



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

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Students Receive Awards for Best Organ Donor Posters

SPRINGFIELD — A Glenbard South High School student was the overall winner in a children's poster contest sponsored as a part of the "Life Goes On" Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness program, Secretary of State Jesse White announced today.

"I want to congratulate these students for creating such fine posters and doing their part to help make more people aware of this life-saving issue," said White. "Education is the key to increasing the donor registry and these young people are to be commended for helping spread the life-saving message of donations and transplants."

The poster award ceremony coincides with National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, April 16-22. The focus of the "Life Goes On" program is to encourage Illinoisans to become organ and tissue donors. Secretary White launched Organ Donor Awareness Week with a four-city tour to Peoria, Bloomington/Normal, Champaign/Urbana and Carbondale.

Currently 5,000 people in Illinois and 68,000 nationwide are waiting for a transplant. Since the Donor Registry began in 1992, more than 4.7 million people in Illinois have registered to be organ and tissue donors.

"Organ donation is a personal issue for me," said White. "My sister, Doris Ivy, received a kidney in 1991 after a three and a half year wait on the transplant list. I am pleased to work with Illinois teachers and students to spread the work that organ donors save lives."

The following students received awards and savings bonds for designing the best posters:

- Estefania Cruz, grade 2, Jungman Elementary School, winner K- 2 division
- Josey Kunz, grade 4, Bluffs Grade School, winner 3-5 division
- Mallory Coghlan, grade 6, Our Lady of the Snows School, winner 6-8 division
- Heather Johnson, grade 11, Glenbard South High School, winner 9-12 division and overall winner

The poster contest is open to all Illinois students in kindergarten through grade 12. Contest forms and information were sent to all schools. The winning poster will be displayed in schools, libraries, hospitals and drivers license facilities throughout the state.

Secretary White thanked the American Red Cross Tissue Service, Bro-Menn Watson Gailey Eye Bank, Illinois Eye Bank, Mid-America Transplant Services, Regional Organ Bank of Illinois and the Central Illinois Lions Eye Bank for the printing of the poster and the American Legion of Illinois for providing the savings bonds.