



2021

Year in Review

HonorBridge.org



HonorBridge is devoted to building connections that save and heal lives.



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Welcome From Our President & CEO



Danielle Niedfeldt, RN, JD

Through the selfless decisions of our donors and their families who said “yes” to donation, HonorBridge set a record for tissue donors (1,295) and heart valves recovered (263). Additionally, 2021 was the second-highest year for deceased organ donors (290), from which 819 organs were transplanted and 712 lives saved. This enabled our nation to reach a record of over 40,000 transplants in 2021!

Last year, presented both opportunities and challenges. COVID-19 continued to impact the number of donors, allocation of organs for transplant, critical supply chain products, and fatigue of our staff and fatigue and turnover of hospital staff.

Yet, our commitment to excellence, innovation, and process improvement enabled us to respond to these challenges by:

- breaking ground for our new Chapel Hill office,
- being named a 2021 Business North Carolina’s Best Employer,
- sponsoring legislation to improve the DMV donation process that became law,
- receiving national recognition for advancing research,
- using a tracking service that informs us when an organ is in transit, arrives at an airport, and ultimately at the transplant center,
- partnering with TransMedics to keep lungs warm and breathing as in the human body so that they can be transported greater distances, and
- rebranding to HonorBridge and smoothly transitioning to a name, logo, mission, vision, and values that are more reflective of our life-saving work.








This new year presents new opportunities for saving and healing even more lives. I invite you to open doors in your community, share your decision to be a registered donor, honor your loved one, or celebrate your second chance at life.

We look forward to being the bridge that provides crucial organs and tissues to those in need, connects donors with recipients, gives honor and purpose to donor families, and presents information about the gift of life to our surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Niedfeldt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

More Lives Saved in 2021

SAVING AND HEALING LIVES through organ and tissue donation				
1,295	Tissue donors, a record number!			
263	Heart valves recovered, a record number!			
290	Organ donors!			
which enabled				
819		712		
organs to be transplanted		lives saved		

About Us

In August, Carolina Donor Services became HonorBridge. With support from our board of directors, we conducted focus groups with healthcare partners, donor families, our staff, medical boards, and the public.

Many names were suggested; yet two words rose to the top - honor and bridge.

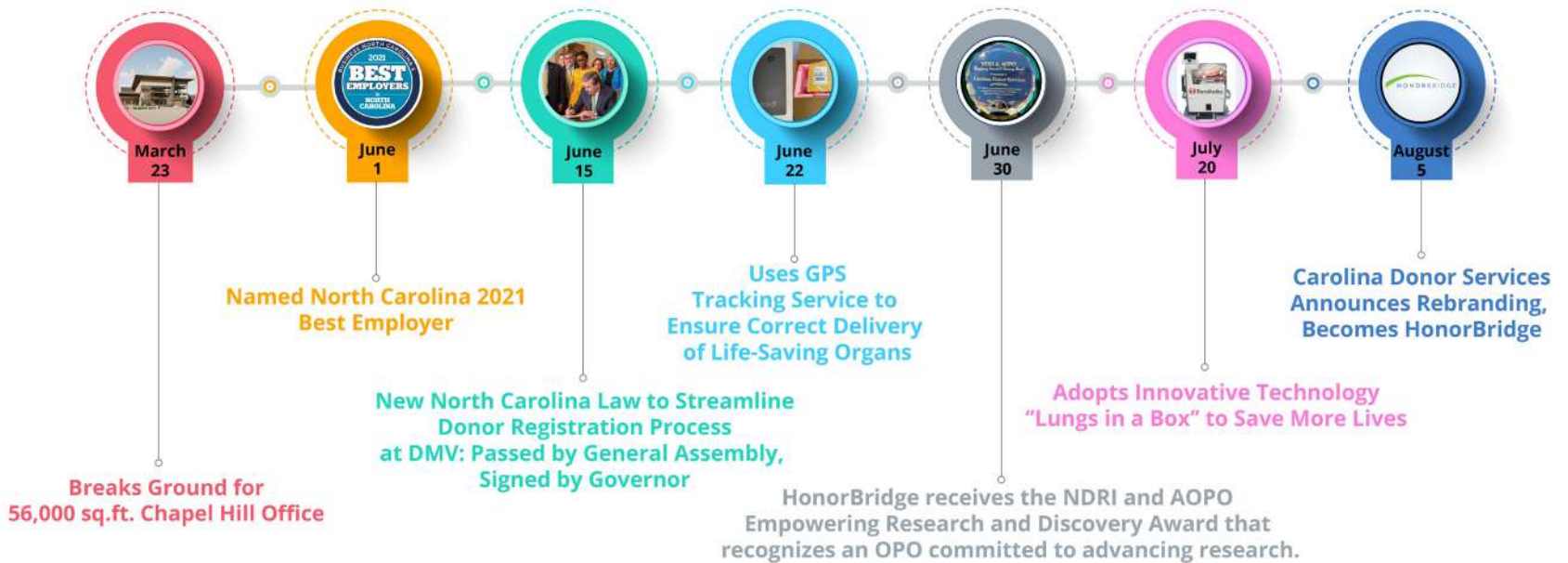
Daily, we honor the selfless decisions of our donors and their families. In turn, organ and tissue recipients honor their donors. Additionally, it is our honor to serve the thousands of Americans who are waiting for life-saving organ and tissue transplants.

