

Children's Organ Transplant Association®

The Trusted Leader Supporting Families ... For a Lifetime

APRIL IS NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

Dear Reader:

The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) was founded in April 1986 when residents of Bloomington, Indiana, rallied around a toddler who needed a life-saving liver transplant. In less than eight weeks, the community raised more than \$100,000 to place the boy on the organ waiting list. Sadly, he died before an organ was found. Those community volunteers, along with his parents, turned tragedy into triumph by using those funds to help other transplant families. That was the beginning of COTA and those volunteers were our first Miracle Makers.

For more than 35 years, thanks to the help of the men and women of The American Legion Family, COTA has assisted thousands of children and young adults by helping to raise funds for a lifetime of transplant-related expenses. Extensive volunteer networks across the nation are working to ensure that no child or young adult needing an organ or tissue transplant is excluded from a transplant waiting list due to lack of funds.

We need your help today to make sure that tragedies, like the one that was the catalyst in founding COTA, are not repeated.

Twenty people die each day in the United States waiting for an organ transplant. Another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list every 10 minutes. One organ donor can save eight lives. April is National Donate Life Month and COTA is asking everyone within The American Legion Family to go to www.RegisterMe.org and register to be a designated organ and/or tissue donor.

You can become a COTA Miracle Maker. Find out how your Post, Unit, Squadron or Legion Riders can help a COTA transplant family near you by visiting COTA.org/Legion.

Sincerely,



Rick Lofgren, President
rick@cota.org

COTA's priority is to assure that no child or young adult is denied a transplant or excluded from a waiting list due to lack of funds. 100% of funds raised in honor of patients assist with a lifetime of transplant-related expenses.

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