

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *National Minority Donor Awareness Week* takes place August 1-7, 2014; originally launched in 1996 as *National Minority Donor Awareness Day*, it has now become a week-long observance designed to increase awareness about the need and important of organ and tissue donation amongst all minority groups; and

WHEREAS, due to the health disparities that exist between minority groups and certain health conditions, approximately 54% of the more than 122,000 individuals currently on the national organ transplant list are minorities; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting donation, education and research for the purpose of saving and improving lives through organ, tissue and cornea transplantation; and

WHEREAS, CORE provides important information about the donation process, family support, transplant information and resources, and community outreach programs; CORE is one of 58 federally designated nonprofit organ procurement organizations in the United States and works closely with donor families and designated health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, becoming an organ donor is a decision that affects the lives of many; some diseases of the kidney, heart, lung, pancreas and liver are found more frequently in minority groups than in the general population and as a result, people from these minority groups tend to have a particularly high need for organ transplants; one organ and tissue donor may save up to eight lives and heal more than 50 people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim August 1-7, 2014 as "Minority Donor Awareness Week" in Allegheny County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 1st day of August, 2014.

Rich Fitzgerald

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