

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

Longtime donor advocate and double lung recipient Megan Herdegan, age 31, from Arlington Heights, lost her battle with lung disease on October 19. Megan was a huge supporter of the Life Goes On program, becoming actively involved shortly after receiving her transplant in July 2007.

Megan was featured in the 2009 Secretary of State donor commercial and her photo appears in donor registration brochures and banner displays. She also is featured in the countertop display at the Schaumburg Driver Services facility.

Having endured severe asthma since she was a baby, Megan's only hope was a lung transplant. After waiting six years she received a double lung transplant at age 27, and was so grateful for her gift that she worked tirelessly to promote donation. In addition to helping at donor registration drives, Megan participated in the "Hustle up the Hancock" event and was a member of Team Illinois as part of the biannual Transplant Olympic games.

Megan was a graduate of Dominican University and acted in many theatrical productions with her local theater group. She was an extraordinary young woman who touched the lives of so many. She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her.



I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped promote organ/tissue donation over the summer and this fall. We have reached hundreds of people in communities across Illinois with our donor message at a time when the need for donors is at an all-time high. Nationally, the number of people waiting for lifesaving vital organs now stands at more than 108,000. Nearly 5,000 of them are right here in Illinois waiting for a new heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas or intestine.

In November we continue to get the word out about the critical need for donation as we observe National Donor Sabbath, November 12-14. During this weekend we will be reaching out to the faith community to educate parishioners and congregants with our donor message and encouraging folks to share their personal stories about donation.

If you have a donor story, please talk to your religious leader about sharing it with others in your place of worship. Your efforts in spreading the word about donation are much appreciated by those who wait for that lifesaving gift.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State



National Donor Sabbath — November 12-14

National Donor Sabbath is November 12-14, a time when faith leaders are encouraged to include a message on donation in their weekend services. Many will have a donor family member or a transplant recipient speak to congregants about the importance of donation. Donor Program staff also will be setting up donor registration tables at places of worship and participating in donor awareness activities with recipients and donor family members.

The Secretary of State's office is providing a short donor public service announcement to many religious radio stations in Illinois for National Donor Sabbath. The PSA features Treyton, a 4-year-old liver recipient, and his mother Shannon. Treyton was born with biliary atresia, a deadly liver disease. He received the precious gift of a liver transplant when he was only 8 months old.

The Donor Sabbath was first introduced in 1997 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which designated the weekend, two weeks before Thanksgiving, as a time to spread the message about the importance of donation and that all major religions fully support donation. Faith leaders and followers can participate in a variety of religious services around the country, sharing donor messages of hope and a better life for many.



During a visit to the Belvidere Driver Services facility, Secretary White and facility employee Crystal Rehn discussed the importance of donation with a customer.

Organ/Tissue Donor Program Staff

Please contact a donor staff member
for story ideas or to volunteer for events in your community.

Springfield — 451 Howlett, Springfield 62756

Nadine O'Leary, Program Director217-557-7215noleary@ilsos.net
Sitha Hun, Outreach Coordinator217-558-1322shun@ilsos.net
Lindsay Meyer, Office Manager217-782-6258lmeyer@ilsos.net

Chicago — James R. Thompson Building 100 W. Randolph, Ste. 5-400, Chicago 60601

Victoria Tulcus312-814-8921vtulcus@ilsos.net

Regional Coordinators

Jean Anderson, Chicago Area773-871-7227jean@ucwisdom.com
Gail Grabczynski, Chicago.....312-607-1385thedifference@mindspring.com
Margaret Pearson, West Suburban Chicago.....630-579-8711Mpearson2@wideopenwest.com
Jan Eschen, Northern Illinois/Rockford Area.....815-624-1004jano320@aol.com
Margaret Shannon, Northern Illinois/Sycamore.....815-761-7395margshannon@msn.com
Moreena Tiede, Peoria Area309-451-4097moreena@gmail.com
Liz Hager, Central Illinois/Taylorville217-827-5945ehager@newwavecomm.net
Brian Bush, Southern Illinois.....618-439-5030bbush@ilsos.net

**For copies of the Life Goes On newsletter or other donor materials,
please call 800-210-2106 or visit LifeGoesOn.com**

It's easy to join the Organ/Tissue Donor Registry:

- Visit www.LifeGoesOn.com (it only takes 60 seconds to register online).
- Visit any Driver Services facility and say "yes" to the donor question.
- Call the Organ/Tissue Donor Program hotline at 800-210-2106.
- Complete and mail the registration card on the "It's Up To YOU" brochure.

