



Life Goes On

Secretary of State Jesse White • Winter 2008
A newsletter for Secretary of State facility employees and other organ/tissue donation advocates

The Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry has reached 3 million registrants! We had a phenomenal 2007, educating the public about organ/tissue donation and the importance of joining the new registry.

The new registry is no longer the best-kept secret in Illinois! Thanks to those who have worked hard each and every day telling people about the registry.

Even though the holidays are over, the giving spirit lives on in the hearts of those who have registered to be donors. We thank you for what your decision means to those waiting for lifesaving transplants.

A special thanks to facility staff who are on the front lines of our donor efforts. Your job isn't always easy, but your efforts have made a huge difference. Everyone waiting for a transplant or who has a loved one waiting thanks you.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State

New Organ/Tissue Donor Registry tops 3 million!

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone working on behalf of the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program, the new Donor Registry topped 3 million people in January 2008!

Just a little more than two years ago, the Secretary of State's office went "live" with the new registry. There are still many more people to add to the new registry, but 3 million people is a huge success in a relatively short period of time. Donor staff members are out and about at many community events throughout Illinois spreading the word about donation and signing up people on the new donor registry.

As 2008 ushers in a new milestone for the registry, Donor staff is setting its sights on the 4 million mark, making more people aware of the lifesaving potential of organ/tissue donation.

MIKE PAPINEAU BENEFIT — Donor staff regional coordinator Mike Papineau of Midlothian has suffered many health setbacks in the past two years. An outpouring of support for Mike was evident this fall as hundreds of friends and family members came out for "We Support Mike Day." Donor staff also held a donor drive, adding many people to the new registry.



Secretary White joined Mike Papineau's wife, Peg, and other family members at a benefit for Mike.

Secretary of State Jesse White visited with many of Mike's friends and family, wishing Mike well in his journey for another kidney transplant.

"Mike has been a brave and optimistic individual through all his health issues in the past few years," said Secretary White. "He is very fortunate to have such loyal and generous family and friends who are committed to making sure he gets back on the road to wellness."

It's easy to join the 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 Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program at 800-210-2106.
- Complete and mail the registration card on the YOU DECIDE brochure.

National Donor Sabbath celebrated

National Donor Sabbath, a time for clergy and worshippers to come together for an organ/tissue donor recognition weekend across the state and throughout the nation, was observed the second weekend in November 2007. Many volunteers, donor staff, transplant recipients and donor families encouraged their clergy and religious leaders to talk about donation for a few minutes during worship services and distributed donor materials.

The Secretary of State's office created a 60-second radio commercial featuring Donor Program regional coordinator Kim Funk and 11-year-old heart recipient Benjamin Sims. Ben was just five days old when he received his new heart, thanks to a generous donor. The commercial was distributed to nearly 40 radio stations throughout the state.

"We really enjoyed producing an effective, short radio commercial to spread the word about donation throughout many communities during National Donor Sabbath," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "The importance of donation cannot be stressed enough at this important time."



Benjamin Sims recorded a commercial on behalf of the Secretary of State for Donor Sabbath. The 11-year-old from Tower Hill received a heart transplant when he was just five days old.



Secretary White joined Deacon Monohan in delivering the donor message to the congregation of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Naperville during Donor Sabbath.



Donate Life Illinois school program going strong

Donate Life Illinois members representing various donor agencies have reached nearly 12,000 high school students during the first semester of the 2007-08 school year with its brand new donor education program called "Organ and Tissue Donation – Get The Facts."

The program is going strong as trained presenters, armed with the new "Get The Facts" Powerpoint presentation and new student classroom materials, spend the day inside high school classrooms getting students to think about donation in creative ways.

The program requires teachers to show the edited version of the student video, "Share Your Life, Share Your Decision," before Donate Life Illinois presenters come to the classroom. The presenters then show the Powerpoint presentation featuring easy-to-understand statistics, real-life stories and a student activity to get students thinking about donation. Presenters are encouraged to supplement the program by inviting a transplant recipient or member of a donor family to tell his/her personal donor story to the students.

