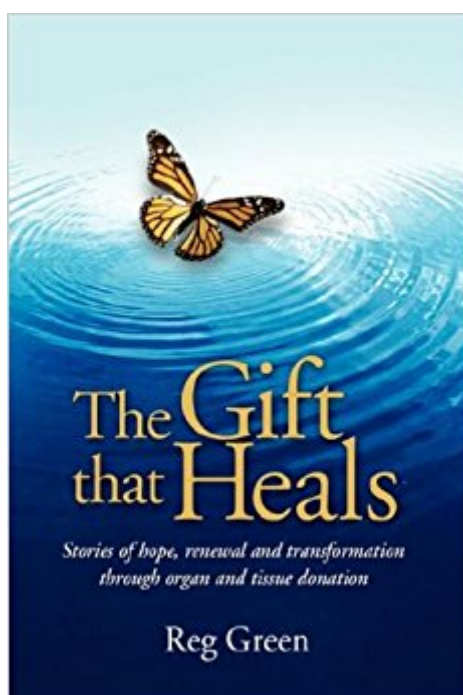


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# The Gift That Heals: Stories Of Hope, Renewal And Transformation Through Organ And Tissue Donation



## Synopsis

The stories in this book are about life coming out of death. A police officer, left for dead in a hail of bullets, can golf and fish again; a woman, whose lungs were at one time so diseased that she was dependent on oxygen, has since climbed 5,000 feet to the summit of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park carrying a 25-pound backpack; a man who was fighting for his life went on to become an Olympic champion. On one side, they tell of transplanted human organs and tissue transforming lives and, on the other, the inspiring selflessness of the families who donated them at the bleakest moment of their lives. *The Gift that Heals* is published jointly by United Network for Organ Sharing ([www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org)) and the Nicholas Green Foundation ([www.nicholasgreen.org](http://www.nicholasgreen.org)). It was written by Reg Green, the father of a seven-year-old California boy, Nicholas, who was shot in an attempted robbery while the family was on vacation in Italy. The story captured the imagination of the world when he and his wife, Maggie, donated their son's organs and corneas to seven Italians. United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is the non-profit membership organization that administers the U.S. organ sharing system and focuses on increasing organ donation through technology, education and research. In 2001, UNOS created the National Donor Memorial ([www.donormemorial.org](http://www.donormemorial.org)) to celebrate and thank America's organ and tissue donors and their families. For information on registering to become an organ and tissue donor, please go to the Donate Life America website ([www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net)) or call 800-355-7427.

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## Customer Reviews

Reg Green has a powerful story of his own concerning the agony and the ecstasy that is the world of organ transplantation. But the strength of "The Gift That Heals: Stories of Hope, Renewal and Transformation Through Organ and Tissue Donation," is that Green has presented us with a multitude of portraits -- reminding readers that the need is great, the choices painstaking, the rewards priceless. It is about everyday people and their confrontations at the confluence of life and death -- a most remarkable achievement. -- James Hill, managing editor, The Washington Post Writers Group... When Reg Green's son was murdered he might have been expected to retreat into grief; a bitter, diminished man condemned to a life haunted by the boy who was not there. Instead, he has worked tirelessly to promote organ donation. "This is a book about those who have received and given the gift of life and there is a golden light in it. Green has a skill with words and the journalist's knack for making a story compelling. The book is a celebration of life; of decency; of hope; of a little boy, and his father's commitment." -- Llewellyn King, syndicated columnist and PBS talk show host. "Here are the faces behind organ donation: devastated families who, instead of turning inward in bitterness and despair, find the compassion to help others in desperate need, and organ recipients, who once at death's door, now run marathons, start families and resume their careers. Their stories are riveting." -- Robert Kiener, Reader's Digest. "Reg Green probably knows as much as anybody on the planet about the rich, heartbreaking and transcendent realm of organ donation. He is also a fine, careful journalist and this combination makes this a most compelling and inspirational collection." -- Stephanie Salter, syndicated columnist.