Employee Connection

Norma Carrera of the Rockford Driver Services facility knows what it's like to ride an emotional roller coaster caring for a child in need of a transplant. Norma's daughter, Vanessa, age 27, has been waiting now seven years for a second kidney transplant. Her first kidney transplant at age 13 failed when she was 18, landing her back on the waiting list.

Vanessa's first kidney was from a living donor, a cousin who felt it was her mission to give Vanessa a second chance at life. Unfortunately, a bout with shingles damaged the living donor's gift and Vanessa felt the sting of being placed back on the waiting list a few years ago.

Vanessa also suffers from diabetes, congestive heart failure, lung disease and silent epilepsy, so Norma and her son, Peter, an Iraq veteran, provide round-the-clock care for her. In addition, dialysis takes its toll on Vanessa's body. But the whole family is very determined to get Vanessa through her ordeal as they wait for another transplant.

Helping Vanessa get through her medical problems is her love of writing poetry. Norma wants to transfer some of Vanessa's poems to a computer file so she can assemble them into a booklet someday. A computer whiz, Vanessa also enjoys spending time on her computer and has helped many people with computer questions.

"You feel the desperation of a mother with a sick child but there is nothing you can do," said Norma. "But she always has a smile for us," she added, of Vanessa's determined attitude. "She never gives up."



Secretary White and Rockford facility employee Norma Carrera.

Donor awareness around the state



1. Secretary White presented the Joliet Driver Services facility with a countertop display featuring local residents Jerry and Jean Herbst. Jean received a lifesaving liver transplant in 1992.
2. Secretary White honored St. Alexius Hospital for its work in support of organ/tissue donation. Left to right are: Carol Gaffney, Sister Laura Mankivsky, Secretary White, Lonnie Hicks, Fr. Domingo Hurtado-Badillo, Melynda Litchfield, Liz Holst (holding plaque), Mary Chapman, and Lisa Palmer from Gift of Hope.
3. Secretary White addresses the Jordan Temple Missionary Baptist Church congregation about the importance of registering as an organ/tissue donor.
4. At a press conference at Rockford Memorial Hospital, Secretary White recognized nurse and longtime Life Goes On member Bobbi Smith for her work supporting organ/tissue donation. Bobbi's daughter was a donor who gave the gift of sight to others.
5. Secretary White shares a laugh with broadcaster Bill Czaja during a radio interview at a Rockford Riverhawks baseball game.
6. Secretary White presented a countertop display featuring local resident and liver recipient Collette Jordan to managers of the Naperville facility, including (from left): Tom Thornton, Drivers supervisor; Jim Sepsis, administrative clerk, Vehicles Services; John Stasney, Drivers manager; Dean Potter, Drivers supervisor; Frank Francis, zone manager; Russell Nisivaco, Drivers assistant manager; and Don Cipowski, senior manager.
7. During a visit to Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, Secretary White recognized the hospital's support of organ/tissue donation and met with various hospital staff members.

Chicago Slaughter hosts donor event

Secretary White attended a special Donor Awareness Night hosted by the Chicago Slaughter football team in April. Jarrett Payton, son of the late Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears and staunch donor advocate, is a running back for the team. Secretary White and Jarrett spoke to Slaughter fans about how donation has touched their lives.



Secretary White joined Chicago Slaughter running back Jarrett Payton, (back, right) and fellow teammates on the field during half time.



Secretary White autographs a football for young Chicago Slaughter fans.