transplantation in the U.S. They collaborate with policy makers in the U.S. Congress and executive branch and allied stakeholders to ensure a robust and ethical organ donation system, ultimately saving more lives.

CMS OPO Final Rule Implementation



AOPO continues to focus our efforts on supporting member OPOs in meeting the standards set by the **CMS OPO Final Rule** and advocating for CMS to provide comprehensive guidelines regarding the implementation of this rule.

- [Congressional Letter to CMS Calling for Implementation Guidelines](#)
- [AOPO Statement on CMS OPO Performance Report](#)
- [AOPO Letter to Senate Finance Committee on CMS OPO Performance Report](#)

HRSA OPTN Modernization Initiative



AOPO is committed to collaborating with HRSA to provide guidance and recommendations for the successful implementation of the OPTN Modernization Initiative, ensuring the organ donation and transplantation system continues to save lives seamlessly during the transition.

- [AOPO Statement of OPTN Modernization Initiative Priority Principles and Policies](#)
- [AOPO Letter to HRSA with Recommendations for OPTN Modernization Initiative](#)
- [AOPO Letter to Senate Finance Committee on OPTN Bill](#)
- [AOPO Statement for the Record to Senate Finance Committee](#)

Advancing Organ Transportation



AOPO is working to enhance organ transportation efficiency by calling for regulatory changes to permit “above wing” organ transport on commercial flights and advocating for safe, innovative transportation methods such as drone utilization.

- [Congressional Letter to FAA Calling for Regulations of Organ Transport via Drone](#)
- [AOPO Letter to U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Technology on “Above Wing” Organ Transport on Commercial Airlines](#)
- [Stakeholder Letter to House and Senate Transportation Committees for More Efficient Commercial Airline Transportation of Organs](#)
- [AOPO Letter in Support of “Saving Organs One Flight at a Time Act”](#)

OPTN Policy Proposals



AOPO responded to nineteen OPTN policy proposals in 2023 to advance organ donation and transplantation processes.

- [AOPO Response to OPTN Winter 2023 Public Comment Period](#)
- [AOPO Response to OPTN Summer 2023 Public Comment Period](#)

AOPO supported other legislative and regulatory donation and transplantation related legislative proposals in 2023.

- [AOPO Letter to Senate HELP Committee Health Care Workforce Shortage](#)
- [AOPO Endorses Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act](#)
- [AOPO Comments on HHS “Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Health and Human Service Programs or Activities”](#)

Uniform Determination of Death Act (UDDA)

AOPO raised strong concerns about the Uniform Law Commission’s (ULC) proposed modifications to the UDDA, which could significantly impact donation timelines and the availability of organs. Ultimately, the ULC opted not to implement any changes.

AOPO’s 2023 Congressional Fly-In Was a Big Success!



Iowa Donor Network
Left: Suzanne Conrad
Right: Heather Butterfield



Lifeline of Ohio
Left: Jessica Petersen
Middle: Andrew Mullins
Right: Demia Kandi

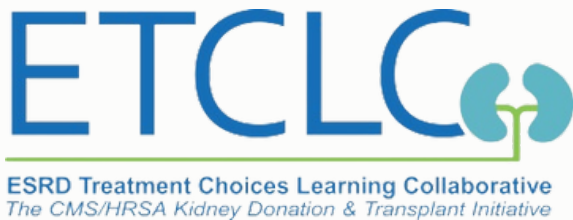


Left: Barry Massa, AOPO President
Right: Steve Miller, AOPO CEO

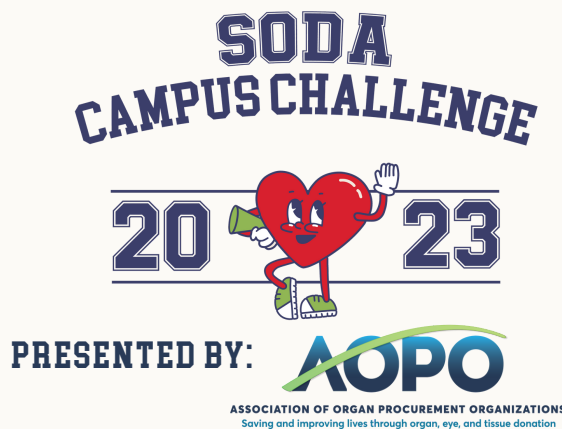
In our commitment to save more lives, AOPO has forged impactful collaborations with various partner organizations, aligning our efforts to save more lives. These partnerships are pivotal in driving innovations and strategies that significantly advance our mission in organ donation and transplantation



