

‘The Gift’ to Give This Year

Green’s book now available in hard cover

Donation and transplant organizations looking for the perfect gift to give their volunteers and staff—and even friends and family members—during the holiday season may want to consider *The Gift that Heals*, written by journalist Reg Green and published jointly by UNOS and the Nicholas Green Foundation.


Through dozens of personal stories, *The Gift that Heals* covers many aspects of the organ donation and transplantation process. In addition to evocative stories of deceased and living donors, waiting patients and transplant recipients, *The Gift that Heals* describes the feelings of nurses who have to take a deep breath and ask families, at the worst moments of their lives, to make a decision about something they have never thought of before; the pilot of the aircraft that delivers organs in a race against time; and transplant surgeons who, after hundreds of operations, are still awed when a donated organ is put

inside a dying patient and springs to life.

The book also includes the story of Green’s 7-year-old son, Nicholas, who was shot and killed in 1994 while the Green family was on vacation in Italy. In donating Nicholas’ organs, the story of the Greens’ compassion spread throughout Italy—where organ rates tripled, creating what became known as the “Nicholas effect.”

Green began dedicating his life to promoting organ and tissue donation, giving interviews on the subject around the globe.

A few years ago, UNOS approached him with the idea of writing a book to increase awareness of organ donation/transplantation and to promote the cause.

Since being published by AuthorHouse, *The Gift that Heals* has been one of its top sellers. In addition to scores of individual sales, several donation- and transplant-related organizations have placed bulk orders to give to donor families at donor memorial services, as gifts for volunteers and for attendees of industry conferences. 

AN EXCERPT FROM *The Gift that Heals*:

Arrangements are dovetailed to save seconds. While the planes are in the air, bringing the transplant surgeons, the procurement team is providing them with updated information about the donor. When they are on their way back, the crews are reporting progress to their own hospital: “30 minutes out, 15 minutes out, we’re in the ambulance.”

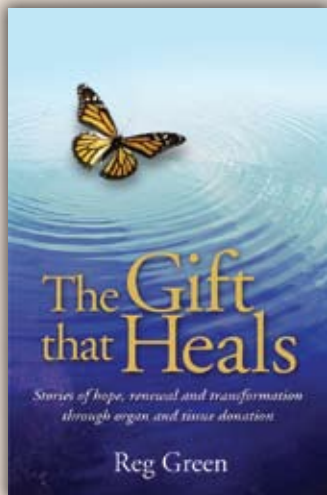
Even before they land, the operation on the heart and lung recipients is under way—their chests are opened and the lines are in. In Bruce’s words: “The recipient is placed on the bypass pump when the surgeon comes through the OR carrying the heart in the ice chest.”


On the day of Will’s donation, the donor team at Anchorage was doing its part, maintaining the oxygen supply and blood pressure and reducing the dependence on drugs, to make sure the organs were working as normally as possible. But around 5 a.m. they were interrupted by a nurse who came in to say that a terrible accident had happened in New York.

It was four hours later on the East Coast on the morning of September 11, and a plane had just crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center. Two hours later, word reached Bruce that the FAA, acting on orders from the military had grounded all civil aircraft in the United States.

The schedule put together with such speed would have to be scrapped and, with it, the donation itself. Among the confusion and disbelief of that day, Bruce still remembers the special pain he felt hearing that news.

“Here we were, witnessing the enormity of one of the worst things that has ever happened to this country and yet struggling, in some way, to bring some good out of the terrible loss of a child,” he says.



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The soft cover version is about \$13, and hard cover about \$18. Nonprofits and other organizations are eligible to receive significant discounts for bulk orders, which can be placed by calling AuthorHouse at 1-888-519-5121.