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Memorial Honored For Organ Donation Rate

When asked, 100 percent of families at Memorial Medical Center agreed to a life-changing decision. Every family at the hospital opted to become organ or tissue donors. The successful streak of donations has been going on for 36 months.

Tuesday, this impressive feat was acknowledged by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and the Gift of Hope Organization. On average, hospitals generally have about a 75 percent success rate for donations. Memorial Medical Center ranks third in total number of donors, out of the 180 hospitals in Gift of Hope's service area.

"Every day that there's life in my body, I'm going to spend time to try to get an individual to sign up in this program because every time you sign up one person--that's the chance that 25 people can get a second chance in life, or get their quality of life improved," Secretary of State Jesse White said during the award presentation.

The award was given in conjunction with National Donate Life Month. White will be traveling around the state throughout April to encourage people to register to donate. In Illinois, more than 5.2 million people have already joined the national registry of donors.

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