We are the bridge between death and life and grief and hope. We connect donor families and recipients, provide grief support, and offer transplant centers life-saving organs. In communities, we connect and build trusting relationships inspiring partners to become passionate advocates and experience the fulfillment of giving life to others.

Welcome to HonorBridge.



Accomplishments & Milestones



Accomplishments & Milestones

Groundbreaking

HonorBridge is relocating from its 12,000 sq ft Durham building to a 56,000 sq ft Chapel Hill location by fall 2022. Our new office will enable us to better honor the gifts of life from our donors, increase our meeting spaces, serve our communities, and provide additional clinical organ and tissue recovery suites to ultimately save and heal more lives.

Named North Carolina 2021 Best Employer

HonorBridge was named as one of the 2021 Best Employers in North Carolina by Business North Carolina and Best Companies Group.

New North Carolina Law for Donor Registration Process

Known as the Improved Anatomical Gift Donation Process, this bipartisan legislation was unanimously passed by the North Carolina General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Cooper. This streamlines the DMV process for those who are registered as organ, eye and tissue donors.

GPS Tracking Ensures Correct Delivery of Life-Saving Organs

HonorBridge is using a newly-launched United Network for Organ Sharing Tracking Service. These tracking devices are attached to packaged organs and allow that organ to be tracked from recovery to ultimate arrival at the transplant center where it will save a life.

Empowering Research and Discovery Award

HonorBridge was recognized by the National Disease Research Interchange and the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations with the “Empowering Research and Discovery Award” acknowledging our sustained commitment to advancing research.

Adopts Innovative Technology

HonorBridge is one of a few organizations to partner with TransMedics to increase the number of lungs available for transplant. Their Organ Care System keeps lungs warm and breathing as in the human body and allows for lungs to be monitored and transported greater distances.

