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In addition to visiting several high schools, we also visited several Driver Services facilities on National Blue and Green Day, presenting countertop displays that feature stories of local transplant recipients.

The 2018 Organ/Tissue Donor Program Poster Contest winners were also announced in April. The overall winning poster has been reproduced and is on display at Driver Services facilities, schools and libraries throughout the state.

This issue of Life Goes On provides a photo collection of National Donate Life Month. Many of those pictured are true heroes — those who give hope to others awaiting a second chance at life. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who made this year’s National Donate Life Month a successful one, including the staff members at Driver Services facilities who ask the lifesaving question about joining the registry.
On April 29, Secretary White spoke at Organ Transplant Support’s Annual Tree Planting and Donor Family Dedication Ceremony in Naperville. Speakers included donor mother Cindy Cook, who shared a heartfelt message about losing her young son. Many participated in planting a tree on the grounds of Naper Settlement in honor of all donors.

Secretary White also participated in a Chicago White Sox autograph signing event on April 23 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. White Sox announcers Ed Farmer (kidney recipient) and Darrin Jackson were in attendance along with current White Sox infielder Yolmer Sanchez and former player and current ambassador Harold Baines.

Secretary White presents a countertop display featuring Francine Dzialo’s lung transplant story to the Aurora Driver Services facility in celebration of National Blue and Green Day on April 13. From left: Steven Burns, assistant manager; Kimberly Caccamo, assistant manager; Elisse Driver Services facility; Francine Dzialo; Kimberly Caccamo’s mother; Bill Masani, facility manager; and Tom Dolce, regional manager.

Secretary White helps plant a tree at Organ Transplant Support’s 28th annual Tree Planting and Donor Family Dedication Ceremony on April 29 at Naper Settlement in Naperville. Pictured from left: Cindy Cook, donor mother; Secretary White; Carol Olash, heart recipient; Kevin Cmunt, CEO of Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network; and Patty Gustin, Naperville city councilwoman.

Secretary White speaks at a Chicago White Sox autograph signing event on April 23 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. Pictured from left: Yolmer Sanchez, White Sox infielder; Ed Farmer, White Sox radio announcer and kidney recipient; Secretary White; Harold Baines, former White Sox player and team ambassador; and White Sox radio announcer BarrieJohns.

2018 donor program poster contest winners chosen

The 2018 Organ/Tissue Donor Program Poster Contest winners were chosen and awarded prizes in April. The overall winner, 8-year-old Jada Andrews of Chicago, attended Providence St. Mel School in Chicago. Her winning poster is on display at schools, Driver Services facilities and libraries throughout the state. Jada received an Illinois Blue Book, a plaque and a Barnes and Noble gift card.

Donor program receives AAMVA award for its PSA

The Organ/Tissue Donor Program won a Public Affairs and Consumer Education (PACE) award from the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) for its 2016 National Donor Sabbath public service announcement (PSA). The internally produced radio spot, featuring heart recipients Rev. Joseph Kyles and Pam Morris Walton, was distributed statewide to dozens of radio stations in November 2016.

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Blue and Green Day was recognized on April 13, and Secretary White visited three Driver Services facilities in the Chicago area to present counter-top displays that feature transplant stories of local residents. In Aurora, the countertop display featured lung recipient Francine Dzialo. Secretary White presented a countertop display about heart recipient Melissa Simon at the Lombard facility, and in Naperville the display story featured kidney recipient James Bond. Many Driver Services facilities throughout the state were decorated in blue and green colors for customers. Secretary White also visited a Driver Services facility in Rockford and presented a countertop display story on April 20.

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Jesse White
Secretary of State