Oregon online donor registry launches

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Donate Life Northwest (formerly Oregon Donor Program) announced today the launch of a statewide online donor registry. The secure electronic system provides a safe, easy way for individuals to be certain their wishes to become an organ, eye and tissue donor are known and honored.

Currently, nearly 1.5 million Oregonians have â€œDâ€• marked on their driverâ€™s licenses, indicating their decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. However, consent must be given by the potential donorâ€™s family members. Registering through the online donor registry takes the burden off family members and serves as informed consent to become a donor.

â€œToo often, we see a personâ€™s wishes to be a donor not honored because family members donâ€™t know about their choice or wonâ€™t provide their consent,â€• said Mary Jane Hunt, executive director of Donate Life Northwest. â€œAs the stateâ€™s formalized consent process, the online registry is the only way to be completely sure your wish to be a donor is honored.â€•

The registry also serves as a central location for donation information, allowing organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies to quickly identify donors â€” and match the donors to the nearly 2,000 people in the Northwest awaiting organ transplants.

â€œEven though 92 percent of the U.S. population support organ donation, just 20 percent take the steps to ensure their wishes are honored,â€• noted Hunt. â€œThe online registry is a simple, secure way to help solve the growing donor crisis.â€•

Found at donatelifenw.org, the registry allows individuals 18 years or older to specify what they wish to donate, update their information or remove themselves from the registry at any time. The registry is administered by Donate Life Northwest, but only authorized employees of the organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies can access the database.

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