Incorporated in 1971, Gift of Life Michigan is the state’s federally designated full-service organ and tissue recovery organization that acts as the intermediary between donors, physicians and hospital staff.

Gift of Life Michigan employs a full-time government liaison and works with lawmakers, officials and others to help create a legal and regulatory foundation that fosters trust, collaboration and life saving, and enhancing organ and tissue donations.

For an overview of current legislative activity and access to donation laws, look under “government” at www.giftoflifemichigan.org.

Gift of Life Michigan’s Corporate Communications Department can provide information about organ and tissue donation; call 800.482.4881 or email info@giftoflifemichigan.org.

In addition, Gift of Life’s hospital development associates are available to answer any questions hospitals may have about laws and regulations related to organ and tissue donation. Hospital development associates can be reached at 800.482.4881.
Michigan’s Efforts to Save Lives Through Donation

More than 3,000 Michigan residents need a life-saving organ transplant, with the number expected to continue rising unless more organs become available. Many more people will require life-enhancing cornea or tissue transplants in the years ahead.

Recognizing the dire need, state lawmakers, with backing from Gift of Life Michigan, Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) and others, have passed laws that protect organ and tissue donors’ rights and foster a climate supportive of donation.

Three critical laws highlight the efforts: First Person Consent legislation, Michigan’s Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Law and Kyle Ray Horning’s Law. Together they provide a strong foundation for saving lives in Michigan through organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

First Person Consent

In 2003, the state passed First Person Consent legislation along with related bills that strengthen an individual’s rights at the time of death.

Key points:
- An anatomical gift made by a person through the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, a will or other document of gift will not be revoked upon the person’s death. This makes the donor’s wishes paramount.
- When a registered donor dies, their family will be notified of the loved one’s expressed wish and will be informed of the steps to be followed for the donation process.

Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Law

This law, which took effect May 1, 2008, brings the organ, tissue and eye donation process in Michigan into conformity with most other states and into line with federal requirements, such as those of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Key points:
- Upholds the Michigan Organ Donor Registry and reasserts First Person Consent.
- Includes a provision for a “refusal,” a written statement that a person does not want to be an organ donor.

Kyle Ray Horning’s Law

Often called the medical examiner law, this measure is named in honor of the infant who was the first donor under the law in 2005.

Key points:
- Requires hospitals and Gift of Life to collaborate on medical maintenance and assessment prior to obtaining consent for donation. This helps make donation a viable option for families if their loved-one dies and may improve the success of people receiving the transplants.