Register NOW! Don’t delay… deadline to register for free lodging is April 4! Space is limited!

**INSPIRE YOUR STUDENTS TO SAVE LIVES!**

Organ & Tissue Donation Awareness Spring Institute - FREE!

May 10-11, 2018 at The Atherton Hotel, State College, PA

**8 Hours of Act 48 Credit available**

- Hear real-life stories of donors and recipients
- Discover creative school activities
- Hear from medical professionals about the latest in organ and tissue donation
- Learn how to apply for curriculum grants of up to $4,000/year

To register, click [here](#).

Blue and Green Day — Friday, April 13

National Donate Life Blue & Green Day will take place this year on Friday, April 13. On this day, you are encouraged to wear blue and green, hold events and fundraiser, and partner with local businesses and community organization to promote the success of organ, eye, and tissue transplantation and the need for registered donors. Visit DonateLife.net/Blue-Green-Day for more information and materials.
Learning about Corneal Transplants

In December, students from Career Institute of Technology (CIT) in Easton, PA traveled to SightLife in Bethlehem, PA as part of CIT’s mini -grant with OTDA.

SightLife is a global health organization that works to eliminate corneal blindness in the world and works with many medical partners to offer corneal transplants to patients in need.

Cornea Fact:

A donated cornea can be preserved for up to 14 days, but most corneas are transplanted within the first few days.

2018 National Donate Life Month Materials

Celebrated each April, National Donate Life month features an entire month of local, regional and national activities to help encourage Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors and to celebrate those who have saved lives through the gift of donation.

Visit DonateLife.net/NDLM for more information and materials.

What does your school have planned for April? Please send photos and updates on your school’s activities to sue_howes@iu13.org for us to share with others.
As part of the Organ Tissue Donor Awareness grant, students from Southern Fulton High School's Biology I and 2 classes visited the Hershey Medical Center on January 25, 2018.

Students met seven graduate students who are working on their PhDs in the field of medicine. The PhD candidates teach medical students in the cadaver lab as well as work on various research projects which they discussed with our students.

The SFHS students were split into small groups and toured the cadaver lab, via 7 stations in the lab. At each station, a grad student showed vital body organs and spoke for 15 minutes about the purpose and function of the organs.

At one of the stations, students learned about ultrasound and were able to administer and receive an ultrasound on their necks.

Other stations contained human hearts, lungs, liver, spleen, gall bladder, kidneys, stomach, small and large intestines, and brain. Students also saw a full human skeletal system.

Students were able to hold the various organs and observe many of the details about the organs they have been learning in class, as well as ask many questions. The graduate students did an outstanding job teaching the high school students many new things.

The purpose of the trip was to expose students to careers in the medical field and provide them with an opportunity for a hands on experience with topics they have been studying in biology and health classes in order to foster their understanding and appreciation for the human body and specifically, our organs. (submitted by Rodney Leese)
I’ve always wanted to do something heroic. As a little girl, Wonder Woman was my idol. She battled the forces of evil and brought justice with the flick of her lasso or a few lightning bolts from her wrist bracelets. Being firmly planted in reality, I knew that I couldn’t literally be Wonder Woman but her sense of adventure enthralled me as I was not a big risk taker! I also loved television shows about the medical field, firefighters, police officers and EMTs. To this day, I imagine scenarios (fires, shootings, robberies, etc.) in my head and I plot out my course of action. I know this seems strange. Despite my interests, I chose a career in teaching! I don’t run into burning buildings, or fight bad guys everyday; instead, I teach Biology to high school kids. I suppose some would argue that teaching teenagers about photosynthesis IS risky business, but it’s really not!