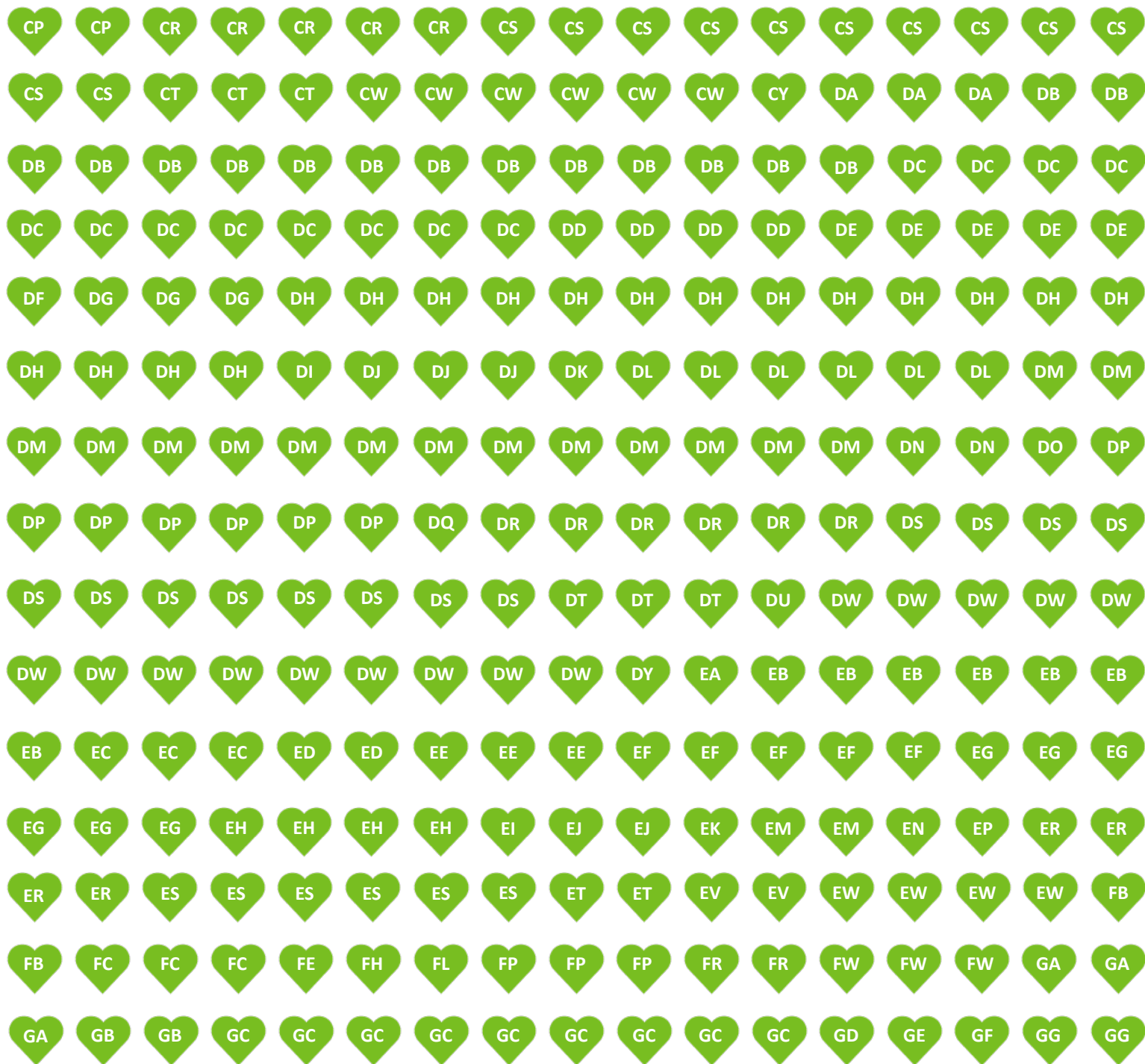
New Name New Mission

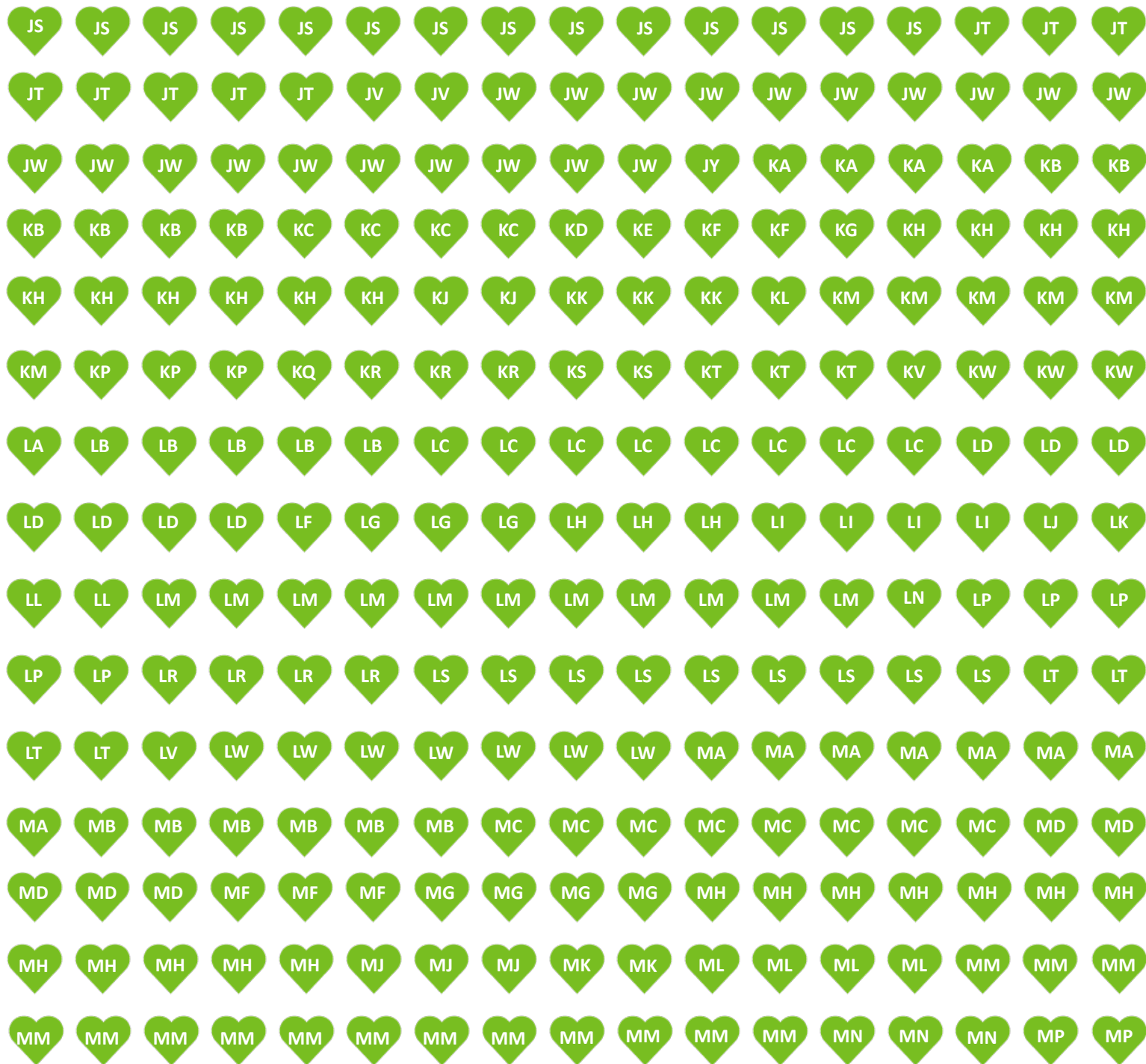
Carolina Donor Services became HonorBridge. Our new name effectively communicates who we are at our heart, what we do, and the values we display when we interact with donor families, recipients, healthcare teams, partner organizations, and the communities we serve.

