



# The Jewellers' Association (R)

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**Life is a Gift that keeps on Giving...**

**Be an Organ donor. Gift Life.**

Dear member,

Team JAB is proud to announce that, we are launching an **organ donation programme – A Social Responsibility** in Association with **The People Tree Foundation** which is a unique non-profit organization established by a group of young passionate and enterprising doctors, who have set themselves out to realize a disease and disability free India. This foundation aims to empower people by providing services spanning the fields of Health, Education and Health Education.

Harsha \* was a lovely 3 year old child with big bright eyes and a naughty smile, bringing infinite joy to his parents. Life was perfect till he was suddenly diagnosed with a rare liver disease which, within months progressed to a state of liver failure. Harsha's parents saw their world come crashing down as their boy started becoming dull and irritable, deeply yellow coloured, bleeding on simply being touched and completely lifeless. Replacing his liver was his only chance. Somewhere in another part of this world another family was devastated, when their 5 year old girl Sanvi suffered a tragic Road Traffic accident. She was on life support in the Critical Care unit. Sanvi's doctors declared to her parents that their child's brain was irreversibly damaged and there was no chance at recovery. Their grief was unimaginable. She was declared brain dead. Even during the most painful moments of their lives her parents took the divine decision to donate their child's organs. Her liver was transplanted and Harsha was re-born. An entire family was re born. Little did Sanvi's parents know at that time that their decision had transformed so many lives, that in itself was a triumph in their grief. For no gift is bigger than the gift of life. \*(name changed)

Donating an organ after death is more than just the physical act of giving a part of one's body before it disappears in time. It is about being infinite- living beyond ones time, to value life which may be a part of any body.

Many of us believe that we should give what we have to many less fortunate don't. Organ donation gives each of us the opportunity to be of use and transform people even after we are not in physical existence. **To gift is noble, but to gift LIFE is divine.**

### **What is Organ Donation?**

Organ donation takes healthy organs and tissues from one person for transplantation into another, in order to replace the diseased and non- functioning organs. An organ transplant can dramatically improve or save someone's life, but they depend entirely on the generosity of donors and their families.

### **What is the need?**

In India every year, 1.5 lakh people await a Kidney transplant. Of which, only 5000 get a transplant whereby only 200 of these get kidneys by way of donations from deceased. 2 lakh people die of liver disease, half a lakh die from heart disease and 10 lakh people suffer from blindness. All these lakhs of people are still waiting for an organ to save their life.

### **Who can be an Organ Donor?**

**ANYONE. ANY AGE.**

All adults and minors with consent of parents or legal guardians, regardless of age, race or gender can pledge to become an organ donor.

### **What Organs can you donate?**

You can donate the following organs:

Eyes, Kidneys, Liver, Heart, Lung, Pancreas, Heart valves and Bones.

### **When does Organ Donation take place?**

Organs are retrieved after the death of a person. This is known as Cadaver Donation. This type of donation occurs only if the potential donor is on life support and has been declared brain dead. Brain death is the irreversible end of all brain activity where the other organs continue to function due to life support machinery, but the person is medically dead. Brain death is medically and legally recognized as death. Very strict criteria including medical examination and various tests are to be fulfilled before declaring one as Brain Dead.

### **Facts About Organ Donation**

- In India, 140,000 people are involved in road accidents every year. Of these 67% suffer head injuries and possibly end up brain dead.
- Each brain dead donor has the opportunity to affect the lives of 50 others.
- In India, less than 1 in a million Indians are organ donors. The organ donation rates in our state [Karnataka], is very low. Only 15-20 donations occur every year.

**At many stages of our lives, we would have seen death in close quarters and resigned to the fact of life's ultimate truth. Today medical science allows us the opportunity to live beyond time. Having pledged our organs, we allow ourselves the pleasure of living life with greater sense of purpose, the possibility of leaving a good legacy – and the knowledge that we are empowered even during our death and have understood the essence of life, to live beyond the mere body.**

**Be an organ donor... Gift LIFE...**

**ORGAN DONATION IS A NOBLE DEED!!! INDEED!!!**