



Life Goes On

Secretary of State Jesse White • Winter 2016

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

The beginning of a new year is a great time to review accomplishments and outline goals. The Organ/Tissue Donor Program will continue its goal of increasing the registry in 2016. We had an active year in 2015 with numerous community events showcasing our strong program statewide. In the new year, we intend to build on that strong foundation of accomplishments.

We are starting the year with strengthening our partnerships with our donor partners, facilities, libraries and numerous community groups. Working together, we can accomplish much more than we could alone.

Our recent National Donor Sabbath celebration featured a strong, combined message of unity and donor awareness that transcended all major religions. We will continue our message of compassion for those waiting for transplants this year. A big part of that message is to increase the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry into 2016 and beyond. Thank you for making this a continuing priority for 2016 as we strive to cross the threshold to six million registered donors – it's within our grasp.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State

National Donor Sabbath showcases religious views on donation

Clergy members confirm the acceptance of donation

Clergy from several major eastern and western religions joined Secretary of State Jesse White Nov. 12, 2015, for inspiring messages on the importance of organ/tissue donation. Chicago religious leaders from religious affiliations including Christian, Catholic, Muslim, Sikh and Jewish faiths emphasized the need for more donors and explained their views on donation at a press conference held at the James R. Thompson

Center in Chicago.

"All major religions accept donation and encourage worshipers to make the donor decision to donate," said Secretary White. "With more than 123,000 individuals on the national waiting list in this country, we all need to think about registering as organ donors to help those in need."

Secretary White visited several churches in the Chicago area on National Donor Sabbath Sunday, Nov. 15, including St.

(cont. on pg. 2)



TOP: Secretary of State Jesse White is surrounded by numerous clergy at a press conference Nov. 12, 2015, at the James R. Thompson Center for National Donor Sabbath. The message focused on embracing organ and tissue donation in religious communities. ABOVE LEFT: Secretary of State Jesse White addresses the congregation at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago on National Donor Sabbath Sunday. Pastor Scott Onque greets the Secretary. ABOVE RIGHT: Secretary of State Jesse White addresses the congregation at Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago on National Donor Sabbath Sunday with the Rev. Steven Spiller.

Transplant Games set for June 2016

Cleveland to host event

The biennial Transplant Games, an Olympic-style competition for transplant recipients, is gearing up for Cleveland, Ohio, June 10-15, 2016. For the last 30 years, the Donate Life Transplant Games of America has showcased the need for donation coupled with a message that those who have received a transplant are healthy enough to live active lives, including competing in athletic competitions.

A Team Illinois flag-signing event was held at Gift of Hope in Itasca, IL, Nov. 8, 2015, to kick off the team's efforts at building a strong presence for the 2016 games. Team Illinois members will be participating in a number of athletic events including badminton, basketball, bowling, cycling, golf, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Other events include a 5K race/walk, workshops, seminars and many other activities involving transplant athletes, family members and donor advocates.

If you know someone with a transplant who might be interested in joining Team Illinois or a donor advocate who is interested in supporting Team Illinois behind the scenes, please visit www.goteamillinois.org or email info@goteamillinois.org. Go Team Illinois.



A cake decorated with an inspiring message for Team Illinois in the summer 2016 Transplant Games was front and center at the flag-signing ceremony Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015, at Gift of Hope in Itasca, Ill.

National Donor Sabbath (cont. from pg. 1)

Luke's Missionary Baptist Church, United Baptist Church and Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. He addressed the congregations with a message at each church, encouraging worshipers to register as donors. He asked those in attendance not to believe the many myths surrounding donation, especially the myth that religious views would prevent donation.

He explained that National Donor Sabbath is a wonderful time for individuals and families to discuss donation openly and share information and views on donation. A family discussion can make everyone more comfortable with the subject of donation, Secretary White affirmed.



ABOVE LEFT: Stacie Patterson; the Rev. Embra Patterson III; and donor father Jay Landers are pictured at the National Donor Sabbath Remembrance at St. Mary's in Decatur, Ill. The Rev. Patterson was a speaker and Stacie Patterson presented a song, "I Need You to Survive." ABOVE RIGHT: Pictured from left to right are: Janice Earl, lung and kidney recipient; Leslie Irons, mother of two children on the waiting list for kidneys; and Jonathan Butts, Macon County Sheriff's Office and a member of the Macon County Life Goes On Committee, at the National Donor Sabbath Remembrance at St. Mary's in Decatur, Ill.



TOP LEFT: Secretary of State Jesse White presents a plaque to the Rev. Steven Spiller of Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago on National Donor Sabbath Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015. TOP RIGHT: Secretary of State Jesse White meets the Rev. Eddie Gilliam at United Baptist Church in Chicago during National Donor Sabbath Nov. 15, 2015. RIGHT: Jay and Pat Landers, a donor family, and Gift of Hope's Season Hammond, attend Springfield's Memorial Medical Center National Donor Sabbath tribute Sunday, Nov. 15, at Erin's Pavilion in South Winds Park in Springfield.



Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry climbing

Closing in on six million registrants

The Illinois Donor Registry is very close to reaching six million registrants – a goal we believe we will reach in 2016. We have added nearly 222,000 names to the numbers in calendar year 2015 to total 5,925,602 at the end of December 2015. We are on track to add at least 75,000 more names in 2016, topping the registry out at more than six million registered donors in the first half of 2016.

