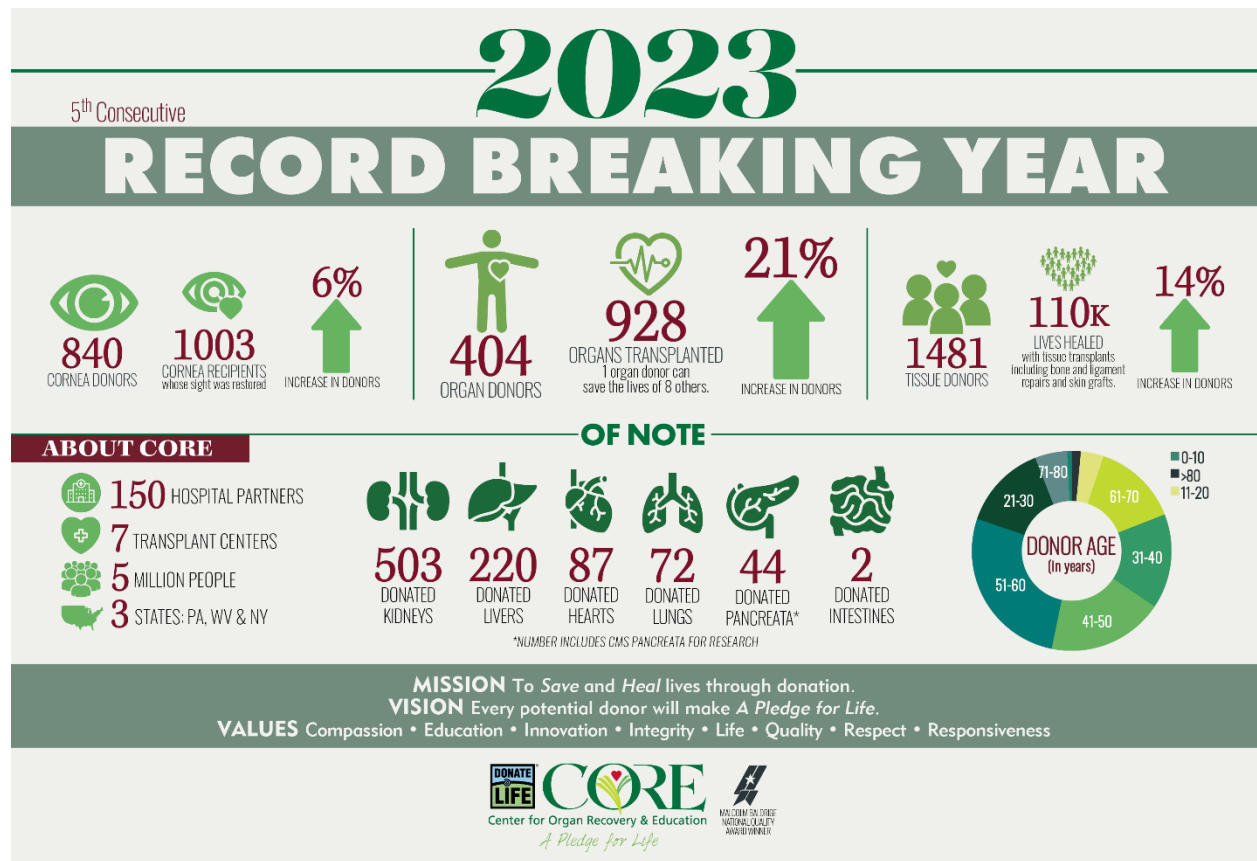


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## CORE Celebrates Fifth Consecutive Record-Breaking Year in Organ, Tissue, and Cornea Donation



Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 9, 2024 — In a remarkable achievement, the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) proudly announces breaking records in the number of lives saved and healed through organ, tissue, and cornea donation for the fifth consecutive year.

In 2023, the generosity of 404 organ donors from the CORE service region spanning western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Chemung County, New York, resulted in 928 transplanted organs. This remarkable milestone represents a 21 percent increase in organ donors compared to our previous record. Equally remarkable are the 840 cornea donors and 1481 tissue donors in 2023. Thanks to their final gifts, 1003 people will regain their sight through corneal transplantation, while more than 110,000 others will experience healing through tissue transplants, including bone and ligament repairs, skin grafts, and heart valve replacements.

**MEDIA RESOURCES (BROLL, DATA POINTS, COPY, PHOTOS) AT [WWW.CORE.ORG/NEWSROOM](http://WWW.CORE.ORG/NEWSROOM).**

**LOCAL INTERVIEWS WITH TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT AND DONOR FAMILIES AVAILABLE.**

As one of the 56 organ procurement organizations (OPOs) across the nation, CORE is at the forefront of delivering the gift of life. Specifically, CORE coordinates the surgical recovery of organs, tissues, and corneas for transplantation and facilitates the computerized matching of these life-saving donations, ensuring they reach individuals in need.

Susan Stuart, President & CEO of CORE, expressed gratitude, saying, "Thanks to the donor hospitals who are building a culture of donation inside their institutions and communities, the dedicated CORE team and our exceptional transplant centers, we have once again broken donation records. On behalf of all at CORE, I'm deeply thankful to our donors and their families for saying 'yes' to organ donation in 2023. Their generosity has provided nearly 1,000 people with a second chance at life."

Stuart continued, "Looking ahead to 2024, we remain committed to the CORE mantra of 'every donor, every time,' striving to help the 100,000+ people awaiting transplants. We are dedicated to connecting donor families, healthcare providers, and recipients, with the goal of transforming more lives this year."

In total, CORE made possible 503 kidney transplants (a 10 percent increase), 220 liver transplants (a 20 percent increase), 87 heart transplants, 72 lung transplants, 44 pancreata transplants (including Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services pancreata for research), and 2 intestinal transplants for individuals in need.

CORE credits a never-ending performance excellence journey with helping to guide success year after year. In 2019, CORE was recognized with the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, a presidential award that recognizes innovation and excellence.

"This fifth year of breaking records will further motivate and inspire CORE to continue striving for excellence," Stuart said. "Yet, it goes without saying that everyone at CORE is driven not by a desire to break records, but by a dedication to generous donors, their brave families, hopeful waiting list candidates, and thankful transplant recipients. This is a profound achievement for them as much as it is for us."

It's important to note that one person can save the lives of eight individuals through organ donation and heal the lives of 75 through tissue donation. Encouraging individuals to make a difference, Stuart urged, "When a person decides to become an organ, tissue, and cornea donor, they open up a world of possibilities for others. Register as a donor today at [core.org/register](http://core.org/register)."

#### ***About CORE***

*The Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) is one of 56 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the United States, serving more than five million people in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia. CORE coordinates the recovery and matching of organs, tissues and corneas for transplant within our service region, and works tirelessly to create a culture of donation within the hospitals and communities we serve. CORE's mission is to Save and Heal lives through donation, ultimately ending the deaths of those on the transplant waiting list, while maintaining integrity for the donation process, dignity for the donors, and compassion for their families. For more information, visit [www.core.org](http://www.core.org) or call 1-800-DONORS-7.*

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