Every three days someone in Ontario dies because there is not an organ available. It doesn't have to be this way. One organ and tissue donor can save up to eight lives and enhance the lives of 75 others.

To help extend awareness, the University of Toronto Transplant Institute in partnership with Trillium Gift of Life Network launched the High School Outreach Initiative (HSOI) project to deliver presentations in Greater Toronto Area (GTA) high schools in 2011 to increase awareness.

These presentations provide secondary school students the unique opportunity to hear from world class healthcare professionals about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Presentations are delivered by healthcare professionals from the three top tier transplant hospitals in Toronto: SickKids, University Health Network and St. Michael’s Hospital. In addition, a transplant recipient, donor family member, or a living organ donor attend to share their transplant journey.

To date, more than 661 presentations have been delivered at 146 high schools reaching 40,775 students. Presentations are very well received and there have been requests to return to many schools. Presentations are informative, engaging and flexible; they can be assembly-style or given in more intimate classroom settings. Presentations are 75 minutes in length and can also be adapted to varying class lengths with a built in Question & Answer with the students. Students will also be provided with organ and tissue donation materials to share with their families.

In addition to the presentation offering, there is a comprehensive senior secondary school curriculum program designed to convey the vital importance of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. One Life … Many Gifts can be used in Science, Physical Health and Education, English, the Arts, Canadian and World Studies, Guidance, Civics, Careers and Religious Education subject-areas. The curriculum can be accessed by visiting www.onelifemanygifts.ca.

Book your virtual presentation today! To book a presentation at your school, please complete the online booking form. For more information please contact:

Anna Cocco
Education and Outreach Coordinator,
University of Toronto Transplant Institute - Ajmera Transplant Centre, University Health Network
anna.cocco@uhn.ca