



# CITY OF PLAINFIELD

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

#### **MAYOR SHARON ROBINSON-BRIGGS AND NJ SHARING NETWORK HOST FIRST-ANNUAL NATIONAL DONATE LIFE BLUE AND GREEN DAY IN PLAINFIELD**

**PLAINFIELD** – Mayor Sharon M. Robinson-Briggs and NJ Sharing Network hosted the first-annual *National Donate Life Blue and Green Day* at the Plainfield Dairy Queen as a month-long initiative to register 20 million new organ and tissue donors in 2012. Mayor Robinson-Briggs presented a proclamation declaring today as the first-annual, *Donate Life Month* in the City of Plainfield.

Dairy Queen was chosen as a symbolic site because Donna Albanese, owner and operator, donated her kidney to her mother in 2002. Since that time, Albanese has been a strong advocate for organ and tissue transplant.

“When you save one life, you save a family,” said Mayor Robinson-Briggs, referring to the Albanese family. “When Donna Albanese decided to donate her kidney, she actually saved her community.”

Eighteen people die each day waiting for a transplant. In the United States, approximately 100,000 people are waiting for life-saving transplant, including close to 5,000 New Jersey residents.

Mayor Robinson-Briggs said, “I once thought a will and testament was the ultimate gift of life. I no longer believe that is the ultimate gift. Today, I am here to say that the ultimate gift of life is organ and tissue donation.”

Several other Union County officials joined Robinson-Briggs in declaring today *Donate Life Month*. Those attendees included Mayor Michael Giordano of North Plainfield, Mayor Nancy Malool of Scotch Plains, Mayor Joe Accardi of Roselle Park, Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell of Fanwood, and Councilman Derryck White of South Plainfield. Other regional mayors participated in the program as well by sending proclamations in advance.

In 2011, 143 people donated their organs in New Jersey resulting in 409 life-saving transplants. Statewide, there were 250 bone donors, 254 skin donors, and 655 corneas recovered. One donor could save up to eight lives and restore the health to 50 others. All major religions support organ and tissue donation. There is no cost to be a registered organ and tissue donor. Donation is a gift.

NJ Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally designated organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for New Jersey residents in need of life-saving transplants. To find out more information about *National Donate Life Blue and Green Day* or how to register as an organ and tissue donor, visit [www.njsharingnetwork.org](http://www.njsharingnetwork.org) or call 1-800-742-7365.

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