Paul Owen, father of organ donor Melissa Owen, with Melissa’s heart recipient, Yolanda Harshaw, and Melissa’s mother, Becky Owen.
Message from
Mark Tudor, President & Chief Executive Officer

The year 2022 was an incredible one for ARORA. During what was my first year as CEO of this great organization, ARORA recovered more organs in 2022 than in any other year in our three-decades-plus history. This rise in donations represents a more than 130% increase above organs recovered between 2018 and 2020. Thanks to the generosity of Arkansans, the hard work of the ARORA staff, and the performance of our organization’s partners in the medical community and beyond, we were able to increase the number of life-restoring donations in our state. We owe it to individuals and families who made the selfless act of authorizing donation. Our successes in forging a more effective recovery process in partnership with our medical partners directly translate to more organ, tissue and eye transplants for Arkansans and others, which restore and save lives. By creating a centralized donor management system ARORA can transfer authorized organ donors from hospitals across the state to a central facility, which provides ARORA immediate access to experts in donor management and the ability to complete necessary testing in a fast and efficient manner.

As always, our goal is to maximize every donor’s gift, saving as many lives as possible.

We look forward to restoring many more lives in 2023.

“We owe it to individuals and families who made the selfless act of authorizing donation.”
ARORA is a team of donation professionals—including nurses, physicians, medical technicians, family counselors, administrators, and support teams—all dedicated to the amazing medical miracle of the recovery of organs, tissues and eyes for transplantation.

WHO WE ARE
ARORA’S mission is to restore lives through the recovery of organs and tissues for transplant.
To meet the needs of the tremendous increase in donation of life-saving organs and tissues for transplant, and the significant growth of our staff, ARORA completed construction of a new 19,000-square-foot headquarters in Little Rock. The building features an open, collaborative floorplan, plentiful natural light and easy access to transplant centers, and interstate highways for travel to donor hospitals around the state. Two onsite tissue recovery suites provide the capacity to recover even more life-restoring tissues.
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President & Chief Executive Officer

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Dustin Goad  
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Jenny Janisko  
Director of Organ

Esther Pipkin  
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ARORA recovered organs from 149 donors, providing 347 organs for transplant in 2022. These numbers represent a 49% increase in donors and a 10% increase in organs recovered for transplants in 2021—a 130% increase over the number of organ donors in the years 2018-2020.
MAXIMIZING GIFTS THROUGH RESEARCH IN 2022

TOTAL GIFTS FOR RESEARCH = 70
Through our team and partnerships, ARORA was able to transform these gifts from 575 donors into a total of 37,794 life-restoring gifts: 37,524 musculoskeletal and skin grafts, 146 blood vessel grafts, and 124 heart valves. These grafts are used to heal burn patients, repair torn ligaments, fuse bone, and restore circulation in the recipients who graciously accept these gifts.

Dear Donor Family,

Thank you for the generous gift of tissue donation from your loved one. I am sorry for your loss but want to express my appreciation for your caring concern for others and share with you the positive impact your loved one’s donation has had on my life. I hope you will find comfort in knowing that your loved one has helped restore another person’s life. I had a bad fall from my horse and tore my ACL and meniscus. I am one week out from surgery and am already walking super well! I am a college student studying speech pathology and work at a therapeutic riding center teaching children with special needs to ride horses. It was important to me to have as quick a recovery as possible.

I am most appreciative of your loved one’s gracious gift.

Thank you,
A Grateful Recipient

575
Tissue Donors
On a chilly Christmas Eve, Yolanda Harshaw of Little Rock received the best news anyone on the organ waiting list could receive: a compatible heart had been donated, and she would receive the transplant for which she had been hoping.

As Yolanda received her good news of the prospect of a healthy life for her, Paul and Becky Owen had learned that their daughter, Melissa, had suffered an aneurysm and would not survive. Melissa had registered to become an organ donor, an act which Paul and Becky supported.

Now, Christmas for the Owens is different without Melissa---but it is still a cause for celebration. They now talk about the best gift Melissa ever gave, and Yolanda ever received.

WE RESTORE LIVES
Paul & Becky Owen, Parents of Melissa Owen
Yolanda Harshaw, Recipient of Melissa’s Heart
Scan to watch their story.
Six months after suffering a miscarriage, Ruby Roa learned that she was pregnant. Her husband, Alejandro remembers being both “nervous and very happy at the same time” about the good news that their son Alexander would be born.

Several years later—on a weekday—a “typical morning for us” as described by Ruby, everything changed. Ruby and Alexander were in the car on the way to Alexander’s babysitter when they were involved in a tragic motor vehicle accident. Alexander was flown to Arkansas Children’s Hospital for treatment. Sadly, his injuries were so severe, that Ruby and Alejandro were advised to prepare for Alexander’s final moments. The Roas chose to donate Alexander’s organs. Today, his gifts continue to save lives.
When Evan Cotillier was 16 years old, he watched the Will Smith film “Seven Pounds,” a movie about organ donation. It so affected him that he decided at that time that he would want to someday donate his organs.

Evan had been diagnosed with epilepsy, and because of his seizures, was unable to receive a driver’s license. Without a license, at 16, he worried about how doctors would know his wishes. Instead, he and his stepmother made a “pinky promise” that she would donate his organs in the event of his death.

Sadly, it did.

It was only one month later that Evan became an organ donor. Evan died after an epileptic seizure after four days on life support. His parents honored his donation decision.

Scan to watch their story.