



10-year-old girl's transplant struggle highlights need for more donors

By Sheldon Ingram

June 3, 2013

She needs a new lung while fighting end-stage cystic fibrosis, enduring 18 months on a ventilator.

Murnaghan's crisis is due in part to a organ transplant policy that says children under the age of 12 cannot receive adult organs.

The Center for Organ Recovery Education (CORE) says her crisis could be avoided if there were more donors.

"Actually, there's not enough organs for everybody on the waiting list. Right now, there's over 118,000 people waiting, and there's just not enough donors," said CORE spokeswoman Misty Enos.

The organ procurement organization coordinates organ transplants for western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York.

CORE says one person can save up to eight lives as a donor.

More than 8,000 people await new organs in Pennsylvania. Of those, 223 are children, and CORE says more donors can get Murnaghan and other kids off the waiting list.

CORE says that nationally, 18 people die every day while waiting for a new organ.

"The most important thing for people to understand is that they need to register to donate. They need to say 'yes' to donation and go to their registry and register to become a donor," said Enos

<http://m.wtae.com/news/10yearold-girls-transplant-struggle-highlights-need-for-more-donors/-/16915058/20406660/-/yruypl/-/index.html>

Features a 2:37 video clip. M. Enos is included.