



TOWN OF OSSINING

The Volunteer Spirited Town

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Ossining Recognizes 5th Annual Organ Donor Enrollment Day

Team Ossining comes together again to help everyone pay it forward

(Ossining, NY) – October 10th, 2019 marks the fifth annual [Organ Donor Enrollment Day](#) in New York, an event focused around one goal: enroll as many willing New Yorkers as possible as organ donors in a single day. Organ Donor Enrollment Day presents New Yorkers with a convenient opportunity to make their support known and to sign up as an organ and/or tissue donor. For the fourth year in a row, the Town and Village of Ossining formed “Team Ossining” to drive enrollments in the community, focusing this year on the staff members of the Ossining Schools and the Ossining Public Library.

On Thursday, October 10th, Ossining elected officials and community leaders gathered to recognize this important effort. “Each year, it has been meaningful to pause for a day and consider ways we can make an impact on the state registry,” said Town Supervisor Dana Levenberg. “I have personally witnessed how organ and tissue donation can transform lives, and I encourage everyone to enroll as an organ donor today to participate in this lifesaving effort.”

For the past two years, Team Ossining has secured the highest number of enrollments on Organ Donor Enrollment Day for a Municipal Team. “We are so proud of this repeated recognition, and look forward to striving for that success again this year,” continued Supervisor Levenberg.

“The people of Ossining care deeply about helping others. Today is an opportunity to educate our neighbors about being an Organ Donor,” said Village Mayor Victoria Gearity. “What better legacy of service than saving lives?”

Senator David Carlucci (D-Westchester/Rockland) said, “One person dies every 18 hours waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. On Organ Donor Enrollment Day, we need to raise

awareness about organ donation and the selfless gift that can save a life. Team Ossining continues to end stigmas associated with organ donation and increase the number of registered organ donors."

"Currently in New York, there are over 10,000 people in need of a lifesaving transplant. These people are more than statistics; they are our friends, family, and neighbors. I encourage my constituents to consider signing up to become an organ donor today, offering a new lease on life to those in need," said Assemblywoman Sandy Galef.

"It's on us to spread the word about how easy, safe, and impactful it is to join the organ donor registry. I applaud the Town of Ossining for helping to get the word out each year about this worthy cause. Organ donors save lives every day and checking that box is a simple way we can make a difference," said Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia.

A contributing factor to the statistic referenced by Senator Carlucci, that every 18 hours a New Yorker dies waiting for a lifesaving transplant, is that there are not enough New Yorkers registered as organ donors. Only 35% of eligible New Yorkers are registered. But there is hope. A recent study showed that 92% of New Yorkers support organ and tissue donation so the willingness is there. And evidence of this support is showing up. For six years running, New York has had one of the top ten fastest growing registries in the country. This has been helped by Lauren's Law, introduced a few years ago by Senator Carlucci and sponsored by Assemblywoman Galef, which requires people registering for a permit or drivers license to make a definite choice about organ donor registration. New York is finally seeing registrations increase exponentially, but there is much more work to be done.

"We know that New Yorkers overwhelmingly support organ donation, but not enough people have taken the important step of signing up on the registry. Organ Donor Enrollment Day is about raising awareness about this lifesaving cause and inspiring people to register to save a life. I'd like to thank the Town of Ossining for helping to get this important message out," said Ali McSherry, Public Relations Specialist for LiveOnNY.

This year, Team Ossining has worked to encourage the staff of the Ossining Schools and Public Library to join the national registry. "I am pleased and proud that the Ossining Public Library is able to join the Town's initiative to raise awareness of the vital need for organ donors," said Karen LaRocca-Fels, director of the Ossining Public Library. "The library is poised to serve as a resource for education and support about LiveOnNY's movement, and I'm hopeful that the number of enrolled donors in the state rises substantially thanks to Ossining's efforts."

Over the last four years, the hard work of teams like Team Ossining has contributed to the success of this event and together, over four days, over 14,000 people have registered organ donors and media coverage has been unparalleled. That is an impressive feat. Numbers like these go a long way to bring hope to the nearly 10,000 New Yorkers waiting for a transplant.

Register as an organ and tissue donor at www.Registerme.org/EnrollmentDay and be a part of this lifesaving movement.

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LiveOnNY is a nonprofit, federally designated organ procurement organization (OPO) dedicated to saving lives, providing comfort, and strengthening legacies through organ, eye, and tissue donation. The OPO, which was established in 1978, and is the second largest OPO in the United States, serves a culturally and ethnically diverse population of 13 million residents in New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley. Working closely with transplant centers and hospitals, **LiveOnNY** coordinates organ, eye, and tissue donation for transplant, educates the public and health care professionals about donation and transplantation, and promotes the importance of signing up on the New York State Donate Life Registry. **LiveOnNY** works closely with nine transplant centers, 98 hospitals, and several tissue and eye banks. **LiveOnNY** is accredited by the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) and a member of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), which oversees the organ transplant waiting list in the U.S. For more information, please visit LiveOnNY.org.