Every day in the United States thousands of people receive life-saving organ, tissue and bone marrow transplants. Transplantation is a great medical success story and a routine part of health care today. This miracle of high-tech health care is made possible only by something entirely low tech — the extraordinary altruistic gifts and generosity of donors.

The Gift of a Lifetime is an educational web documentary that weaves together in-depth information with the real-world stories of donors and transplant recipients, and health care professionals. Organ and tissue donation and transplantation provides a unique opportunity for young people to learn more about the human body, civic responsibility and health and medicine in society.

The Gift of a Lifetime website can be used across curriculum to introduce organ and tissue donation to students as well as in conjunction with other classroom learning. What follows are suggested “Investigation Activities” in which students — individually or in groups — use website content and other sources to examine donation and transplantation through a variety of authentic tasks. A Journal Worksheet, Gift of Life Puzzle, Human Body Worksheet and other tools are provided for your students to document their observations.
Recommendations for Teachers

The "Investigation Activities" are designed so that teachers can assign students roles as Researchers, Journalists, Scientists, etc. to study, document and report on the subject of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

2. Have students keep a journal during the donation unit in order to nurture reflective thinking. Use the Investigations as assignments for individual students, pairs, triads, or small groups.
3. Contact your local chapter of the Coalition on Donation for local resources including people who have received transplants, families of donors, and transplant physicians. For contacts, go to: www.DonateLife.net
4. Use daily debriefings as a strategy for anchoring students with accurate information while debunking the myths and misinformation encountered.

Teacher Tips

♥ Use emotion to increase student learning. The Gift of a Lifetime website provides students with an opportunity to engage emotionally with content about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

"When emotions are engaged right after a learning experience, the memories are much more likely to be recalled and accuracy goes up...Engage emotions as a part of learning, not as an add on."
— By Eric Jensen, Teaching with the Brain In Mind

❥ Incorporate learning activities which span the multiple intelligences (verbal/linguistic; logical/mathematical; visual/spatial; bodily/kinesthetic; musical/rhythmic; intrapersonal; interpersonal; and naturalist, according to Howard Gardner in Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences, 1983).
The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigation Activities

Note to Teacher
— Each “Investigation” can be easily copied from this document and handed out to students.
— Each worksheet is designed to be easily printed and photocopied for distribution to students.
— The local Coalition on Donation chapter, transplant hospital, organ donor program and eye or tissue bank are all good resources for speakers and information.
— In most communities, people who have received life-saving organ transplants or sight-restoring cornea transplants are available to speak to schools and community groups.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigation 1: Researcher
You are a researcher for a publishing company. Solve the “Gift of Life Puzzle” using The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org and other resources to find the information you need. Record your answers so that you will be able to share with your supervisor and the class.

Extension:
Take the blank “Gift of Life Puzzle” and write your own questions, which should be different from the ones listed on the first puzzle. Record your answers so that you will be able to share with your supervisor and the class.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigation 2: Journalist
You are a journalist for your local newspaper. Write a news story about each day of the Transplant Journey found on The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org. Include factual information about donation in your article. You may also choose to write an article about one or more of the stories featured in Faces of Donation.

Extension:
Interview and write a story about a transplant recipient or donor in your community (this could include organ, tissue, bone marrow or blood). You might contact a local hospital to identify a transplant recipient. You may also write about someone who has dealt with a serious health issue such as diabetes, heart disease or cancer if you can’t identify a transplant recipient. You may use pictures to help tell your story.
The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigation 3: Scientist

You are a scientist for a medical research foundation. Investigate the Interactive Body found on The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org and other resources such as University of Minnesota Web Anatomy, http://www.gen.umn.edu/faculty_staff/jensen/1135/webanatomy/. Select one organ or tissue that can be donated to study. Write an article for a medical journal and make a presentation to your class about the organ or tissue. Include factual information about donation in your article and presentation. Use a visual aid during your presentation.

Extension:
Create a model to illustrate key features of the organ or tissue. You may make drawings to help explain the organ or tissue.

Investigation 4: Interviewer

You are an interviewer for your local television station. Review each day of the transplant journey found on The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org. On the “Interview Worksheet,” list five questions that you would like to ask your parents or an adult about organ and tissue transplantation. Conduct the interview and record your answers on the worksheet, which will be turned in to your teacher.

Extension:
Interview three adults from different age groups. Possible age groups are: a) Under 30; b) Between 30-50; c) Over 50. Compare their answers. What are the similarities and differences in the answers? Describe these in a news report for your supervisor and the class.
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Investigation 5: Correspondent

You are a correspondent for your local community service organization. Review The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org and listen to the stories in the Transplant Journey or Faces of Donation section. Write a letter to an individual featured in the Transplant Journey or Faces of Donation section. Your letter is to be turned in to your teacher. You may also submit your letter to The Gift of a Lifetime website at info@organtransplants.org to be forwarded to the individual featured.

Extension:
Identify a hospital near you that has a heart, kidney, liver or lung transplant program and write a letter to be given to patients waiting for transplants.

The Gift of a Lifetime

Investigation 6: Historian

You are a historian for a publishing company. You have been asked to write a medical textbook chapter on the history of donation and transplantation. Review The Gift of a Lifetime website www.OrganTransplants.org.

Other helpful sites include:

Coalition on Donation, www.DonateLife.net

United Network for Organ Sharing, www.UNOS.org

Division of Transplantation, www.OrganDonor.gov

Statistics about donation and transplantation from the past ten years should be presented in your chapter and you may include photographs or illustrations. You will submit your chapter to your supervisor and your teacher. You will also make a presentation to your class, which summarizes your chapter.

