



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

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Secretary White Joins Illinois Author on Book Tour

SPRINGFIELD — Secretary of State Jesse White today joined Pulitzer Prize winning author Jeffrey Marx on a visit to a local high school and a book signing at the Illinois State Library.

Marx nearly lost his sister, Wendy, to sudden liver illness. A liver transplant saved Wendy's life. Marx has written a book, *It Gets Dark Sometimes* about the family's experiences during the ordeal.

Secretary White praised Marx for the work he is doing to bring the cause of organ donation and transplantation to the public. "We must all work together, the public and private sectors, to encourage donation and to save lives that might otherwise be lost," said White.

Marx and Secretary White met with Springfield High School students Thursday morning. At noon, Marx was the featured author at the State Library and Illinois Center for the Book's Booked for Lunch program where he and Secretary White discussed and signed books in the library's Illinois Authors Room. All proceeds from the book will go to support the Wendy Marx Foundation.

Wendy, her brother Jeffrey and Olympic track and field great Carl Lewis founded the Wendy Marx Foundation to promote the cause of organ transplantation.

When Marx visits a city he leaves 500 copies of his books to school libraries in return for a contribution to the Wendy Marx Foundation. The state has partnered with two private

organizations to provide these funds. Proceeds from the Second Annual Darrell Nicholson Memorial Golf Outing will be used and the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois will make a contribution.

The Regional Organ Bank of Illinois is one of two organ procurement organizations that serve Illinois residents. Nicholson was waiting for a lung transplant when he died. His wife and children have sponsored a golf outing for the past two years to heighten awareness about the critical need for donated organs.