



Organ Donation Helps Everyone

April 22, 2017 By [Lucinda K. Porter RN](#)

[Blogging daily](#) in April in recognition of [National Donate Life Month](#). Please register as an organ donor and help to [raise awareness](#) about this lifesaving gift.

We often hear about musicians were liver transplant recipients ([frequently as a result of hepatitis C](#)), but less often about athletes. In 1999, the NFL's all-time leading rusher, Walter Payton, died while waiting for a liver transplant. He was 45 years old. He had a rare liver disease called primary sclerosing cholangitis. His disease advanced and after developing bile duct cancer, he was no longer eligible for a transplant. Another former football player had a better outcome. Pat Summerall received a donor liver in 2004. Although Sumerall has been sober a long time, his liver was destroyed from alcohol use in his younger years.

Other famous athletes that have received donated livers are baseball player [Mickey Mantle](#) and [Evel Knievel](#). Want to maybe save a life? [Register to be a donor](#) in your state.

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<http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/blog/organ-donation-helps-everyone>