

Make a life by what you give.

Every 15 or 16-year-old student who applies for a Wisconsin driver's license is asked to make a decision that could mean life or death to one of more than 2,000 Wisconsinites who are currently on the transplant waiting list.



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Versiti (formerly BloodCenter of Wisconsin) partners with schools in southeast Wisconsin through its CodeR initiative, or Classmates for Organ Donation Education and Registration. This program invites people in diverse communities to learn more about and become advocates for organ and tissue donation.









The critical shortage of organ and tissue donors is considered to be a national health crisis. CodeR (Classmates for Organ Donation Education and Registration) assists Milwaukee high school students with understanding the major issues surrounding organ and tissue donation.

Armed with this information, each teen can make an informed decision about donation and communicate it to his or her family members.

CodeR Offers

Customized program: collaborate with school to develop a program highlighting classroom goals

Local knowledge: organ and tissue experts with up to date and area-relevant information

Reality unplugged: local program volunteers with testimonials and first-hand perspectives

Accessibility: readily available and flexible CodeR coordinator throughout the entire process

Service project support: ideas, promotional incentives and advice for students on building a meaningful campaign

CodeR Process

When designing a custom CodeR program, we work with high school principals and instructors to develop an itinerary tailored to the classroom's focus and curriculum goals. For only a class period, or a multimonth engagement, our program varies by duration and is built with care.

The following organ and tissue related topics are typically used to generate a good starting point in the planning process:

- Introduction to donation
- Biomedical look at donation
- Community awareness about donation
- Career pathways in donation
- Service project highlighting donation

CodeR Requires

- Enthusiastic contact person with whom to liaise throughout program development and execution
- At least 1-month lead time to properly develop and customize a program
- Student-led and designed service project incorporating a registry drive
- Summary presentation recapping learning components and service opportunities

