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By Scott Scanlon

Donation motivation

Thomas Jasinski Jr. of the Town of Tonawanda makes lots of pitches during talks across the country about the good that can come when people register as organ donors.

Jasinski notes that a single donor can provide up to eight people with lifesaving organs and affect at least 50 others through tissue donation.

That's why Jasinski – who received a kidney and pancreas because of the kindness of others – calls his nonprofit organ donation advocacy group One8Fifty Partners in Transplant.

Jasinski, 57, shares his transplant story during many of his talks. He explains how easy it has become to register as an organ donor (you can do so at One8Fifty.org).

And, if an appeal to goodness doesn't seem quite enough, he'll share the story of a "sweet little old lady" who approached him after one of his talks.

"She told me, 'My husband paid all the bills, he took care of everything and we never talked about any of this stuff,'" Jasinski recalls, "and after he died, and they came to me and asked what I should do [about donating his organs]. I didn't know.' She said, 'I loved my husband to death. We were together 54 years. But he was a real pain in the (butt) and if I can do anything to help him get through the Golden Gates, I figured I do it.'"