



Life Goes On

Secretary of State Jesse White • Summer 2010

A newsletter for Secretary of State facility employees and other organ/tissue donation advocates

Another successful April filled with donor events, registration drives and public awareness pushes makes me proud to be associated with the donor program in Illinois! We kicked off with a press conference at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and built on that event with many more throughout the state. This issue illustrates our efforts through a collage of photos that tell the story of how donation has touched the lives of countless individuals across the state.

While we celebrated life during Donate Life Month we also mourned the loss of our good friend Joey Mayer of New Lenox. Joey, who was featured in our 2006 donor commercial, lost his long and courageous battle with cystic fibrosis this spring. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Joey's family and friends. (See page 2 for photo and story.)

The Illinois registry number is now more than 5.3 million people — people who have listened to our donor message and made the decision to give the gift of life. We continue to reach out as we strive for 6 million donors. A sincere thanks goes out to everyone who made Donate Life Month a success and giving hope to those awaiting a second chance at life.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State

Donate Life Month across Illinois

April Donate Life Month activities kept donor staff and donor advocates busy preparing events and registering donors across Illinois. Many events that featured visits from Secretary of State Jesse White were the most popular among attendees as well as Secretary White.

"I really enjoyed all the events my staff planned during April," said Secretary White. "People are very receptive to our donor message, and it's heartwarming to see so many people at events who show firsthand the importance of donation."

Many of this year's events centered on honoring medical personnel for their dedication to donation. Secretary White presented several hospital staffs with awards for their hard work in the field of donation. He also visited several Driver Services facilities, presenting counter displays featuring local recipients or donor family members.

Secretary White also threw out the first pitch at several sporting events, encouraged people to become donors at the Chicago White Sox autograph signing at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago, and promoted donation at a Chicago Slaughter indoor football game in Hoffman Estates. The Chicago Slaughter features Walter Payton's son Jarrett Payton.

Chicago Bears cornerback Charles Tillman was the Secretary of State's spokesperson for the Organ/Tissue Donor Program in April, featured in the Secretary of State's donor commercial and the new donor brochure. Tillman's daughter, Tiana, received a heart transplant when she was an infant.

Other April events featured visits by Secretary White to schools, businesses, union halls and churches, and several town proclamations in honor of donation. (See photos on pages 2-4.)



DONOR POSTER CONTEST WINNER — Secretary of State Jesse White congratulated grand-prize winner of the 2010 Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest, 5-year-old Kieran Bauer of Peoria, in his State Capitol office. Kieran's winning poster will be displayed in Driver Service facilities, libraries, schools and other places across Illinois. (See photo of other winners on page 3.)

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.

LIFE MONTH IN APRIL



#9 Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey issues a donation proclamation along with Jan Eschen, donor program regional coordinator (whose husband did not receive a marrow transplant in time), and heart recipients Brian Troy and Bill Perkins.



#10 Three children who have received the gift of life celebrated together at the McLean County Life Goes On 10-Year Anniversary Celebration in Bloomington: heart recipient Mikahla Thornton, liver recipient Annika Tiede and heart recipient Alexis Shaw.



#11 Secretary White presents Decatur Driver Services facility manager Dee Mathews (center) a counter display featuring tissue donor Casey Williams of Assumption.



#12 Donor staff member Damarius Blanks (second from left) and the Peoria Life Goes On Committee with Secretary White at the Proctor Hospital Bench Dedication Ceremony in Peoria.



#13 Donor parents Jay and Pat Landers with Secretary White at the 16th annual Brother James Court Benefit Auction and Dinner. Jay is director of development for the agency, which provides services for developmentally disabled men.

#14 Secretary White kicked off Donate Life Month at a press conference at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago along with a young heart recipient and friends.



#15 The Swanson family, Robyn and Scott with 17-month-old twin sons Jake and Luke, who both need a liver transplant, have a lighthearted moment with Secretary White at Children's Memorial Hospital.

#16 Secretary White and Jarold Anderson (back row, third from left), CEO of Gift of Hope, with transplant recipients, people on the waiting list and hospital staff at Children's Memorial Hospital.

