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Show Us Your Heart! A state-wide library initiative to increase organ donation registration

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Show Us Your Heart!

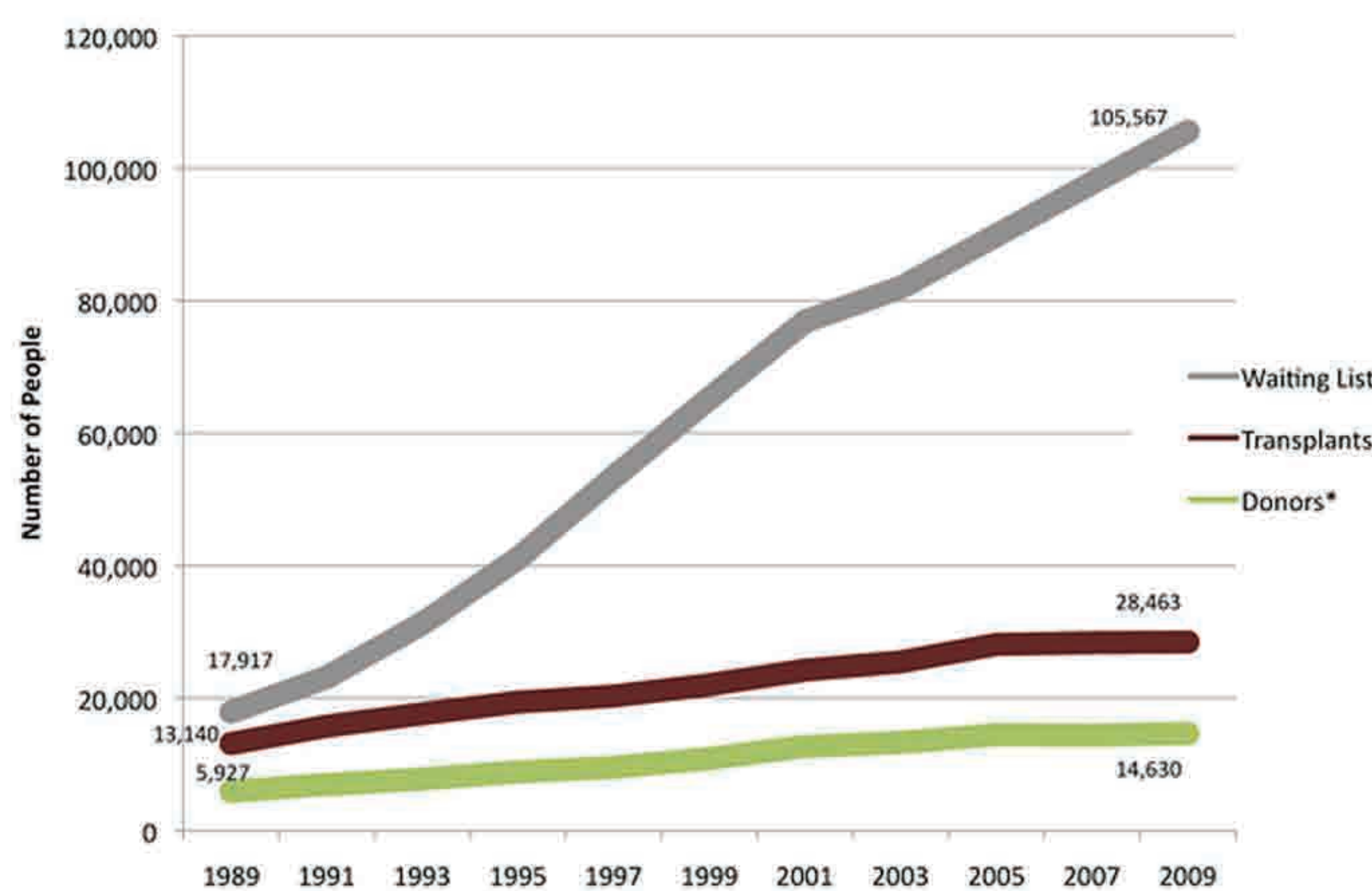
A state-wide library initiative to increase organ donation registration

Kate Saylor, MSI; Carol Shannon, MA, MPH; Jean Song, MSI

The Taubman Health Sciences Library (THL) at the University of Michigan has an active outreach program in which we partner with many state, local, and national groups to help bring health information to the public. For the last 2 years, in an effort spearheaded by THL, libraries on several university campuses across the state of Michigan participated in organ donor registration drive for Gift of Life Michigan.