I started teaching at Homer-Center in the fall of 2005. Shortly after that, I chaperoned a field trip with our special education teacher, Cindy Scott. We were talking and she mentioned that she had kidney damage that would eventually mean the possibility of being on the kidney transplant list. In my mind, I thought “how cool would it be if I could give her MY kidney?” Fast forward to the summer of 2017, and Cindy is placed on the kidney transplant list. Throughout the twelve years that we have worked together, Cindy and I became great friends both in and outside of the classroom. My thought about giving her my kidney re-emerged. I nagged her daily for the contact information so that I could be tested to see if we were a match. Cindy was VERY hesitant to share the information, as she didn’t want anyone to make a “fuss” over her need for a kidney. Finally, she reluctantly gave me the number for Allegheny General Transplant Center. Without talking to my family, I started the process. After answering a bunch of questions over the phone, a date was set up for me to begin testing.

Now came the tricky part. I thought, “How do I tell my husband and kids that I want to give away an organ? And then everyone else?” It began as a dinner conversation, “So, I’m thinking of getting tested to donate my kidney to Cindy if we are a match.” My husband, knowing that this was more than a passing thought, looked at me and said nothing. My daughters said, “You want to do what? How is that even possible?” And that was it! We began discussing organ donation, the need for it, how the donation testing works, etc. My parents, on the other hand, weren’t so easy. In short, they both thought I was crazy. In fact, the general consensus when I told people that I was testing for kidney donation was, “You want to do what?”

Testing began February 6, 2017, and involved a ton of bloodwork, CT scans, EKGs, urinalysis, chest X Rays, nephrology consults, psychiatric consults, financial consults and surgical consults. The transplant team does an amazing job to ensure that donors are physically and emotionally fit to donate an organ. All of the testing is paid for through Medicare at no cost to the donor. After much testing, it was determined that Cindy and I were not a match. This could have been the end of the story for me. However, the transplant team explained another option. I could donate my kidney to someone that was a perfect match (and stranger!), and in exchange, Cindy would get a “kidney voucher.” When she is ready for transplant, she would be moved to the top of the list and matched with a donor. This option was a no brainer to me! I felt that I was called to donate my kidney, if not to Cindy, then someone else. This was my chance to “run into a burning building.”

(continued on next page)
In the late fall of 2017, a recipient was located for my left kidney. I only know that it was a young man from Minnesota that had a genetic disorder that ruined his kidneys. Surgery was set for January 10, 2018. As time drew near, many people, including my students, would ask, “Are you scared?” Being a child of God, I was able to truthfully answer that I wasn’t anxious at all. I knew with absolute certainty that my surgery and the recipient’s surgery would be successes.

And they were just that! Both donation and transplant surgery went great. My recipient was reported to be doing very well and was so grateful to receive a healthy kidney. My recovery has been slow but without complication. Over the last two weeks, I’ve spent a lot of time thinking about this story. I don’t feel like Wonder Woman, or a firefighter, or any other hero. It’s actually difficult to accept the praises that have been showered upon me. I feel like someone who had “spare to share.” “God blessed me with two beautiful kidneys,” the words of my surgeon! My body didn’t need both. Why wouldn’t I share? To me, this is a small sacrifice to make in order for another human being to live without being strapped to a dialysis machine.

What satisfies me most, is that I am able to share this experience with my students and community. Being a recipient of the OTDA Mini Grant has helped to connect the Homer-Center faculty, staff and student body to the dire need for organ donors, both living and deceased. My goal has been to make living organ donation look “doable.” I never became a firefighter, police officer or doctor because that didn’t seem like something I could accomplish. Being a hero can be daunting. Being a person that is willing to share and help others is much more attainable.

Do you want to help inspire your students like Lisa Adams?

(donating your kidney is not required!)

Applications are now being accepted for OTDA mini-grants for the 2018-19 school year.

Any secondary school in PA is eligible to apply (for up to 3 years). Schools can apply for up to $2,000 for year 1, $4,000 for year 2, and $1,200 for year 3.

Application deadline is June 15, 2018.

For more information about the grant, including an application, click here.
Every 10 minutes, another person is added to the national transplant waiting list.

22 people die each day waiting for an organ.

8,000 deaths occur every year in the U.S. because organs are not donated in time.

82% of transplant patients waiting are in need of a kidney.

95% of Americans are in favor of being an organ donor, but only 54% are registered.

Spread the word about organ donation and make the difference!

You have the power to help!