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**Donate Life Month activities abound** (continued from page 1)

Secretary White joined the Chicago White Sox players and signed autographs on April 24. He also threw out the first pitch at the White Sox game on April 28, the Chicago Cubs game on April 30 and the St. Louis Cardinals game on May 3.

A new initiative this year involved public and academic libraries in donor awareness activities. Donor agencies provided libraries a list of suggested books on donation and conducted a "Bookshelf Drawing," a raffle of selected books that libraries could enter and win. Bookshelf winners were: Central Citizens Library District in Clifton; Lincoln Public Library; Richton Park Public Library; Bloomingdale Public Library; Marshall Public Library; Marquette Heights Library; Seneca Public Library; and Evans Public Library in Vandalia. Libraries also were encouraged to hold donor drives, provide speakers and set up informational tables.

Other donor events included Glen Ellyn Donor Days; Chicago's Salem Baptist Church donor drive and other church events; Rockford area's annual Red Shoe Run; a collaborative event with Gift of Hope's African American Task Force, Rainbow Push and transplant centers in Chicago; a video contest; and a weeklong donor drive at the Thompson Center in Chicago. Donor drives also were held at many college campuses as well as at many businesses and hospital health fairs throughout the state. "Morgan D'Organ" joined Donate Life Illinois volunteers at many events as well as at the NBC morning show at NBC 5 Plaza.

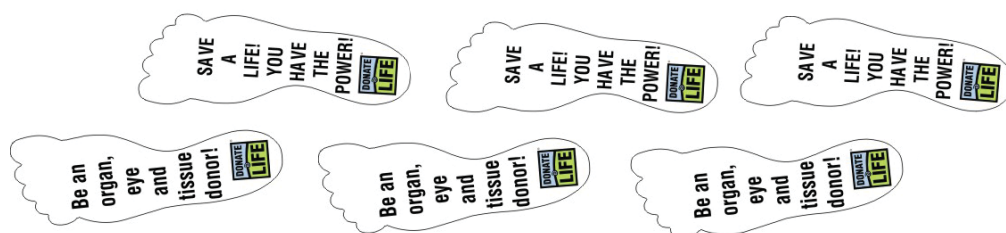
**FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

There are 99,291 people waiting for organs in this country, 4,850 of them right here in Illinois.

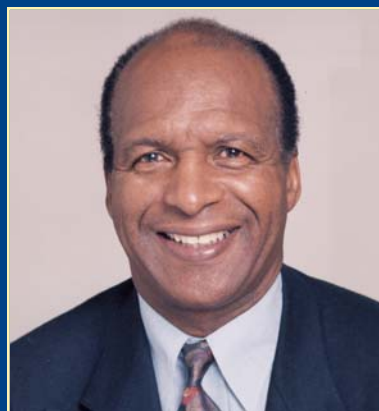
Nationally, of the 99,291 people on the waiting list, 75,925 are waiting for a kidney, 16,348 a liver, 2,632 a heart and 2,099 a lung.

In Illinois, of the 4,850 people on the waiting list, 3,715 are waiting for a kidney, 728 a liver, 90 a heart and 49 a lung. Five of the people on the waiting list in Illinois are less than one year old.

In Illinois, more men than women are awaiting transplants – 2,846 men and 2,004 women. While more men are waiting for a kidney, liver or heart, more women are waiting for a pancreas, lung or intestine.



*Life Goes On* **Secretary of State Jesse White Organ/Tissue Donor Program**  
451 Howlett Bldg. • Springfield, IL 62756



A great deal of planning and coordination went into Donate Life Month activities throughout Illinois in April. Educating the public about the benefits of organ and tissue donation is our focus throughout the year. But Donate Life Month provides a special opportunity to expand our reach, and this year was no exception.

This issue of *Life Goes On* provides a "snapshot" of where we've been during Donate Life Month and the breadth of our outreach, from libraries to community events, and from major sporting events to special ceremonies honoring donor families and transplant recipients. We hope you enjoy the photos inside.

Many of our facilities and staff members were involved in Donate Life Month activities this year. Donor "footprints" marked walkways at facilities, and banners were displayed with personal messages from local donor families and recipients. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped spread the word about donation, including the many facility managers and staff members who assisted in setting up facility displays. Your support is key to getting the donor message out, and your dedication this April is very much appreciated!

*Jesse White*

Jesse White  
Secretary of State



**Donate Life Month activities abound**

The positive message that donor staff spread throughout Illinois in April during Donate Life Month reached thousands of people. Events included donor education at major league ballgames, a park bench dedication in Quincy, a tree-planting ceremony in honor of donor families in Naperville, library displays and donation-related book suggestions, registration drives and donor days, events with the traveling Kidney Mobile, and banners and literature racks alongside individual donor stories and photos in Driver Services facilities.

"I am very proud of the efforts of so many people in sending a positive message about donation to thousands of Illinois residents this spring," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "Spreading the word about the importance of donation and involving our Driver Services facilities in those efforts made a huge impact on reaching potential donors across the state."

