

Life Goes On

Secretary of State Jesse White • Spring 2019
A newsletter for Secretary of State facility employees and other organ/tissue donation advocates

We are pleased that the number of 16- and 17-year-olds registering as donors continues to rise each month in Illinois. Since 16- and 17-year-olds obtained the right to become part of the registry over a year ago, nearly 60,000 teens have made the donor decision. Throughout April, which is National Donate Life Month, we will continue to reach out to teens across the state with our donor message and visit many high school driver's education classes.

There were a reported record number of organ and tissue donors in 2018 with more than 1,100 people in Illinois who received organ transplants last year, according to the Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, the organ procurement organization in northern Illinois and northwest Indiana.

Thank you for all you do at the driver services facility level to promote donation to customers and register hundreds of people every day. You are part of changing the lives of those who receive the gift of donation. Keep up the good work.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State

The 16- and 17-year-old registry continues to climb

Many who register say they want to help save lives

The number of 16- and 17-year-olds who have said 'yes' to donation continues to rise thanks in part to increased efforts of donor program staff to promote donation. Donor program coordinators throughout the state reach out to high schools in many communities, offering donor classroom presentations that educate teens about the topic. Many of these teens will be asked the donor question when they receive their driver's licenses within a few months of having seen the presentations, and donor staff wants to ensure students have information in order to make educated and informed decisions.

The staff distributes material and encourages students to ask questions and to participate in classroom discussions. Students are also asked if they have any personal stories they might share with their peers. Many have known someone with a transplant or are a member of a donor family. Sharing their experiences with classmates further educates their peers about how organ and tissue donation has affected the lives of their friends. Additionally, teachers who have experience with donation often share their personal stories with students. For National Donate Life Month, teen donation and the reasons they are making the donor decision will continue to be highlighted.



Students in Mike Opsal's driver's education class at Plainfield Central High School support organ and tissue donation with a presentation in Plainfield.

Employee Connection

New regional coordinator received liver 27 years ago

In 1992, Angelique Marseille—the newest regional coordinator with the Illinois Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program—was one of the thousands of individuals in Illinois waiting for an organ transplant. She was diagnosed with idiopathic cirrhosis of the liver, meaning there was no clear medical reason for the deterioration of her liver. She became extremely sick and was given 10 days to live without a lifesaving liver transplant. She was 23, in college, working and considered herself a healthy individual; however, she ignored the signs that she was sick: the whites of her eyes were yellow, she had unexplained bruises and a persistent skin rash. Doctors soon discovered the reason for her unusual symptoms. She was immediately admitted

to the hospital and was told her liver was functioning at just 10 percent. She would need a liver transplant or she would die.

Angelique fought hard to not lose hope while in the hospital. She was lethargic, jaundiced and a rash covered her entire body. Family members and friends came to the hospital to keep her spirits up, but she could see the sadness and worry on their faces—especially on the face of her twin sister. But because a generous family said yes to organ/tissue donation at one of the most difficult times in their lives, Angelique received her lifesaving liver just in time.

Angelique has led a fulfilling life for the last 27 years. She finished graduate school, gave birth to two beautiful sons post-transplant and, instead of dying at age 23, she celebrated her 50th birthday with her twin sister last year.

"I ask everyone if they are a registered organ and tissue donor," said Angelique. "I encourage those who have not registered to make the donor decision to save or enhance a life by giving the gift to someone – my life will be forever changed by that act of generosity."



Angelique Marseille

Metamora library director donates kidney to best friend's mother

Both donor and recipient hoping to make a difference in sharing story

When Joel Shoemaker, director of the Illinois Prairie District Public Library, learned that his best friend's mother, Linda Miller of Mahomet, was in need of a kidney transplant, he did not hesitate to get tested to see if he could possibly be a match for her. Linda had first looked to her family for a match, but no one was able to donate to her. So Joel underwent a thorough evaluation process to determine if he could become a donor for Linda. The test results revealed that Joel's kidney would save Linda's life.

On Oct. 30, 2018, Joel and Linda each underwent surgery at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis where one of Joel's kidneys was donated to Linda. Joel was told that recovery after donating his kidney might take four to five weeks, but Joel was feeling well enough to return to his work at the library after just two weeks. Linda is also doing well. She is so grateful for the lifesaving gift from Joel.