"The anticipation of being able to say the Illinois donor registry contains more than six million names is significant as we head into the new year," said Secretary White. "This milestone will prove that we are successfully spreading the word about the importance of donation and saving more lives."

Since the current first-person consent registry began on Jan. 1, 2006, we will have increased the numbers from the ground level to six million in more than 10 years. The direct result of this increase in registry numbers means more critically ill individuals will have a better chance at receiving a lifesaving transplant. Please continue to encourage people to register at LifeGoesOn.com.

Science teacher educates students on donation

Every year Janice Farace, a science teacher at Triad High School in Troy, Ill., gives her students the opportunity to get the facts about organ/tissue donation. Each semester, she invites a donor program coordinator to present a classroom program to her students so they are able to make informed decisions in the future.

Last fall, the presentation happened to be held close to the anniversary of the death of Janice's mother, Agnes Stabenow, who had been a tissue donor. Janice always shares her mother's transplant story with her students, telling them she made the decision for her mother to be a tissue donor because she knew how much her mother liked to help people.

Janice's personal story and the donor classroom presentation help the stu-

dents understand the importance of talking to their families about donation. Additionally, it helps her students start the conversation with their families – a conversation that many families don't have until a loved one is in need of a transplant.



Janice Farace

It's easy to join the Organ/Tissue Donor Registry:

- Visit 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 a donor brochure.

Employee Connection

Taylorville facility employee's family made the donor decision



Les Auxier

A strong advocate for donation, Les Auxier, an employee who works at the Taylorville Driver Services facility, made the donor decision several years ago when his mother died suddenly of a heart attack. Les was the first in his family to arrive at the hospital in Lincoln, Ill. While in the room with his mother, Les was asked by the doctor if he would consider donating her corneas. Without much thought, Les said, "I can make that decision without even asking my other siblings. We all know what mom would have wanted. She was that kind of person," Les told the doctor. Because of her donation, a woman in Cincinnati, Ohio, had her sight restored. "I can't understand why people say no," said Les. "It's the right thing to do," he added.

2016 Donor Program Staff list

To reach a donor program staff member, please email them directly or call Office Manager Karen Kohnke in Springfield.

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**LIFE GOES ON.
BE AN ORGAN/TISSUE DONOR.**



Springfield Life Goes On Committee members gather at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in November to decorate a holiday tree for Memorial Medical Hospital's Annual Festival of Trees. Pictured are: (from left front going clockwise around tree) Karen Kohnke, donor program; Megan Hollowell; Sara Danner; Nicola Cortez-Hun; Pat Landers; Jay Landers; and Liz Hager, donor program.



Former NFL wide receiver Donald Jones, center holding book, participates in the IgA Nephropathy Foundation of America's Halloween 5K-10K run in Libertyville, Ill. in October, to bring awareness to kidney disease. Donald, who retired from the NFL because of the disease, received a kidney transplant from his father and has written a book entitled, "The Next Quarter," the journey of his transplant.

How much do you know about donation?

Test your knowledge with these fact or fiction statements

1. I think the organ most people are waiting for is a heart.
2. If I am placed on the waiting list, I'm pretty sure I will get my transplant quickly.
3. About 300 people die on the waiting list each year.
4. I'm too old to donate anything.
5. If I sign the back of my driver's license or state ID card, that's all I need to do to be a donor.
6. There probably aren't many children on the waiting list.
7. I'm sure my religion prevents donation.
8. On average, every 10 minutes, another name is added to the national transplant waiting list.
9. If I have a major illness, I can't donate anything.
10. The Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry may reach six million registrants in 2016.

Answers

1. Fiction: More than 80 percent of the waiting list is waiting for a kidney transplant, due in part to high blood pressure, hypertension and diabetes.
2. Fact: Many people get a transplant in time, but many also wait for long periods. The average wait for a kidney transplant is more than six years.
3. Fact: Sadly, for several hundred people each year, the dream of a transplant and a healthy life will not be realized.
4. Fiction: Many individuals can donate something well into old age. Many older Americans are able to donate tissues (corneas, skin or bones) to help others.
5. Fiction: Signing the back of the driver's license or state ID card is no longer part of the donor registration process in Illinois. Since 2006, the sign up process is simply saying 'yes' to the donor question when asked at a Driver Services facility or visiting LifeGoesOn.com. It only takes a minute to save a life.
6. Fiction: There are many infants, toddlers and young children waiting for transplants.
7. Fiction: All major eastern and western religions accept donation. Some even go so far as to state it is a person's duty to help save others.
8. Fact: Yes, every 10 minutes another name is added, on average, to the national waiting list. Additionally, 21 people die on the waiting list each day.
9. Fiction: While many illnesses may prevent someone from being an organ/tissue donor, the one tissue that may be able to be donated is the cornea of the eye. The cornea does not have blood flow to it so it is unaffected by diseases that would rule out other donations.
10. Fact: Yes, we only need 75,000 more individuals to register as donors in Illinois to reach this milestone. So please encourage everyone to make the lifesaving donor decision.

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