



Life Goes On

Secretary of State Jesse White • Summer 2018

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

Jesse White travels the state during National Donate Life Month

Press conference held, teen registry highlighted

April was an exciting month for me and the Organ/Tissue Donor Program staff. This year, during National Donate Life Month we focused on the new law that allows 16- and 17-year-olds to join the donor registry, with donor drives and events at high schools throughout the state. Since January, when the new law went into effect, thousands of teens have registered to become organ and tissue donors.

We kicked off the month with a press conference, unveiling the 2018 commercial and brochure that encourage teens to register as part of the organ/tissue donor program. Several high school students joined me to express support for this lifesaving program.

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.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State

As part of National Donate Life Month, Secretary White and the *Life Goes On* program staff promoted donation throughout the state, focusing on the new 16- and 17-year-old registry, which went into effect Jan. 1. Secretary White kicked off the important month with a press conference April 2 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago, where he unveiled the 2018 commercial and donor brochure. He was joined by several teens who expressed their commitment to organ and tissue donation.

Secretary White also visited several high schools in south suburban Chicago, Rockford and Normal, addressing assemblies of students to promote organ and tissue donation. At each high school, a recipient or a donor family member shared their personal stories. Donor staff

attended high school health and wellness fairs, registering students at each event.

Blue and Green Day was recognized on April 13, and Secretary White visited three Driver Services facilities in the Chicago area to present countertop 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.

(cont. on pg. 2)

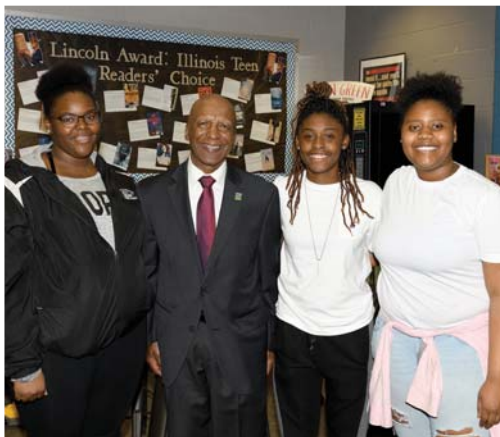


Secretary White speaks at a press conference to kick off National Donate Life Month on April 2 at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. Pictured from left: Connie Boatman, director, Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Program; teens Sean Gardiner, Maggie Gamble, Madison Lietz, Genesis Martinez, Madeline Lenzini and Jacob Lenzini (donor family members); Secretary of State Jesse White; Jack Lynch, director of Community Affairs, Gift of Hope; Olivia Fox, Gift of Hope; and Kevin Lee, Mid-America Transplant Services.

National Donate Life Month (cont. from pg. 1)

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.

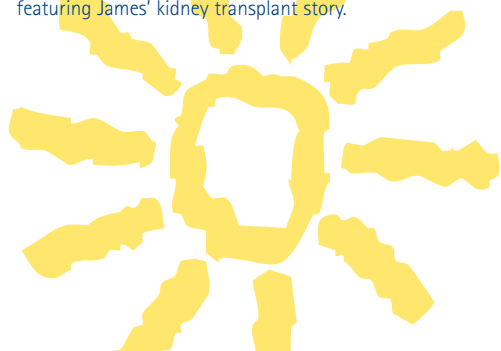


LEFT: Secretary White held a press conference on April 12 at Normal Community West High School in Normal. Standing with Secretary White are students Telarrah Billups, Arie Sims and Teraiya Howse. RIGHT: Secretary White addresses 16- and 17-year-old students at a press conference at Oak Forest High School in Oak Forest on April 4. Heart and kidney recipient Harry Morris also shared his transplant story with the audience.



ABOVE: Secretary White sits with students at Tinley Park High School in Tinley Park on April 4 during a press conference promoting the new law that allows 16- and 17-year-olds to register as donors. Lung recipient Marjean Hawkins shared her donor story at the press conference.

RIGHT: Secretary White addresses the crowd gathered on April 13 at the Naperville Driver Services facility for National Blue and Green Day. From left: John Stastny, facility manager; Russ Nisivaco, assistant manager; Patty Gustin, Naperville city councilwoman; A. George Pradel, former mayor of Naperville; Secretary White; and Olga Bond, wife of kidney recipient James Bond of Naperville. Secretary White presented the facility with a countertop display featuring James' kidney transplant story.





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, Elgin Driver Services facility; Francine Dzialo, Kimberly Caccamo's mother; Bill Massani, facility manager; and Tom DeLeo, 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, OTS president and 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 Darrin Jackson.

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.



Secretary of State Jesse White congratulates 8-year-old Jada Andrews from Chicago, the overall winner of the 2018 Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Program Poster Contest.

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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Employee Connection



Tom and Tim Fellin

Tim Fellin, a public service representative at the Carlinville Driver Services facility, says that donating a kidney to his brother, Tom, was one of the most rewarding things he has done in his life. Tom experienced increased kidney damage caused by years of medications. The effects of his increasing kidney failure drastically changed his life when he was placed on kidney dialysis for more than a year. When the opportunity arose for Tim to see if he could help his brother, he did not hesitate to start the matching process and subsequent preparation to donate a kidney. In Feb. 2018, Tim, 62, donated a kidney to his 60-year-old brother at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Tim continues to feel great physically and has no regrets about donating to his brother. He believes more people should consider becoming a living donor.



Hundreds of living donors rally at the Bean Attempt at Guinness World Record

More than 1,400 people gathered on April 21 at Chicago's Millennium Park "The Bean" sculpture attempting to set a Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of living donors in one place. An aerial photo was taken of nearly 475 living donors in front of the park's large silver sculpture. The event featured many display tables with information on donation. Speakers included Secretary White; Kevin Cmunt, CEO of Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network; Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson, a kidney recipient; and others. The Jesse White Tumblers also performed.



ABOVE: Secretary White, center in red holding a Donate Life banner, is surrounded by nearly 475 living organ donors gathered at "The Bean" sculpture in Chicago's Millennium Park on April 21 while attempting to set a Guinness World Record for the most living donors ever gathered in one place.

LEFT: Secretary of State Jesse White addresses the crowd of more than 1,400 donor advocates on April 21 in Chicago's Millennium Park during the living donor rally. The Jesse White Tumbling Team also performed.



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