

# NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt  
Fourth District, San Bernardino County



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## **Supervisors Declare April “National Donate Life Month”**

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today unanimously declared the month of April as “National Donate Life Month.”

The presentation to the Board this morning included a video presentation featuring Supervisor Gary Ovitt, Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, and Assistant Sheriff Warren Nobles and his son Scott, a sheriff’s deputy. Scott was the recipient of a heart transplant in 1998 and Assemblywoman Runner is on a waiting list for a double lung transplant.

“Both Scott and Sharon personify the dilemma of the critical need for organ transplants and what can happen when that occurs. Sadly the availability and need don’t match,” Supervisor Ovitt said today.

The month of April is recognized as National Donate Life Month. National Donate Life Month was established in 2003 by President George W. Bush. Throughout the month, people across the United States acknowledge and celebrate the generosity of those who have saved lives by becoming an organ, tissue, marrow, or blood donor.

“People of all ages can be potential organ donors. Infants and senior citizens will be equally considered as organ donors. There are several types of donations that can be made. Organ donation includes, heart, lung, kidneys, liver and pancreas. Tissue donations include corneas, middle ear, cartilage and veins. Stem cell donations include marrow, peripheral and cord blood stem cells. Blood and platelets can also be donated,” said Supervisor Ovitt.

As of March 2008, 254 transplant centers in the United States were operating one or more organ transplant programs. Each organ and tissue donor saves the lives of as many as 50 people. Each day, about 77 people receive organ transplants.

Approximately 98,000 individuals await organ transplants at any given moment. Currently there are 14,000 names on the donor list. Every 20 minutes another name is added to the waiting list.

It is important to be an advocate for organ donation. We need to raise awareness of the need for organ donors and the success of transplants. You can help by registering with our state donor registry, designate your decision on your drivers license, and carry a donor card.

Supervisor Ovitt concluded by saying; “We are lucky in California to have an organization, Donate Life California ([DonateLifeCalifornia.org](http://DonateLifeCalifornia.org)), a nonprofit organ and tissue donor registry dedicated to saving the lives of Californians awaiting transplants. They match needs with individuals who express their commitment to donate.”