Why did we choose this project? Because of the great need for organ donors. People die waiting every single day because the number in need greatly outpaces the number of organs available. In Michigan, about 3,000 people are waiting for a life-saving organ. Nationally, about 110,000 people are on the waitlist.

Nationally, there are more than enough people waiting for an organ to fill a large football stadium twice over.



Partnership

In 2010, we partnered with the state's designated organ and tissue recovery program, Gift of Life Michigan, to create the "MLibrary for Life" organ donation registration drive. Gift of Life Michigan, headquartered in Ann Arbor, is the state's only federally designated organ and tissue recovery program, providing all services necessary for organ donation to occur in Michigan. They work all over the state as a liaison between donors, hospitals and transplant centers.



Gift of Life was incorporated in 1971 by Michigan transplant surgeons to provide a network for sharing kidneys. Today, Gift of Life recovers more than 900 organs every year for transplantation from 300 or more donors, saving hundreds of lives.

In addition, Gift of Life maintains and grows the Michigan Organ Donor Registry in partnership with the Michigan Secretary of State.

MLibrary for Life

MLibrary for Life ran from October 18-21, 2010 and involved 4 libraries on the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus and 1 library on the Flint campus.

Participating Libraries:

- University of Michigan - Shapiro Undergraduate Library
- University of Michigan - Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library
- University of Michigan - Taubman Health Sciences Library
- University of Michigan - Art, Architecture & Engineering Library
- University of Michigan - Frances Wilson Thompson Library (Flint)