AOPO is a co-sponsor of the HRSA DoNation Campaign, aimed at promoting organ donation in workforces across the United States. The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of registered donors from all communities.



CMS and HRSA established the End State Renal Disease Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative (ETCLC) to bring transplant centers, OPOs, donor hospitals, patients, and families together to improve the quality and outcomes of kidney donation and transplantation. AOPO serves on the Leadership Coordinating Council as a national stakeholder.



This year, AOPO partnered with Student Organ Donation Advocates (SODA) for the first inaugural Campus Challenge. SODA teams from high schools, colleges, and graduate schools hosted registration drives and educational events and volunteered with their OPO to educate their fellow students about the importance of organ donation.

Congratulations to the Campus Challenges winners: Warsaw Community High School in Indiana, the University of Alabama, and the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine.



20,511 PEOPLE EDUCATED ABOUT ORGAN, EYE, AND TISSUE DONATION

426 PEOPLE REGISTERED AS ORGAN, EYE, AND TISSUE DONORS

[AOPO's September Donation Perspective Blog, Empowering the Future: Student Education in Organ Donation and Transplantation](#)

AOPO's dedication to advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) is integral to our mission. Through strategic partnerships and inclusive practices, we're shaping a more equitable donation and transplantation system, ensuring our mission reaches and resonates with diverse communities.

HBCU Programs

AOPO is collaborating with Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Medical Schools to develop pilot programs aimed at increasing the number of Black health professionals in the organ donation and transplantation field, as well as public outreach programs to provide education to communities of color.



The Tennessee Tribune

First of It's Kind Medical Program Established

Meharry Medical College and Tennessee Donor Services joined forces to launch a first-of-its-kind program to confront disparities in organ donation and drive diversity while providing medical students with valuable, hands-on experience.



Associated Press

Few Transplant Surgeons Are Black. Giving Medical Students a Rare Peek at Organ Donation May Help

The Associated Press article highlights the efforts of Meharry Medical College and Tennessee Donor Services to tackle disparities in organ donation. The piece offers an in-depth look at the donation process, featuring interactions with students, donor families, and an organ recovery event.



National Black Nurses Association Partnership

NBNA

NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION, INC.

AOPO sponsored the National Black Nurses Association's Annual Institute & Conference with the innovative Barbershop Health Talk session. The session included a panel of industry-leading organ donation experts discussing the significance of organ, eye, and tissue donation within the Black community.

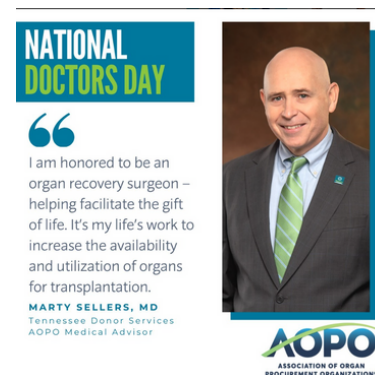


Recording from the
NBNA Barbershop
Health Talk

In an era where digital connections are crucial, AOPO's social media channels are key for engagement, awareness, and community building, enhancing our connection with members and the public around organ donation and transplantation. Follow us on social media to stay updated and informed with the latest in our community.



#AOPO50K



Stay Connected!



AOPO deeply appreciates the heroes who have selflessly donated organs, eyes, and tissues, touching many lives and providing hope to those awaiting transplants. We proudly host the annual **Donor Remembrance Day**, to honor these individuals and their families, recognizing their generous contributions as a core part of our mission.



