



## City of Bristol

### NEWS RELEASE

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#### ***DONATE LIFE CONNECTICUT FLAG RAISING- April 10, 2018***

***National Donate Life Month celebration will be hosted by Bristol City Hall, the Mayor's Youth Cabinet and Members of the City Council.***

(BRISTOL, CT)- A Donate Life flag will be raised in support of organ and tissue donation at Bristol City Hall at an event attended by local transplant recipients, donor family members, transplant professionals and donation supporters on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. This year, the honorary flag raiser will be Angela Ragaini a member of the Mayor's Youth Cabinet, whose family has been positively affected by organ donation.

This April marks the 15<sup>th</sup> annual National Donate Life Month, a celebration commemorating those who have given the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. For those whose lives have been saved or healed by a transplant, National Donate Life Month provides a chance to share their story to encourage more people to register as donors.

In addition to organ donation, tissue donations help over one million individuals each year. Heart valve, bone and skin donations give recipients a new chance at a healthy life, the recovery of tendons and ligaments can help heal a severe sports injury, and cornea donations give the gift of sight," stated Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. "We have several Bristol families who are active in Donate Life Month, and we hope that this flag raising prompts some visibility and discussion among others".

Currently, 56 percent of the U.S. adult population are registered organ and tissue donors, yet the number of people in need of transplants continues to outpace the number of organs donated. More than 119,000 people are waiting for a transplant and a second chance at life. Registering your decision to become a donor is the most effective way to save lives through donation and is a sign of support to those who continue to wait.

To register as a donor or for more information, please visit [registerme.org](http://registerme.org). The Bristol flag raising is free and open to the public. The flag pole is located between City Hall and the Police Department on North Main Street.

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