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6,000+ Lives Saved or Enhanced in 2024 Thanks to Infinite Legacy Organ & Tissue Donors

BALTIMORE, Jan. 16, 2024 - Infinite Legacy, the organ procurement organization (OPO) serving almost 10 million people in Maryland and the Metro DC Area, announced it saved and enhanced **6,265 lives** in 2024 thanks to organ and tissue donor heroes. <u>Infinite Legacy</u> staff facilitated **324 organ donors**, resulting in **961 organ transplants** and recovered gifts from **1,621 tissue and eye donors** last year.

Organs transplanted included kidneys, livers, hearts, lungs, pancreases and small intestines. Tissue gifts included corneas to restore sight, skin to heal burns, heart valves to repair defects, bones to correct injuries and tendons/ligaments to restore movement.

"With nearly 4,000 people waiting for an organ transplant in our region, we strive to maximize every donation so that we can save more lives," said Charlie Alexander, president & chief executive officer, Infinite Legacy. "We are grateful for the many people who make our lifesaving mission possible, including our team, volunteers, hospital and community partners, generous donors and their brave families."

Infinite Legacy works in partnership with 68 hospitals and eight transplant centers to decrease the number of patients waiting for an organ. The organization also educates people about the critical importance of registering to be a donor and provides care to donor families while honoring the legacy of their loved ones.

In 2024, there were <u>48,149 total organ transplants performed in the U.S.</u> according to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). UNOS reports 16,988 people were deceased organ donors, which marked the 14th consecutive year of record deceased donors.

To learn more about organ and tissue donation, and to register to be a donor, please visit infinitelegacy.org.

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