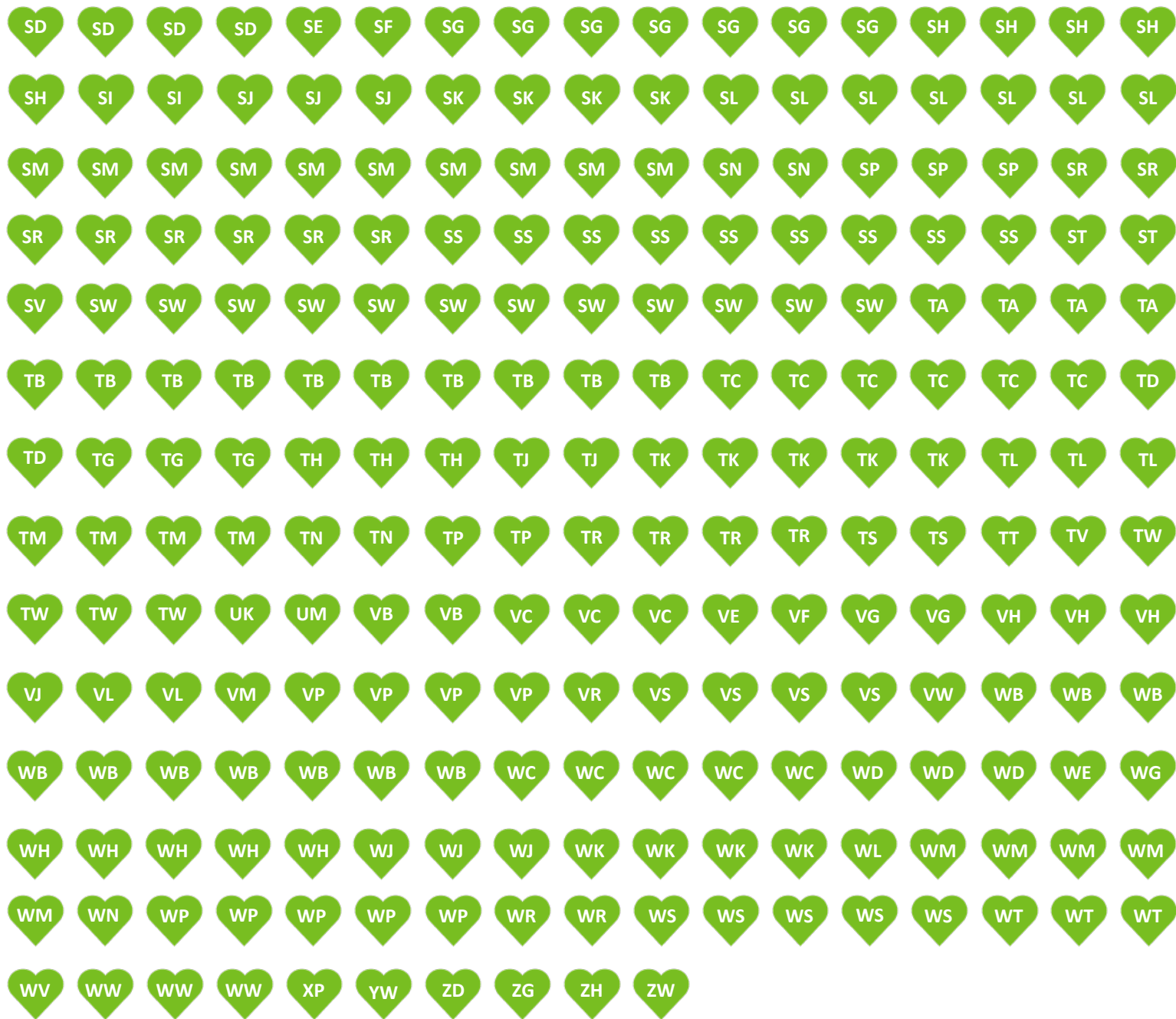
REMEMBERING THOSE WHO GAVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

2021 ORGAN & TISSUE DONORS









Recipient Story



Life is good. He's my hero.

Kathy Matthews spent two years fighting for her life when she was diagnosed with cirrhosis and kidney failure. She had dialysis three times a week, abdominal drains every two weeks, memory loss, hospitalizations, and endless needles. Additionally, her heart ached knowing what had to happen for her to get a transplant.

On June 12, 2019, she got the call. She prayed for her donor and their family, hoping they would find some comfort in knowing their extraordinary gift would save lives.

The night before, 20 miles away, Susan Hunt also got a call. Police notified her that Keaton, her son, had suffered a fatal overdose. Keaton was the class clown, a huge-hearted young man who had told his family he wanted to be a donor. They honored his decision.

Searching Facebook, Kathy found Susan, reached out, and the two began chatting, becoming fast friends. During an HonorBridge National Donor Sabbath event at Susan's church, the two women and their families embraced.

Kathy looks at her picture of Keaton every morning with gratitude. "Life is good. He's my hero."



Kathy & Susan
Liver Recipient and Donor Mom

[Read more at HonorBridge.org](https://www.honorbridge.org)

Donors Honored

At HonorBridge, we are working to set the pace for life-saving donations around the world. Every day we work to inspire others to support our cause. We are committed to being collaborative and inclusive, and to helping people experience the fulfillment of giving life. Our promise is renewed each day, with every life we help save, with every family we touch, and with every spark of inspiration we ignite. Our commitment remains unwavering.



