

What previous donor families have said:

“The butterfly is a symbol of new life and became our symbol of tissue donation.

When our daughter died she left her former life behind, but through donation, she was able to live on in a new way”

“Giving someone a fuller or longer life through donation would have been a comfort to me.

I would have given permission if only given a chance”

“Because of your loved one’s donation, our family can still enjoy lots of happy celebrations!”

Who is the CTE?

The Centre for Tissue Engineering is a tissue bank dedicated to healing through tissue transplantation. The CTE is situated at the CSIR in Pretoria, and is an entity of the Tshwane University of Technology.




Dedicated to healing through tissue transplantation

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR COORDINATORS FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE:


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“In the wake of personal tragedy... a fresh perspective on Tissue Donation”





Whether sudden or expected, facing the death of a loved one is overwhelming. One can experience a variety of emotions, ranging from anger and despair to disbelief, shock and numbness.

Along with these emotions, there are so many decisions to be made at a time when one is least prepared to deal with them.

One such decision is making the choice in favour of organ and tissue donation. In this way, you can ensure that your loved one leaves behind a wonderful final legacy of love and hope by helping another.

The need for organ and tissue transplantation is vast but impossible to overcome without people who agree to help others in need, despite the absolute pain and finality of death.

WHAT TISSUE CAN BE DONATED?

Corneas

The corneas can be used to avert or correct blindness.

Bone and Tendons

Bone, cartilage and tendon grafts can be used to help restore function and mobility in people who would otherwise be incapacitated or disabled due to trauma or disease.

Heart Valves

Donor heart valves (aortic and pulmonary) may be used to correct or repair cardiac defects or damage.

Skin

The topmost layer of skin (epidermis) is carefully removed from the larger areas of the donor body which then provides a lifesaving solution for thousands of critically burned patients every year.

Is there a charge for donating tissue?

No. You would neither pay nor receive any payment for tissue donation. The cost of the procedure is paid for by the CTE.

Where is the tissue retrieval done?

A specially trained team conducts the procedure in either the hospital, the local mortuary or at the funeral home of your choice.

Will my loved one be treated with dignity?

Our professional procurement teams are bound by a strict code of conduct to ensure that each donor is treated with the utmost respect and dignity. Donation does not disfigure the donor's body and will not prevent you from having a normal viewing or open coffin on the day of the cremation or burial service.

Will donation delay the funeral?

No. CTE, in collaboration with the funeral home, will work within time limits as determined by the funeral arrangements.

Will I know who receives my loved one's tissue?

For privacy and legislative reasons, donors and recipients are not identified.

What happens after we decide to donate?

You will be asked to complete and sign the necessary consent form. The CTE will then make the relevant arrangements to perform the tissue retrieval as soon as possible.



WHY SHOULD I DONATE?

People donate for many different reasons:

For some, donation is a way of turning a senseless tragedy into something meaningful, helping others and lessening their grief.

Other people consider tissue donation a practical matter and make their decision in an unemotional way.

If you are struggling with the issue, think about what kind of person your loved one was. Would he or she help someone if given the chance? Would this act of generosity leave a final legacy of hope?