The Secretary of State's office kicked off Donate Life Month with a press conference where Secretary White unveiled the 2008 donor commercial featuring Brittney and Jarrett Payton, the children of Chicago Bears great Walter Payton whose efforts had a dramatic impact on donation. The commercial focused on the importance of re-registering because the law has changed.

The Secretary of State's office also initiated a direct-mail program to all Illinois drivers who turn 18, encouraging them to join the new registry. To date, the office has added more than 6,000 new donors to the registry as a result of the mailing.

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**2008 ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR CONTEST WINNER**

— Meghan Walsh, a senior at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School, accepts her first-place prize from Secretary of State Jesse White for the 2008 Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest. Her poster has been reprinted and distributed to Driver Services facilities across the state as well as to many libraries and hospitals. Other poster contest winners were: grades K-2 – Matthew Junk, second grade, Pleasant Valley School, Peoria; grades 3-5 – Tariah Page, fourth grade, Pleasant Valley School; and grades 6-8 – Jamie Lanman, seventh grade, Columbia Middle School.



# DONATE LIFE MONTH ... LIFE GOES ON ... BE AN ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR

**Photo #1** – Secretary White welcomed Moreena Tiede of Bloomington and her two daughters, 7-year-old liver recipient Annika (top) and Frankie during a press conference in Springfield unveiling the new donor commercial. Annika currently is awaiting another liver transplant.

**Photo #2** – Secretary White attended a donor drive at Illinois State University with (left to right) Kevin Ross, CEO of Midwest Eye-Banks, and Dave Hearn and Bob Albrecht of the Illinois Eye-Bank.

**Photo #3** – Brian Bush, regional coordinator for the Organ/Tissue Donor Program, assisted the staffs at hospitals in Eldorado and McLeansboro in Southern Illinois during a two-day screening event with the Illinois Kidney Foundation. The Kidney Mobile conducted the screenings and more than 100 new donors registered at the two events.

**Photo #4** – The Galena Driver Services facility was presented a banner from Donate Life Illinois for its success in registering donors. Facility staff includes (left to right) Laura Gray, facility manager Todd Steinke, John Huschik and Heather Kavanaugh.

**Photo #5** – Secretary White congratulates Rodney Strothcamp, donor program specialist with Mid-America Transplant Services, for the agency's work in helping to increase donor registry numbers in Southern Illinois.

**Photo #6** – Author and heart recipient Kelly Perkins displays her book, *The Climb of My Life: Scaling Mountains with a Borrowed Heart*, with Naperville Mayor George Pradel (center) and her husband, Craig. The couple presented a program at the Naperville Public Library about their climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro after Kelly's heart transplant.

**Photo #7** – (Left to right) Naperville councilman Doug Kraus; Margaret Pearson, regional coordinator with the Organ/Tissue Donor Program; Mary Jane Bollinger, president of Organ Transplant Support; Donna Defalco of Naperville Settlement; and Dave Bosch, director of Communications for Gift of Hope, were speakers at the OTS donor family dedication and tree-planting ceremony in Naperville.

**Photo #8** – The Greater Quincy Area Life Goes On Committee presented John Wood Community College in Quincy a donor remembrance bench. Joining Secretary White at the event was Will Vaughn, a liver recipient and member of the Greater Quincy Area Life Goes On Committee, and his wife, Chris.

**Photo #9** – Peoria Driver Services facility manager Billy Halstead (left) attended a benefit for new heart transplant recipient Percy Baker. The benefit also featured a donor registration booth.

**Photo #10** – (Left to right) Kidney recipient Audrey Wilson, liver recipient Angelique Marseille and Mike Henderson, two-time kidney recipient and regional coordinator with the Organ/Tissue Donor Program, staffed a donor registration booth at the Chicago Police Department.

**Photo #11** – Donor parents Larry and Vivian Leffert provided a wonderful fireworks display in honor of their son, John, at the fairgrounds in Petersburg. The event also included a donor registration table and dinner for attendees.

**Photo #12** – (Left to right) Donor family member Christine Seigars, Lisle Mayor Joseph Broda, liver recipient Colette Jordan, and pancreas islet cell recipient Kim Carlson registered 136 people at the Lisle Donor Days.

**Photo #13** – Secretary White displays a brochure holder at the Mt. Vernon Driver Services facility with Andrea Bock and her son Emory, a double lung recipient. The holder displays Emory's photo and heroic transplant story.

**Photo #14** – Secretary White presents an award on behalf of Mid-America Transplant Services to Jan Becher, ICU director at St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital in Mt. Vernon, in recognition of the hospital's high donation consent rates.

**Photo #15** – Audrey Williams, a student at Illinois Central College in Peoria, accepts her first-place award from Secretary White for her winning entry in a college video contest sponsored by the McLean County Life Goes On Committee and Donate Life Illinois. Audrey's video is about a 9-year-old Bloomington girl who received a heart transplant. The video can be viewed at [www.LifeGoesOn.com](http://www.LifeGoesOn.com).

**Photo #16** – "Morgan D'Organ" made an appearance at many donor events in April, including Glen Ellyn Donor Days.