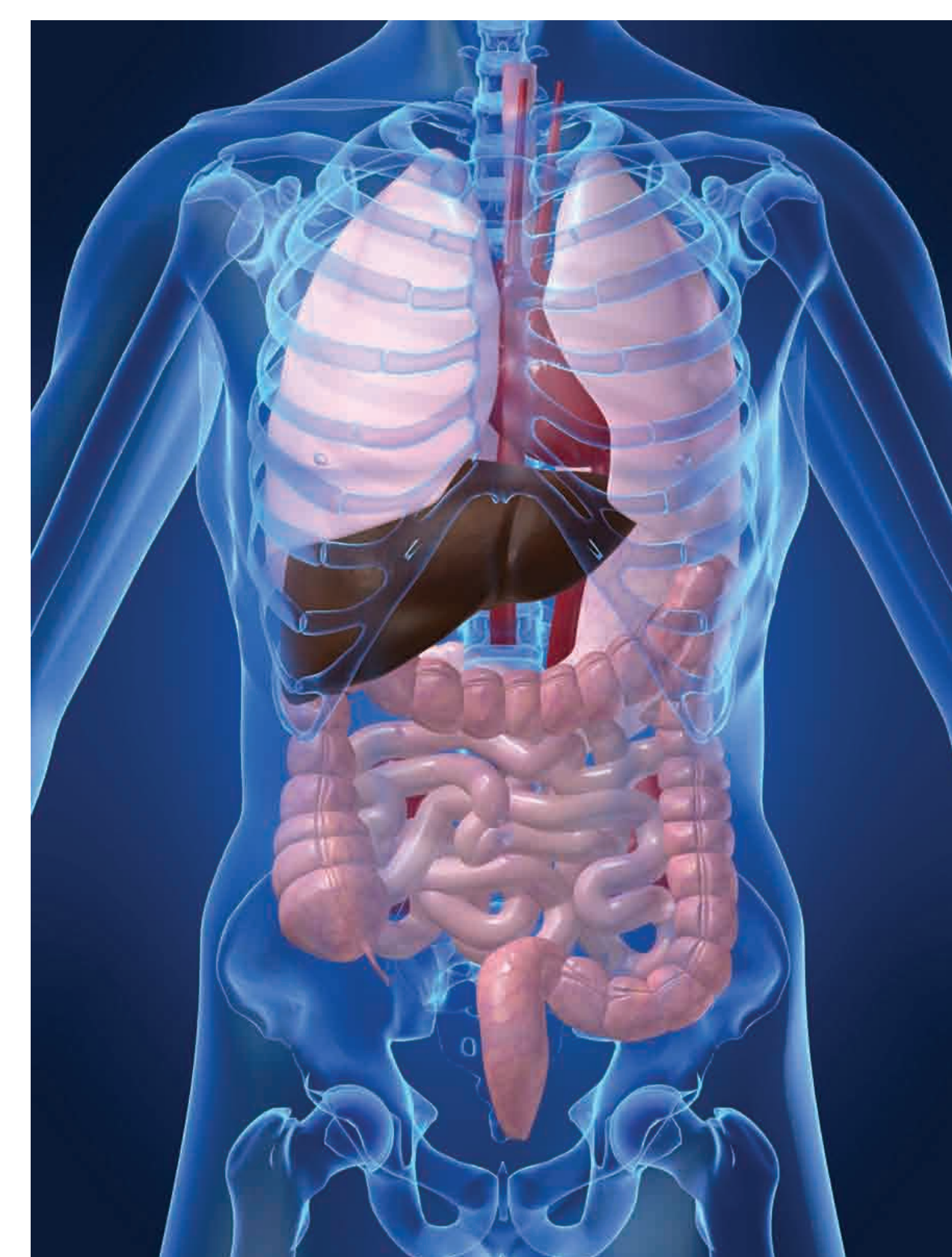


We talked to 797 students, faculty, and staff members. 222 visitors stopped by to ask questions or pick up information, 352 were already registered as organ donors and 223 registered at our tables. **That is potentially 4,600 lives saved and 28,750 lives improved by the gift of life!**

Lessons learned: We provided minimal training for volunteers, only sending out links to information resources prior to the drive and providing a printed copy of FAQs in each of the supply boxes. After speaking with library representatives, we learned that there was a need for more comprehensive training



Each organ donor can save up to 8 lives. Each tissue donor can improve the lives of up to 50 people.



One donor can:

- Donate kidneys to free two people from dialysis treatments needed to sustain life.
- Save the lives of patients awaiting heart, liver, lung or pancreas transplants.
- Give sight to two people through the donation of corneas.
- Donate bone to repair injured joints or to help save a limb threatened by cancer.
- Help burn victims heal more quickly through donation of skin.
- Provide healthy heart valves for someone whose life is threatened by malfunctioning or diseased valves.

Michigan Libraries for Life

This successful expansion of the 2010 MLibrary for Life program ran from September 19-20, 2011 and involved **10 libraries from across 5 university campuses**. For this program we provided additional training to the library representatives. We hosted this lunch and training session at the Gift of Life headquarters in Ann Arbor and also provided a tour of facility including the call center and laboratory.

Libraries:

- Eastern Michigan University - Halle Library
- Grand Valley State University - Zumberge Library
- Grand Valley State University - Steelcase Library
- Grand Valley State University - Frey Foundation Learning Center
- University of Michigan - Taubman Health Sciences Library
- University of Michigan - Art, Architecture & Engineering Library
- University of Michigan - Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library
- University of Michigan - Shapiro Undergraduate Library
- University of Michigan - Mardigan Library (Dearborn)
- University of Michigan - Frances Willson Thompson Library (Flint)



We talked to 1593 students, faculty, and staff members. 538 visitors stopped by to ask questions or pick up information, 703 were already registered as organ donors and 414 registered at our tables. **That is potentially 8,936 lives saved and 55,850 lives improved by the gift of life!**

Plans for the September 2012 Michigan Libraries for Life are in the works. Contact libs4life@umich.edu if you would like to join Michigan or expand the effort to another state!