



# Life Goes On

Secretary of State Jesse White • Summer 2014

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



## Community College Campaign winners

### Students receive internships, community service hours

Springtime was very busy with many exciting donor activities throughout the state. During Donate Life Month in April, we showcased the importance of donation at many colleges, community events and businesses throughout Illinois. We surpassed our expectations and added more than 24,000 names to the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry, giving more hope to those waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

The most exciting project that concluded this April was our inaugural "Be a Hero!" Community College Campaign. Out of 49 community colleges in Illinois, 43 percent participated in the challenge to register new donors and create innovative campaigns to attract students and faculty. "Be a Hero!" team members designed creative activities to involve fellow students and staff in their quest to register more donors and the results were phenomenal.

This issue highlights the heart-warming stories and photos from the many events held across the state during Donate Life Month. We thank each and every one of you who have helped increase the donor registry this spring at Driver Services facilities, health fairs, sporting events and many other venues. You are truly lifesavers!

*Jesse White*

Jesse White  
Secretary of State

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State's "Be a Hero!" Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White's Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

"This campaign was one of the most exciting endeavors of my office's Organ/Tissue Donor Program in many years," said Secretary White. "I was so impressed when I traveled to the many colleges, participated in numerous press conferences, and saw firsthand the creative campaigns designed

by the students. We commend every school for their efforts."

Illinois Community College (ICC) Board Executive Director Karen Anderson's support was phenomenal in encouraging participation from the schools. She drafted a letter to all community college presidents supporting the program and encouraging schools to participate.

Three winning colleges were selected regionally – one from northern Illinois, one from central Illinois and one from southern Illinois.

- First Place:** Elgin Community College
- Second Place:** Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
- Third Place:** Olney Community College

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Elgin Community College students and staff accept the first-place prize for their "Be a Hero!" campaign from Secretary White. Holding the plaque is nursing student Candice Hopman, winner of a paid summer internship with Lifesource Blood Center in Rosemont. Joining her is ICC Board Executive Director Karen Anderson (to her right), college President Dr. David Sam (to her left) and Beverly Felder (behind Secretary White), Elgin's designated administrator. See more photos of the "Be a Hero" campaign inside.

# BE A HERO! Community College Campaign

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Colleges were judged on the creative aspect of their campaigns, the effectiveness of their efforts and the number of people they registered during the course of the campaign, which ran from mid-February through April 30. Each of the three winning colleges selected one student to receive one of three internships. Team members for all the participating schools also received valuable community service hours as determined by their individual schools.

For Elgin Community College, nursing student **Candice Hopman**, age 38, of Streamwood and president of the college's Associated Nursing Students, received a paid summer internship with Lifesource Blood Center in Rosemont. Married with two young sons, Candice is excited to continue her nursing career and work with Lifesource this summer. The designated administrator for the Elgin students was Beverly Felder, RN, BSN, and health professions retention specialist at the college.

For Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), student **Tyler Mathews**, age 19, of Petersburg received a paid summer internship with Springfield's Memorial Medical Center's Transplant Team. He will be assisting with donor events and promotions through the hospital and Springfield's Life Goes On Committee. The designated administrator for the LLCC students was Joanie Rogers, Alumni Services and Foundation coordinator.

For Olney Community College, nursing student **Ashlee Goss**, age 20, of Oblong received an unpaid internship with Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network's Springfield office. The designated administrator for the Olney students was Sharen Wolke, director of the Student Nurses Association.

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LLCC students and staff accept the second-place prize for their "Be a Hero" campaign from Secretary White along with ICC Board Executive Director Karen Anderson (far right) and student Tyler Mathews (back row, striped tie), winner of a paid internship with Memorial Medical Center's Transplant Team and Springfield's Life Goes On Committee.



Lisa Gregory, assistant to the president at Richland Community College in Decatur, accepts a plaque from Secretary White for the college's efforts in the "Be a Hero" campaign.



Accepting the "Be a Hero" campaign third-place prize for Olney Community College from Secretary White and ICC Board Executive Director Karen Anderson (far right) are Tammy Fralicker (left), Olney's dean of nursing, and Sharen Wolke, designated administrator and the college's student nurse advisor.



Olney Community College students sign up fellow students during the "Be a Hero" campaign.



Elgin Community College students and staff join Secretary White for the dedication of a commemorative donor brick on the campus' Pathway to Knowledge.



Attending a press conference at LLCC in Springfield were (standing left to right) donor parent Jay Landers; State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis; Secretary White; LLCC Board of Trustees Chair Justin Reichert; students Tyler Mathews and Russell Michelich; (seated left to right) Natalie Sparacio, News Channel 20 anchor and emcee of the event; ICC Board Executive Director Karen Anderson; LLCC President Dr. Charlotte Warren, and student Lauren Masten.



Joining Secretary White at Rockford's Rock Valley College are (left to right) liver recipient Andy Trosper, cornea recipient Peggy Petersen, donor family member Marsha Goodheart, Rock Valley President Mike Mastrianni, and kidney/pancreas recipient Bob Jansen.



