



*Volunteer*



**New England  
Donor Services**  
*Organ and Tissue Donation*



## Story Sharing Tips

---

Whether you are presenting to your faith group, a school or business group, or having a conversation with someone in line at the grocery store, your personal experience can be the most significant influence in someone's decision to become a registered donor. Below are tips to remember when adding your VOICE to the need for organ and tissue donors and inspiring your family, friends, coworkers, or neighbors to register.

### **Remember the Goal**

The primary goal of sharing your connection to donation and transplantation is to inspire those listening to register as organ and tissue donors.

### **Be Your Natural Self**

Even though there is a purpose behind sharing your story with others, that doesn't mean it has to be forced or unnatural. Just be yourself when speaking about your experience. Whether you insert humor, use an analogy or shed tears, your listeners know you so go with what feels right.

### **Keep it Simple – Less is More!**

An important thing to keep in mind is that your story is about you or a loved one, not about the medical process of donation and transplantation. Because of its many procedures and medical terms, this subject can be complex. Though sharing every detail may feel natural, it can be overwhelming to others and they may miss the important message of registering as a donor.

For example: Details like the exact number and names of medicines required after transplantation, or the precise dates of important events throughout your journey are extremely important to you, but including all of them may detract from the power of your story.

### **Stress the Positives – Tell, Don't Dwell!**

Donation and transplantation can be bumpy roads. Whether you are a grateful recipient, hopeful candidate or family member, focus on the positive feelings you and your loved ones have experienced.

That does not mean to ignore anything that could be negative. Be honest about hardships you or your family may have faced—but focusing too much on them can be counter-productive. Remember, the goal is to educate and motivate. Make your audience comfortable and keep their attention through the positive aspects of your story.

### **Call to Action**

Many people will be inspired by your story, remember to let others know how they can sign up to be a donor, [registerme.org](http://registerme.org), check the YES box each time you renew your driver's license or state ID, and talk about donation with family and loved ones.