

PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSTON HEALTHCARE EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR PROMOTING ORGAN, EYE, AND TISSUE DONATION

Houston Healthcare earned national recognition for its efforts to increase organ, eye and tissue donor registrations across the state of Georgia through the DoNation Campaign. DoNation engages workplaces of all sizes and industries to highlight the importance in the lifesaving and life-giving mission of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Houston Healthcare, in partnership with <u>LifeLink® of Georgia</u>, the local organ and tissue recovery program, and <u>Donate Life Georgia</u>, the state's organ and tissue donor registry, earned Platinum recognition for conducting organ donation education and donor registration activities between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024.

During the 2023-2024 campaign cycle, Houston Healthcare was one of 88 participating hospital partners within the LifeLink® service area. Through flag raisings, ceremonial honor walks, donor registration tabling events, social media, Donate Life spirt week activities, community events, media and more, new donor registrations were added to the Donate Life Georgia state donor registry.

"We are deeply honored to receive national recognition for our efforts to increase organ, eye, and tissue donor registrations. This award reflects the dedication of our entire team and the unwavering commitment of our community to saving lives through donation. Organ and tissue donation is not only a vital part of healthcare, but it also represents the hope and opportunity for countless individuals and families. Our hospital remains fully committed to raising awareness, supporting donor registration, and helping to ensure that every eligible individual has the opportunity to make a life-saving difference," says Larry D. Stewart, Jr., M.D., FAAP, Vice-President Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, Houston Healthcare.

Nationally, over 103,000 individuals are waiting for a lifesaving transplant and more than 3,000 of those individuals live in Georgia. Unfortunately, every day in the United States 17 people pass away because an organ was not available in time to save their lives, and every nine minutes, another person is added to the national organ transplant waiting list. This ongoing need reaffirms the critical and growing need for more registered organ, eye, and tissue donors. Anyone, regardless of their age or health can make their decision to become a registered organ and tissue donor when obtaining a driver license through the Department of Driver Services, when purchasing a hunting or fishing license online through the Department of Natural Resources or online by going to www.DonateLifeGeorgia.org. For more information about the DoNation Campaign, visit www.organdonor.gov/professionals/workplace.

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About Houston Healthcare

Houston Healthcare serves over 300,000 people every year in multiple locations throughout Houston County, Georgia. Our 282 inpatient beds, three urgent care facilities, nine physician practices and numerous ancillary services have one goal—taking care of the people that call Houston County and surrounding communities home. We provide a wide range of services, including: inpatient and outpatient surgery, Maternity and neonatal intensive care, Advanced cardiovascular care, Urgent care, Electronic intensive care units, Advanced imaging services, Psychiatric care, Physical and cardiac/pulmonary rehabilitation, Orthopedics and joint replacement, Oncology treatment and 24-hour emergency care. For more information, please visit www.hhc.org.