Jordan Jeffrey Herron

NJ Sharing Network (New Providence, NJ)

“I received a call from the NJ Sharing Network, asking my permission if I would agree to organ donation. I said yes because that was his wish. He truly amazed me that at the age of 19, he checked off the box. He made a selfless decision to help others.”



Donor Remembrance Day - Honoring Donor Heroes Video

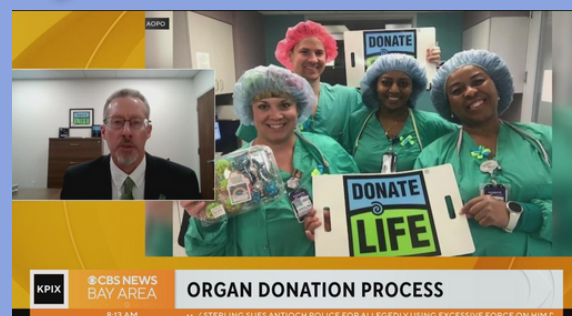


APRIL 30TH

Donor Remembrance Day in the Media



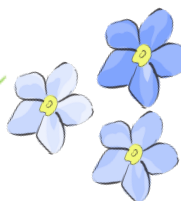
Tiny Jackson's selfless gift made him a real life superhero, saving the lives of two other children through the donation of his heart and liver.



AOPO President Barry Massa joined KPIX CBS San Francisco/Bay Area to explain the organ donation process and how OPOs work every day to save more lives.



Donor Hero Remembrance Garden



AOPO Donor Remembrance Day received **750+** Donor Hero dedications this year with over **2,500** stories shared in the garden!

SHARING SUCCESS, SAVING LIVES **AOPO**

AOPO hosts educational conferences each year for OPO members and community partners to collaborate, learn, and share successful practices to save more lives through organ donation and transplantation.

845 donation professionals attended the AOPO Annual Meeting

86 emerging OPO leaders attended the AOPO Leadership Development Summit

53 OPO finance leaders attended the AOPO Financial Management Meeting

139 OPO senior leaders attended the AOPO Directors Workshop



Hanock John and Frank Holloman, HRSA, and Steve Miller, AOPO



DeAndre Lipscomb and Donyale Padgett, PhD, Wayne State University of Legacy, Communication and Research



AOPO CEO, Steve Miller accepting an award from the UAE Hayat Program in honor of AOPO's continuous work in the organ donation and transplantation field.



Colleen McCarthy delivering her President's Address



AOPO Lifetime Achievement Award Winners. Jeff Orlowski on behalf of Joe Roth, Howard Nathan, Jean Davis, and Susan Stuart



The AOPOedu online webinar series provides ongoing learning and professional development opportunities for our members to share insights and successful practices, enhancing the skills and knowledge of those dedicated to the field of organ donation and transplantation. Recordings are available for our members on **AOPOplus**.



AOPOplus Member Portal



AOPO launched an IMPACT (Improvement in Action) Program for its membership to help OPOs identify areas of organizational growth, share successful practices from leading experts, and monitor implementation outcomes. The IMPACT Program aims to administer an OPO needs assessment and equip OPOs with recommendations and tools to operate more efficiently and effectively.

7 OPOs participated and received their final report in the IMPACT Program



Subject Matter Experts

Subject Matter Experts play a pivotal role in the IMPACT Program by guiding OPOs, employing tailored strategies, and sharing successful practices to enhance organ donation and transplantation rates.

