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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### THE LLF HONORS ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONATION IN THE COMMUNITY: HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**BALTIMORE (September 15, 2022)** – National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually in the United States from September 15 to October 15 to honor the contributions of the Hispanic community to the country's society and culture and commemorate the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

[The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland](#) (The LLF), the organ procurement organization that saves lives through organ, eye and tissue donation in Maryland, will observe National Hispanic Heritage Month through community outreach that honors and recognizes the kindness and generosity of Hispanic donors and their families and emphasizes the critical need for more Hispanic populations to register. During the thirty days, The LLF will join the national Donate Life community in providing facts, dispelling myths and misconceptions, and educating people about the importance of being an organ donor and sharing that decision with family members through its social media pages. In addition, representatives from The LLF will host an information table at the upcoming Fiesta Baltimore event on Sunday, October 9 at Patterson Park where attendees will have the opportunity to learn about donation and register.

The lives of more than 7,000 people in the Hispanic community were saved in the U.S. last year through organ donation and transplantation. Yet over 22,000 of those waiting for a life-saving organ nationally are Hispanic. Myths about organ donation continue to be the main barriers preventing many Hispanic people from registering. Organ donation is a way for people to support their family and communities with the gift of life since organs that are matched between those of the same racial and ethnic backgrounds have a greater chance of long-term success. Throughout the observance, The LLF hopes to make meaningful connections and support the Hispanic community in its service area.

“National Hispanic Heritage Month is an important acknowledgement of the contributions of the Hispanic community, and we are excited to have the opportunity to connect with them,” said Ieesha Johnson, director of community outreach at The LLF. “Our work is focused on building bridges to the community and empowering them to register to save lives as organ, eye and tissue donors.”

The LLF respects and honors the many families who choose organ, eye and tissue donation and provide the gift of life to those in need. One donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and enhance over 75 lives through eye and tissue donation. Currently, with almost 116,000 people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, it is important for people to register and then share that decision with their families.

Additional Hispanic Heritage Month resources pertaining to organ, eye and tissue donation can be found on the website for the Association of Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation at [www.amat1.org](http://www.amat1.org). To learn more about donation or to register as a donor, please visit [www.donatelifemaryland.org](http://www.donatelifemaryland.org).



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**The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland**

As the federally designated organ procurement organization for the state of Maryland, The LLF facilitates donation and transplantation to save and heal lives. The LLF also offers grief support to donor families and the general public. Committed to advocacy and education, The LLF runs awareness-raising campaigns for organ, eye, and tissue donation and offers a wealth of resources for recipient and donor families, clergy, educators, funeral directors and others.