Extension:
Write a chapter about the future of donation and transplantation. Predict the medical practices in 2010, 2020, and 2050. Base your predictions on current medical practices and research. You will submit your chapter to your supervisor and your teacher. You will also make a presentation to your class, which summarizes your chapter.
The Gift of a Lifetime

Organs and tissues for transplantation

Instructions

Go to www.OrganTransplants.org and Link to “Understanding Donation” and view the “Interactive Body.”

On the back of this page identify and write a brief description of each organ and tissue.

Describe a transplant or donation fact for each organ and tissue.
Journal Worksheet

Name: ___________________________________________ Date: ___________________________________________

Instructions: read or listen to the stories in the Transplant Journey or Faces of Donation sections of The Gift of a Lifetime website. Describe the story and share your observations. Prepare two questions to submit to members of the Gift of a Lifetime Team or those featured in the site. You may email your questions to info@OrganTransplants.org.

_______ Transplant Journey Story Title ______________________________________________________________

_______ Faces of Donation Story Title ______________________________________________________________

Observations:
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

Two questions for the Gift of a Lifetime Team:

1) ________________________________________________________________

2) ________________________________________________________________
Interview Worksheet

Directions:

1. Prepare a list of questions for an interview with an adult (family member or friend) about organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

2. Conduct the interview and write the responses. Responses should be shared with the class only if the student and adult or family member are willing, and the adult has signed this form giving permission to share the information.

3. You may type out your questions and responses on a separate page.

Interview by ________________________________
(Student's Name)

Adult interviewed ________________________________

Adult is ________________________________
(Parent, Guardian, Friend, Grandparent, Etc.)

I give my permission for this information to be shared with the student's class.

(Signature) ________________________________
(Date) ________________________________

Question 1

____________________________________

Response

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Question 2

____________________________________
The Gift of a Lifetime

Response

Question 3

Response

Question 4

Response

Question 5

Response

Additional Comments
Note to teacher: Cut the puzzle pieces apart and have the students develop their own questions about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Have the students research their questions The Gift of a Lifetime website at www.OrganTransplants.org and other website resources provided.
Note to teacher: Cut the puzzle pieces apart and have the student select a piece and answer the questions using The Gift of a Lifetime website at www.OrganTransplants.org.
Additional Online and Reading Resources

**Websites**

* Coalition on Donation, www.DonateLife.net
* United Network for Organ Sharing, www.UNOS.org
* Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation, www.MTF.org
* Division of Transplantation, www.OrganDonor.gov
* The James Redford Institute for Transplant Awareness, www.JRIfilms.org
* The Marrow Foundation, www.TheMarrowFoundation.org
* National Marrow Donor Program, www.BoneMarrow.org
* National Marrow Donor Program, www.Marrow.org
* University of Minnesota Web Anatomy, www.gen.umn.edu/faculty_staff/Jensen/1135/webanatomy/

Corneal Blindness Glasses show students what is seen by a patient who needs a cornea transplant. Contact the Eye Bank Association of America, (202) 775-4999

**Books about Donation, Transplant and Coping With Loss**

**For Children**

*The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein

*Learning to Say Goodbye: When a Parent Dies* by Eda LeShan

*The Mulberry Music: Death of a Grandparent* by Doris Orgel

*Rachel & The Upside Down Heart* by Eileen Douglas

*Sarah’s Journey: One Child’s Experience with Death of Her Father* by Alan Wolfelt

*When Mommy Died: A Child’s View of Death* by Janice Hammond

*Why Did Daddy Die* by Linda Alderman

*Donor Banks: Saving Lives with Organ & Tissue Transplants* by Salley Lee

*Spare Parts for People* by Margery Facklam

*How Will They Get That Heart Down Your Throat?* by Karne Walton

*Barkley and Eve Explain Organ Donation* by Karen L. Carney
The Gift of a Lifetime

Additional Online and Reading Resources

Justin's Journey: My Life as a Kid With Kidney Disease by Justin Hill
*Lizzy Gets A New Liver by Lizzy Ribal
*Red's True Heart by J.A. Freeman
When Daddy Got Sick: A Story About Organ Transplantation by Shawn McCreight
When Someone Very Special Dies by Marge Heegaard
A New Heart for Hannah by Jessie Flynn
There’s A Little Bit of Me in Jamey by Diana Amadeo
The Fall of Freddy the Leaf by Leo Buscaglia

For Teenagers and Adults

For Those Who Live by Kathy La Tour
The Grieving Child: A Parent’s Guide by Helen Fitzgerald
Helping Children Cope With Grief by Alan Wolfelt
How It Feels When A Parent Dies by Jill Krementz
Saving Jessica by Lurleen McDaniels
She Died Too Young by Lurleen McDaniels
Someone Dies, Someone Lives by Lurleen McDaniels
The Nicholas Effect. A Boy’s Gift to the World by Reg Green
A Gift of Life: A Page from the Life of a Living Organ Donor by Lynn Chabot-Long
Hope From My Heart by Rich DeVos
It Gets Dark Sometimes: My Sister’s Fight to Live and Save Lives by Jeffrey Marx
LifeLine, How One Night Changed Five Lives, A True Story by Mary Zimmeth Schomaker
Organ Transplants: Making the Most of Your Gift of Life by Robert Finn
Second Chances: Receiving the Gift of Life by Jeff Lueders
Am I Still A Sister? By Alicia M. Sims
Losing Someone You Love: When Brother or Sister Dies by Elizabeth Richter
Recovering From The Loss of A Sibling by Katherine Donnelly

*English and Spanish