Dale Chapman, president of Lewis Et Clark Community College in Godfrey, and Elizabeth Ringhausen, student government president, accept their college's "Be a Hero" campaign plaque from Secretary White.

# April is National Donate Life Month in Illinois



ABOVE – A large group of volleyball players and volunteers turned out to raise money for the Casey Williams Foundation at the Casey Williams 5th Annual Volleyball Tournament in Mt. Zion.



PHOTO #1 – Secretary of State Jesse White kicked off Donate Life Month at a press conference with members of the donor community, donor families and transplant recipients.



PHOTO #2 – Anna Driver Services facility staff members hold a Donate Life banner in honor of National Blue and Green Day on April 11.



PHOTO #3 – Grundy County Health Department personnel in Morris at a donor event, including administrator Philip Jass (front right).



PHOTO #4 – Four-year-old liver transplant recipient Jackson Wepler of Ursa celebrates Jackson Wepler Day in his honor at the Quincy Driver Services facility.



PHOTO #5 – Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle signed up to be a donor at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital, accompanied by Secretary White and hospital CEO Dr. Jay Shannon.



PHOTO #6 – Secretary White helped plant a tree in honor of donor families at Organ Transplant Support's Annual Tree Planting and Donor Dedication at Naper Settlement in Naperville. Joining him are (left to right) Jill and Matt Zuleg, donor parents, Naperville Mayor George Pradel, and liver recipient and OTS President Pete Cashman.



PHOTO #7 – Chicago White Sox announcer Ed Farmer (second from left) receives the Champion For Life Award at the James R. Thompson Center during a White Sox autograph-signing event. Joining him are (left to right) White Sox announcer Darrin Jackson; White Sox player Alexei Ramirez; Secretary White; player Alejandro De Aza; and Don Rowley, cornea recipient and former Champion For Life Award winner.



PHOTO #8 – Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest Winner Alexandra Garcia, age 18 and a student at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School, was the grand-prize winner of the 2014 Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest. Secretary White awarded her prize at his Springfield office, which included a plaque, a personalized *Illinois Blue Book* and a Barnes and Noble gift certificate. Alexandra's poster has been distributed to Driver Services facilities, schools, hospitals and public libraries across Illinois.



Harry S. Truman College staff and students join Secretary White and Donor Program Manager Connie Boatman (far right) at a press conference at the college.



Joliet Mayor Tom Giarrante joins Secretary White and Joliet Junior College President Dr. Debra Daniels at a press conference and donor tribute.



Malcolm-X College students and staff join Secretary White at a press conference and donor tribute on the Chicago campus.

## Loyola Medical Center sets record-breaking number of lung transplants

May 8-9, 2014, were record-breaking days at Loyola Medical Center in Chicago as pulmonary transplant teams performed five lung transplants within 25 hours at the medical facility. In comparison, five lung transplants are performed daily across the United States.

The transplants included both double- and single-lung transplants on the five patients, including a judge and a teacher. The availability of the donor organs and the location of the patients waiting for them made the record-breaking procedure possible. The medical center had to coordinate all the surgeons and additional staff needed, prep all the patients, recover the donated lungs and perform the surgeries in a monumental medical procedure lasting just over 24 hours. Four of the surgeries occurred simultaneously. Because of these successful lung transplants, five individuals have been given a second chance at life all on the same day. Congratulations to Loyola's outstanding medical transplant staff!

## Donor Program receives AAMVA PACE awards

The Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program once again has garnered two American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) PACE (Public Affairs and Consumer Education) Awards for 2014. The "Be a Hero!" campaign booklet won in Category 1E for electronic publication. The office's National Donor Sabbath public service announcement, "Life Goes On – Gillian and Grace," also won in Category 1E in the radio commercial/PSA category. The awards will be presented at the 2014 Region III Information Exchange in Oak Brook, October 28-30.

## Sister donates kidney to sister

Suzanne Ruff of Mt. Greenwood, N.C., formerly from Chicago, comes from a family plagued for generations by kidney disease. In her lifetime she has lost her mother, several aunts and uncles and cousins to polycystic kidney disease (PKD), the most common of all life-threatening genetic diseases. Both her sisters – JoAnn Villanueva of Huntersville, N.C., and Janice Gill of Orland Park – inherited the disease, but Suzanne did not.

When Suzanne's younger sister, JoAnn, fell ill shortly after their mother's death in 2003, Suzanne decided to do something about it. She had always been afraid of doctors and needles, but says with God's help she found the courage to save JoAnn's life by donating a kidney to her sister. In the months leading up to the surgery in October 2004, Suzanne spent time journaling and eventually published a book based on her notes and

memories. Her hope is that *The Reluctant Donor* will find its way into the hands of others who are facing a difficult life-and-death decision, and help them find the courage they need to get through it.

Suzanne's family has been active with the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation since its inception in 1982. The foundation is a source of information for newly diagnosed patients and helps fund research to find a cure.



Kidney donor Suzanne Ruff (center) with her sisters Janice (left) and JoAnn, who both suffer from polycystic kidney disease.