Elissa Berman *Lifeban*
Melanie Browning *ARORA*
Alyssa D'Addio *CORE*
Valerie Durachta *Gift of Hope*
Dustin Goad *ARORA*
Ieesha Johnson *Infinite Legacy*
Belinda Lane *Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency*
Cheyne Levermore *LifeNet Health*

Kelsi Moret *Midwest Transplant Network*
Maria Nauman *Sierra Donor Services*
Darryl Nethercot *Lifesharing*
Lauren Patzman *Versiti Organ and Tissue*
Alan Spriggs *Legacy of Hope*
Jeff Trageser *Lifesharing*
Sharon West *CORE*



AOPO's October *Donation Perspective Blog*, highlighting the IMPACT Program and its philosophy for continuous improvement

The AOPO Data Committee brings together data and business intelligence leaders in the OPO community to collaborate on data projects and reports. Special acknowledgment is due to the dedication and hard work of all OPO data professionals as your leadership is crucial to skillfully pair data analysis with insightful decision-making.

CMS Metrics Task Force



The CMS Metrics Task Force is responsible for scoping, modeling, building, and launching a predictive tool to help OPOs assess their own performance in relation to the CMS performance report

100% of OPOs participate in the CMS Metrics Project

AOPO UNION Data Project

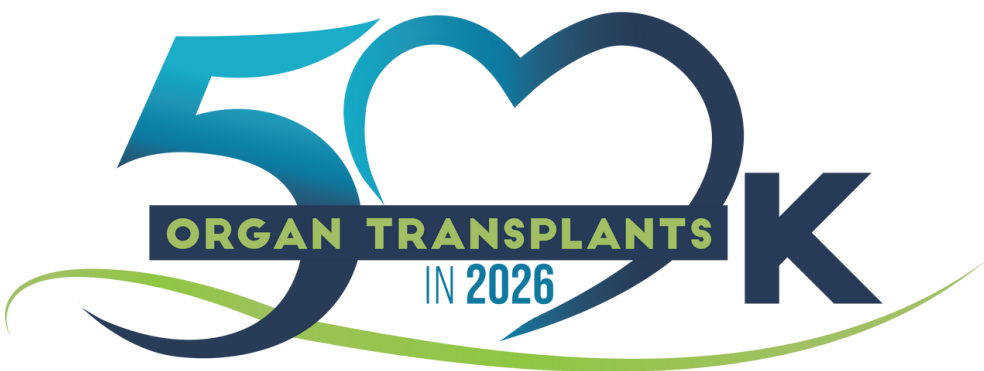


The UNION Data Project consists of 40 OPOs committed to utilizing comparative data to derive business intelligence insights from their OPOs and their peers. The data set is over 600,000 records and includes various aspects of business continuity that OPOs need to drive process improvements in the industry.

40 OPOs have committed to the UNION Data Project

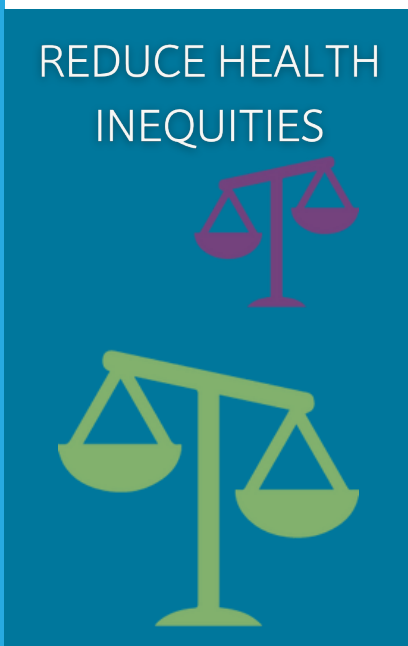


SAVE MORE LIVES



Together to Achieve 50,000 Annual Organ Transplants

2023 stood out as a year of significant achievements for our members and AOPO, marked by impactful advocacy, increased awareness, and most importantly, an increase in lives saved. As we turn the page to a new year, we are inspired by these successes and remain committed to our bold goal: reaching **50,000 annual organ transplants in 2026**. Through expanding collaboration, reducing health inequities, maximizing organ utilization, and driving innovation and research, we will overcome challenges and unlock new possibilities in the year ahead. Together, let us honor the gift of life and build a brighter future for organ donation and transplantation.



Register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor:
RegisterMe.org/AOPO50K

Stay informed about news and updates:
www.aopo.org/50K-Transplants