



## Broome County OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### ***Broome County Clerk Mihalko Recognizes National Donate Life Month***

Broome County Clerk Joseph Mihalko announced that the Broome County Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is partnering with Donate Life New York State to recognize April as National Donate Life Month. This is an annual observance highlighting the critical need for increased organ, eye and tissue donation in New York State.

During the month of April, and throughout the year, the Broome County DMV urges all residents to learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation and to say yes to donation while completing transactions at the DMV. Promotional items and decorations will be on display throughout National Donate Life Month as a reminder of the importance of the gift of life.

Nearly 10,000 New Yorkers are currently waiting for a life saving organ transplant and 1,500 have been waiting for five years or longer. Each year, almost 500 men, women and children in New York State die because an organ does not become available in time.

Approximately 42% of New Yorkers are enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry, the electronic database that documents a person's consent to be an organ and tissue donor at the time of their death. Even though more than 6.6 million New Yorkers are registered donors, this represents the second lowest rate of participation in the Donate Life Program in the country. Broome County residents are encouraged to make a difference and give hope to all those in need of a transplant by enrolling in the registry at the DMV. One donor has the potential of saving eight lives can help more than 75 more by donating tissues and corneas.

“Our staff at the Broome County DMV engages with the public on this critical health issue more than any other agency,” said Broome County Clerk Joe Mihalko. “The promotion of organ and tissue donation during Donate Life Month has lasting impact on the number of registered donors and the lives that will be saved through transplantation.”

All New Yorker's age 16 and older can enroll in the New York State Donor Registry, regardless of their medical history. The enrollment option is available on forms used to apply for a new or renew a driver's license or non-driver's identification card. New Yorker's can also enroll in the Registry while applying for health insurance through New York State of Health and on voter registration forms. In addition, online enrollment is available at any time at [donatelifenewyork.gov/register](http://donatelifenewyork.gov/register).

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