This is an interesting, informative, and comprehensive book, presenting the Transplant Process from multiple viewpoints, to create an unified picture of that complex world. I have commented on Ann Harris' review, which the reader may want to look at. Another reviewer finished this book in an hour. I would suggest reading this work only 2-3 stories at a time. I am not an emotional person, but I found it to be overwhelming to read more than that much in one sitting. My wife had a liver transplant eleven years ago, and my experience with transplant is as a family member. I am a physician, and I found it illuminating to read the experiences of nurses, doctors, coordinators, pilots, and others. The book obviously has the mission to encourage organ donation, and it is not a literary work. There is nothing wrong with that. The book reads like a collection of short stories, which it, indeed, is. Mr. Green leaves it up to the reader to synthesize the whole for one's own self. Despite his son's death, the author writes like a detached journalist, and a writer. My compliments to him. This is an excellent work, providing a new perspective on the strange world of the Organ Transplant.

I ordered this book after deciding to donate my father's organs. He and my mother were hit by a drunk driver - mom died instantly so we couldn't donate hers, but dad lingered in a coma for 10 days before having a massive stroke, and was declared brain dead. This book includes short stories about organ donation from all sides. Some are the donor families, some are the recipients, some even from transplant coordinators, physicians, and pilots (who move the organs). All together, you can piece together the miracle whirlwind of donation from start to finish. It's an amazing accomplishment to pull-off in less than 24 hours in most cases!! I am closing in on a year since donating from my father, and preparing to meet one of the recipients. I can't wait to hear about the excitement her family had that day - "come to the hospital, we have a liver for you!!!" - as we were signing the donation papers. This book has given me an idea of what THEY went through. I hungrily wait for a volume 2 of this book!!!

Thank you Reg for writing a book that has brought comfort to our family. Our daughter passed away 3 months ago when an 18 wheeler ran her pickup truck off of the interstate, Madison was 18 years old. Madison was an organ donor and because of the decisions that she made when she got her drivers learners permit at 15, she saved 4 lives and gave sight to 2 vision impaired individuals. Your book brought comfort to us during the toughest time in our lives. Jen from Louisiana [www.y-farms.com/madison-welch](http://www.y-farms.com/madison-welch)

Good

Amazing book!

I loved this book. There were lots of interesting stories about transplant. It made me appreciate transplant even more.

I have not communicated with either of the families who saved my life through the gift of organ donation. I spend a fair amount of time interacting with organ and tissue recipients but very little with donor families. I read Reg Green's famous book "The Nicholas Effect" and was profoundly impacted by his story telling. To see life from the other side of the surgical waiting room--well, I only gained more respect for the people who say "yes" during their time of loss. I find books on the donor family perspective to be both comforting and painful to read. Reading these books makes me feel

connected to my unknown donor family and increases my awareness of all it took to let me live another day. I like that. When I heard about "The Gift that Heals" I was excited to read Reg Green's latest look into the lives connected to the world of donation. I read the book in about an hour--and I was taking my time! It's a very easy, quick read with many short stories about a large cross section of people. Some are donor families, some are tissue recipients and some have been saved by organ donation. Often, Green lets the stories of donor families and recipients weave together. Reg Green is one of those writers who does not draw attention to his style but tells a story so cleanly you hardly know you are reading. After my first pass at "The Gift that Heals" I was left wanting more. The stories seemed so simple, I wished for a more in-depth exploration of the donation experience. Later on in the day, and continuing on into the week, Reg Green's stories began to flash in my mind like a movie you can't get out of your head. When I revisited "The Gift that Heals" I was struck by how comprehensive the stories really were, complicated by life's circumstances but easy to follow because of Green's skill. The stories continue to dance in my mind, weeks after I have read the final page. There are many wonderful things about this book. Besides its comprehensive and clear writing, it touches on the rarely discussed subject of tissue donation. This is something few people understand and all of us should know. The stories are told in a way that allows the reader to feel "safe" in a difficult realm of human experience but somehow manages to not sugar coat the reality. Quite a masterful balance! Overall, this book is an ideal introduction to those unfamiliar with the value of organ/tissue donation and an powerful study for those who have lived it. Reg Green's son, Nicholas, taught an entire nation about the importance of "The Gift that Heals." Through his superb writing and thorough storytelling, Green has once again used his talent and family experience to educate everyone on this topic so close to my heart...or should I say lungs? Thank you, Reg Green. I highly recommend this book. Tiffany Christensen two-time double lung transplant recipient and author "Sick Girl Speaks!"

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