For more information, call 800-210-2106.

Did You Know?

- Motorcycle daredevil Evil Knievel, who recently died at age 69, received a liver transplant nine years ago after battling Hepatitis C.
- Today, 4,750 Illinoisans are awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant.
- Hallmark now offers a greeting card from a transplant recipient to his/her donor family, thanking them for the gift of life.



DONOR DRIVE AT COLLEGE OF DUPAGE – Donor Program regional coordinator Margaret Pearson (left) and Colette Jordan, president of Students for Organ Donation at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, staffed a donor drive at the college recently. Colette is a volunteer with Donate Life Illinois and received a liver transplant in November 2006.

Donation is “good news”

Organ/tissue donation “good news” stories are all around. Of the 25,000 successful transplants performed in the United States each year, only a fraction are reported in the media, but those few are usually heartwarming and special. Following are a few stories that got some positive media attention in the past year:

- In Chicago, 10-year-old twin sisters made medical history when they became the first twins to each receive a kidney from a single donor on the same day. The surgery took place at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago. The story reported that normally the kidneys from a single donor go to different recipients, but the mother of the twin girls would have had a hard time caring for one girl recovering from her transplant while the other one still had to go to dialysis. She also said she didn’t know how she would have chosen which daughter to get the first kidney when both needed one badly. The twins suffered from a rare genetic condition called cystinosis. Both girls are healthy and doing well post-surgery.
- Another transplant story from Children’s Memorial Hospital involved a heart transplant for a 3-month-old baby from a donor infant who died on Christmas Day. The recipient family was very grateful for the lifesaving donor heart for their baby boy, but felt anguish for the family who lost their child on Christmas.
- HGTV aired a design show hosted by Vern Yip (Deserving Design) featuring redecorating two rooms of a living kidney donor’s home. The living donor had donated a kidney to her friend of many years.
- The 2008 National Donate Life float in the Rose Parade on New Year’s Day featured hot air balloons with 24 transplant recipients, pictures of donors and eight donor families walking beside the float.

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

How many people are on the national waiting list for a lifesaving transplant?

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), which oversees the distribution of organs in the United States, reports 98,096 people on the waiting list – nearly 75,000 waiting for a kidney and more than 16,000 waiting on a liver.

How many people received transplants in the United States in 2007?

According to UNOS, 28,352 transplants were performed in 2007.

How many people have donated their organs while alive, and what organs can living donors donate?

In 2007, UNOS reported 14,393 total donors in this country, with 8,000+ being deceased donors and 6,000+ being living donors. Living donors may donate one lung, one kidney or part of a liver, which is the only organ that grows back. Living pancreas donations also are being done.

I’ve recently heard about “blood type compatibility” between donor and recipient. What does that mean?

Traditionally, blood type between donor and recipient has had to match exactly for a successful transplant. However, some blood types are “compatible” with others, which will make transplantation successful. For example, if a living donor’s blood type is type “O,” that donor may donate organs to recipients with blood types “O,” “A,” “B” or “AB.” In addition to blood typing, many other tests are performed to determine compatibility between donor and recipient.

ON. BE AN ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR.

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1954 → First successful kidney transplant on humans in the United States between twin boys.

1958 → First instance of a transplant recipient giving birth.

1961 → Anti-rejection medicine for recipients increased the overall success rate of transplants.

1962 → First kidney transplant from a deceased donor.

1967 → First successful liver transplant.

1968 → First successful heart and pancreas transplants.

1977 → First computer-based organ-matching system (United Network for Organ Sharing) created.

1983 → First successful single-lung transplant.

1986 → First successful double-lung transplant.

1987 → First successful intestinal transplant.

1988 → First successful split-liver transplant.

1989 → First successful living donor liver transplant.

1990 → First successful living donor lung transplant.

Firsts in Donation