

Jesse White honors woman for organ donation efforts

By Mike DeDoncker

[HEALTHYROCKFORD.COM](#)

Posted Aug 05, 2010 @ 12:44 AM

Last update Aug 05, 2010 @ 12:45 AM

Related Stories

Feb. 5, 2010: Sisters tout need for more organ donations

ROCKFORD — Bobbi Smith knows about organ and tissue donation. She learned the hard way.

Smith, nurse manager of Rockford Memorial Hospital's Child Development and Behavior Department, lost granddaughters who were waiting for liver transplants in 1993 and 1994. When their youngest daughter, Carrie, died in 2002, she and her husband, Charles, donated her corneas and later started the Red Shoe Run to further encourage organ donations.

On the Web

Register to be an organ donor

Smith said those experiences made organ donation her passion. Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White recognized her work Wednesday with a certificate of appreciation for her contributions to the state organ and tissue donation program overseen by his office.

Rockford Health System website

White also presented a plaque to Kit Soper, nurse manager of the hospital's adult intensive care unit, recognizing Rockford Health System's efforts to encourage organ and tissue donation.

July 29, 2010: OSF looking to change organ donation provider

"The most important thing," Smith said, "is that we have started our donation committee so that there is much communication between Gift of Hope, which is our organ provider organization, and the hospital staff. We've improved communication and, therefore, improved the response the staff has to donation, and the support that we've gained is huge."

Business News

Too Many Retirees Clueless on Social Security

White said 5,000 Illinoisans are waiting for organs and encouraged anyone who hasn't registered as a donor since 2006 to do so with the First Person Consent Organ/Tissue Registry, which makes a person's decision to donate legally binding.

What to Do When a Purchase Goes Wrong

Registration may be made online at [LifeGoesOn.com](#), by calling 800-210-2106, or when obtaining or renewing an Illinois driver's license or state identification card.

The Digital Skeptic: It's Not That Samsung's Galaxy S4 Is an iPhone Killer

White also visited the driver's license facility in Belvidere, where he presented a countertop photo display of local resident Royal White, who received a liver and marrow transplant; Roscoe Village Hall, to present a similar display of local resident Michelle Vronch, who received her kidney from her sister; and the Rockford driver's license facility at 3816 Auburn St. to present a photo display of kidney recipient Tiffany Sago Gray.

Suggested Stories

Poor Town: 'The wrong side' of Rockford used to...

Staff writer Mike DeDoncker can be reached at 815-987-1382 or mdedoncker@rrstar.com.

Rockford woman killed in 2-vehicle crash on...

Rockford liquor store employee shoots suspected...

From the Web

Woman's Body Found in Chicago River DNAinfo

Teen Shoots Himself in Privates, Blames it on... First to Know

Relationship Red Flags: 4 Reasons to End It MyDailyMoment

Sponsored content What's this?