(continued on page 4)



Joey Mayer loses battle with lung disease

Lung transplant recipient Joey Mayer, age 22, from New Lenox, lost his valiant battle with lung disease earlier this year due to complications of organ rejection. Joey was featured in the Secretary of State's donor commercial in 2006 while waiting for a lung transplant as cystic fibrosis weakened his own lungs. With his oxygen tubes and tank with him at all times, he was willing to be filmed for the commercial to promote the urgent need for donors. Joey even joined Secretary White in throwing out a pitch at a White Sox game during Donate Life Month.

Joey's cystic fibrosis progressed to where he had lost lung function in both lungs – one lung was down to only 25 percent function. But in 2007, he finally got his lung transplant and was able to take deep breaths again for the first time in years. He also had enrolled at DePaul University to pursue a computer programming degree.

Joey was a remarkable young man and an inspiration to other transplant recipients and will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.



Secretary White with Joey Mayer in 2006.



#1 Secretary White and Alderwoman Emma Mitts helps Pastor Richardson of Jordan Temple Baptist Church in Chicago celebrate the 14-year anniversary of his heart transplant.



#2 Liver recipient Colette Jordan (center back) met her donor's family for the first time at Organ Transplant Support's annual donor tribute in Naperville.



#3 Margaret Shannon, donor program regional coordinator, staffs a donor registration station with heart recipient Roger Grandys at Northern Illinois University's Employee Wellness Fair in DeKalb.

#4 Secretary White with (left to right) Libertyville Mayor Terry Wepler, Condell Medical Center President Dr. Ann Errichetti, Condell ICU Manager Raeann Fuller, and Gift of Hope CEO Jarold Anderson at the hospital in Libertyville.



#5 Condell Medical Center staff members received an award from Secretary White for their outstanding service in the field of organ/tissue donation.

#6 Brian Bush, donor program regional coordinator, and Debra Lanter, donor program specialist for Mid-America Transplant Services, at the Illinois Funeral Director's Association convention in Marion.



#7 Secretary White recognized the winners of the Donor Poster Contest in his Springfield office. With White are (left to right) donor program staff member Sitha Hun, Morgan Hall of Vandalia Junior High School, Kieran Bauer and Kamryn Rutledge of Peoria's Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Samantha Palacios of Oak Lawn Community High School, and donor program manager Nadine O'Leary.



#8 Morgan Elliott, a student at Mt. Zion High School, joins the donor registry during a presentation at the high school with teachers Mary Jane McMullen and Ben Davis. Morgan was anxious to register when she turned 18 because she had lost a cousin who was a tissue donor.

DONATE LIFE MONTH IN APRIL

(continued from page 3)

#17 UAW Local 2488 members in Bloomington and Local 2488 president Michael Tucker (standing in back) listen to Secretary White talk about the importance of registering as donors.

#18 Sitha Hun, donor program outreach coordinator, registers a donor at a Bloomington Extreme football game.

#19 Willa Lang, CEO of the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, and Secretary White spread the word about kidney health at a recent kidney screening and education program in celebration of World Kidney Day.

#20 Lung recipient Megan Herdegen and Secretary White talk with customers at the Schaumburg Driver Services facility about the importance of registering as donors.



U.S. Transplant Games approaching

The 2010 U.S. Transplant Games will be held July 30-August 4 in Madison, Wisconsin. The Games are an athletic competition for transplant recipients, donor family members and living donors to compete in athletic events such as 5K races, dancing, swimming, cycling, bowling, table tennis, golf, volleyball and tennis. There are competitions for living donors such as track and field events and others.

Thousands of athletes from across the United States are expected to attend this summer's event, which is held every two years. Families and athletes are able to show the country what the gift of donation has enabled them to accomplish. Donor advocates are encouraged to attend with their family members who may be living donors or recipients to show support for all those who participate. For more information on Team Illinois, visit www.team-illinois.org.



For copies of the new Organ/Tissue Donor brochure featuring Chicago Bears cornerback Charles Tillman, please call 800-210-2106 or visit LifeGoesOn.com