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For more information on donor events in your area, please visit LifeGoesOn.com, the Gift of Hope Web site at giftsofhope.org, the Donate Life Illinois Web site at donatelifeillinois.org, or call the Secretary of State’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program at 800-210-2106.

Seven children under age 1 are waiting for transplants in Illinois. Six wait for a liver, one waits for a heart.

Jesse White
Secretary of State

Celebrate National Donate Life Month in April

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.
“Sing For Life” in Peoria
On November 13, in conjunction with National Donor Sabbath, Donor Program staff coordinator Damarius Blanks and the Peoria Life Goes On Committee organized a “Sing For Life” event at Zion Baptist Church in Peoria. The program included performances by several local church choirs and testimonials from transplant recipients, donor family members and those who had lost loved ones waiting for a transplant. Secretary of State Jesse White was the featured speaker and met and exchanged donor stories with many after the ceremony. The event was a huge success and very inspirational to those who attended.

The number of people waiting nationally for a lifesaving vital organ is more than 106,000.

Lisle receives Governor’s Hometown Award for donor efforts
Donate Life Illinois volunteers Colette Jordan and Chris Seigars, along with their hometown of Lisle, a Chicago suburb, were honored with a 2009 Governor’s Hometown Award for their efforts to register donors and share their donor message in their community. Colette is a liver recipient and Chris is a donor family member.

The Governor’s Hometown Award recognizes volunteers for making their communities better places to live and work. Colette and Chris attended an awards ceremony in Springfield hosted by Governor Pat Quinn at the Executive Mansion. Secretary of State staff members Sitha Hun and Vicki Tulcus attended the ceremony on behalf of the Organ/Tissue Donor Program.

The liver is the second-most needed transplant, with nearly 16,000 people waiting nationally. Nearly 600 people are waiting for a liver transplant in Illinois.

Secretary of State Jesse White will award the winners their prizes in his State Capitol office in April. The grand-prize-winning poster will be reproduced and displayed at all Driver Services facilities, libraries, hospitals and other locations statewide.

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Donor awareness efforts around the state

Donor Program coordinator Gail Grabczyński staffs a donor table at the Chicago Defender newspaper’s health fair in December.

Secretary of State Jesse White with the vocal group “Generation of Destiny” from Church of the Living God Temple, which performed at Peoria’s Zion Baptist Church during the National Donor Sabbath in November.
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**13-way Kidney Swap**

What do you do when you need a kidney transplant but a loved one who offered to donate his or her kidney is not a match? You look into new programs such as paired kidney donation, or "kidney swap," being offered by more transplant centers.

Georgetown University Hospital and Washington Hospital Center recently pioneered a 26-person transplant effort — 13 people donating a kidney to 13 recipients waiting. In paired kidney donation, a person willing to be a living kidney donor for a family member is not a match but might be a match for a person needing a transplant in another mismatched family situation. The pairing allows a family member from one family to donate to a person needing a transplant in another family if someone else agrees to donate to his or her family member in need.

According to the National Kidney Foundation and the Alliance for Paired Donation, this type of cross-matching of living kidney donation may save an additional 3,000 lives annually.

**Donor registry growing**

It’s hard to believe that the new Organ/Tissue Donor Registry is already four years old! There are currently 5.1 million people in the new registry, which debuted in Illinois in January 2006 and has made donation a legally binding agreement. Donor staff, facility employees and donor advocates across the state have worked tirelessly over the past four years registering new donors and re-registering donors from the previous registry at facilities, health fairs, community events, sporting events and other venues across the state. The graph below shows the impressive growth of the registry.

### Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry Growth

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<thead>
<tr>
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### Donor numbers for facilities

Beginning this year, Donor Program staff will provide statistics to all Driver Services facilities across the state as well as to regional managers and staff personnel. Facilities, managers and staff will be sent two statistics sheets: one with the numbers from the start of the current program’s registry (2006) through the current month, and the other with the numbers for that current month. The statistics will include the number of people who have said yes to donation as well as the percentage for each facility.

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