“Lucy had a spirit that required no words. She showed joy that radiated beyond her smile. She loved music, lights, and her Cleveland and Ohio State sports teams.”

“Lucy was born with a neurological disorder which took many years to properly diagnose. We thought that if our precious child was not to live long, perhaps her short-lived life could extend the life of another precious child. Lucy’s legacy is in the lives she forever touched in her 14 years, in the love that will endure, and in the lives she will continue to impact through organ and tissue donation.”



“Kaleb was an amazing child; he was the joy in our household. He loved to laugh and just be silly and enjoy life like a toddler would.”

“I have seen how the gift of organ donation can benefit others after our loved ones are gone. Knowing that your loved one helped others live a better way of life can give those left grieving a great sense of honor. As hard as it was to come to terms that he was gone, I said “yes” when asked if I wanted to donate his gifts. We refer to Kaleb as our forever hero.”

[Read more at HonorBridge.org](https://www.honorbridge.org)

Hospital Partnerships

HonorBridge relies on strong partnerships with hospitals and transplant centers. Our Hospital Services team work closely with medical professionals providing on-demand, and in-person, educational training and helping them implement nationally recognized best practices. COVID-19 had a tremendous impact on our hospital partners, and we acknowledge, appreciate, and applaud their efforts to prioritize patient care.

Hospitals with the most organ donors in 2021

1. WakeMed Raleigh Campus
2. Moses Cone Memorial Hospital
3. Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
4. New Hanover Regional Medical Center
5. Vidant Medical Center
6. UNC Medical Center
7. Duke University Hospital
8. Cape Fear Valley Health Systems
9. Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center
10. Rex Healthcare



2021 Workplace Partnership for Life Hospital Campaign

Professional and community education regarding donation is the link to saving more lives. Many North Carolina hospitals earned national recognition for educating their communities about organ, eye, and tissue donation. The Health Resources & Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, named these top performing North Carolina institutions in their 2021 Workplace Partnership for Life Hospital Campaign.

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist

Caldwell UNC Health Care

Cape Fear Valley Medical Center

Carolina East Medical Center

Catawba Valley Medical Center

Cone Health Alamance Regional Medical Center

Cone Health Moses Cone Hospital

Cone Health Wesley Long Hospital

Duke Raleigh Hospital

Duke Regional Hospital

Duke University Hospital

Frye Regional Medical Center

Harnett Health - Betsy Johnson Hospital

New Hanover Regional Medical Center

Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center

Onslow Memorial Hospital

Pender Memorial Hospital

Randolph Health

Sentara Albemarle Medical Center

UNC Medical Center

UNC Rex Healthcare

UNC Southeastern

Vidant Beaufort Hospital

Vidant Edgecombe Hospital

Vidant Medical Center

Vidant North Hospital

Vidant Roanoke Chowan Hospital

WakeMed

Wayne UNC Health Care

Financial Contributions

A financial contribution helps us honor families suffering a devastating loss, provide hope to those waiting for the miracle of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, and inspire others to donate life. You can provide a financial contribution by using the enclosed envelope or visiting HonorBridge.org.

Despite COVID-19, last year HonorBridge:

- conducted a virtual Donor Family Tribute that was viewed over 1,200 times,
- facilitated over 600 letters exchanged between donor families and recipients,
- handled nearly 390 donation conversations with families,
- visited more than 300 funeral homes, and
- participated in more than 100 community activities.

Did you know?

- Less than 1% of all deaths result in deceased organ donation.
- More than 100,000 women, children, and men in the US are waiting for life-saving transplants.
- Every 10 minutes another person is added to the national waiting list.
- 20 people die each day because of the lack of available organs to transplant.
- 85% of the patients waiting need a kidney.
- In 2021, only 54% of North Carolinians who received or renewed their driver's license said "yes" to donation.

One organ and tissue donor can save and heal over 75 lives.

Register your decision to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor at your next DMV visit or online at Registerme.org/NC



SCAN ME



HonorBridge is devoted to building connections that save and heal lives through organ and tissue donation.

[HonorBridge.org](https://www.HonorBridge.org)