Linda and Joel are each happy to tell their story, in hopes that it will help others understand the importance of organ/tissue donation.

Joel received a letter from Secretary of State Jesse White expressing his appreciation for Joel's heroic and selfless decision to become a living kidney donor, in addition to his ongoing efforts as director of the Illinois Prairie District Public Library. Joel has been a supporter of organ/tissue donation long before he became a living kidney donor, displaying information about organ/tissue donation and the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry at the libraries in his district.



Kidney donor Joel Shoemaker, left, with kidney recipient Linda Miller.

How much do you know about donation?

Take our quiz below and find out.

1. How old was the oldest organ donor on record?

- A. 55
- B. 60
- C. 92
- D. 99

1a. (Bonus point: name the organ donated.)

- A. heart
- B. single lung
- C. intestines
- D. liver

2. How old was the oldest tissue donor on record?

- A. 72
- B. 107
- C. 95
- D. 85

2a. (Bonus point: name the tissue donated.)

- A. cornea
- B. veins
- C. skin
- D. heart valve

3. How many people receive lung transplants in the U.S. each year?

- A. 500
- B. 1,000
- C. 2,000
- D. 800

4. Approximately how many people receive kidney transplants in the U.S. each year?

- A. 18,000
- B. 7,000
- C. 20,000
- D. 30,000

5. How many people are currently waiting for a heart in Illinois?

- A. 124
- B. 87
- C. 353
- D. 228

5a. (Bonus point: how many are age 5 or younger.)

- A. 22
- B. 12
- C. 3
- D. 10

Answers to quiz above: 1. (C); 1a. (D); 2. (B); 2a. (A); 3. (C); 4. (A); 5. (D); 5a. (B)



Triple-organ transplant recipient Daru Smith, (right, pictured with his brother), a 29-year-old father from Chicago, received a heart, lung and kidney at the University of Chicago in December 2018. At the same time Daru received his triple transplant, the hospital did another triple transplant within 30 hours on Sarah McPharlin, 29, of Michigan. Smith and McPharlin befriended each other while recovering together from their surgeries.



Erin Moore of Oak Forest stopped by to show her support for donation at the IHSA Cheer Championships in Bloomington on Feb. 22. Erin's father was a donor and changed many lives.



Lauri Umbarger, a donor mother and Champaign Life Goes On Committee member, staffed the Donate Life Illinois table at the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign on Feb. 16.



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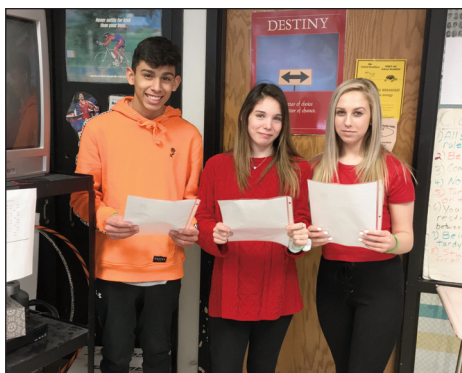
Organ and tissue donor numbers rise again

Record number of donors in 2018

There was a reported increase in both organ and tissue donors in 2018. The number of organ donors increased from 406 to 461, a 14 percent increase according to the Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, the organ procurement organization in northern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. The number of tissue donors increased from 1,796 to 2,991, a 67 percent increase. Additionally, more than 1,100 individuals in Illinois received organ transplants in 2018 and thousands received the gift of a life-enhancing tissue transplant.



Secretary White hosted the annual African-American Heritage Month Celebration on Feb. 28 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. He reminded those in attendance about the importance of organ/tissue donation. A donor registration table was available at the event. Pictured from left: Dr. Claude Porter; Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton; Secretary of State Jesse White; Governor JB Pritzker; Jan Lewis; and Ramsey Lewis.



Granite City High School driver's education students Ivan Savreda, Cheyenne Clemons and McKenna Madresic make a presentation on organ and tissue donation. Cheyenne's family donated her grandfather's organs and tissues when he passed away.



Kidney recipient Elaine Keyser, Shorewood, stopped by the Secretary of State's organ/tissue donor registration table at SoxFest at the Chicago Hilton.

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