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U.S. Transplant Games approaching

The 2010 U.S. Transplant Games will be held July 30-August 4 in Madison, Wisconsin. The Games are an athletic competition for transplant recipients, donor family members and living donors to compete in athletic events such as 5K races, dancing, swimming, cycling, bowling, table tennis, golf, volleyball and tennis. There are competitions for living donors such as track and field events and others.

Thousands of athletes from across the United States are expected to attend this summer’s event, which is held every two years. Families and athletes are able to show the country what the gift of donation has enabled them to accomplish. Donor advocates are encouraged to attend with their family members who may be living donors or recipients to show support for all those who participate. For more information on Team Illinois, visit www.team-illinois.org.

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Joey Mayer loses battle with lung disease

Lung transplant recipient Joey Mayer, age 22, from New Lenox, lost his valiant battle with lung disease this year due to complications of organ rejection. Joey was featured in the Secretary of State’s donor commercial in 2006 while waiting for a lung transplant as cystic fibrosis weakened his own lungs. With his oxygen tubes and tank with him at all times, he was willing to be filmed for the commercial to promote the urgent need for donors. Joey even joined Secretary White in throwing out a pitch at a White Sox game during Donate Life Month.

Joey’s cystic fibrosis progressed to where he had lost lung function in both lungs—one lung was down to only 25 percent function. But in 2007, he finally got his lung transplant and was able to take deep breaths again for the first time in years. He also had enrolled at DePaul University to pursue a computer programming degree.

Joey was a remarkable young man and an inspiration to other transplant recipients and will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

#1 Secretary White and Alderman Emma Mitts helps Pastor Richardson of Jordan Temple Baptist Church in Chicago celebrate the 15-year anniversary of his heart transplant.

#2 Liver recipient Colette Jordan (center back) met her donor’s family for the first time at Organ Transplant Support’s annual donor tribute in Naperville.

#3 Margaret Shannon, donor program regional coordinator, staffs a donor registration station with heart recipient Roger Granada at Northern Illinois University’s Employee Wellness Fair in DeKalb.

#4 Secretary White with (left to right) Libertyville Mayor Terry Weppler, Condell Medical Center President Dr. Ann Emrichetti, Condell ICU Manager Ramona Fuller, and Gift of Hope CEO Jarold Anderson at the hospital in Libertyville.

#5 Condell Medical Center staff members received an award from Secretary White for their outstanding service in the field of organ/tissue donation.

#6 Brian Bush, donor program regional coordinator, and Debra Lanter, donor program specialist for Mid-America Transplant Services, at the Illinois Funeral Director’s Association convention in Marion.

#7 Secretary White recognized the winners of the Donor Poster Contest in his Springfield office. With White are (left to right) donor program staff member Sitha Hun, Morgan Hall of Vandalia Junior High School, Kieran Baurer and Kamryn Rutledge of Peoria's Pleasant Valley Elementary School, Samantha Palacios of Oak Lawn Community High School, and donor program manager Nadine O'Leary.

#8 Morgan Elliott, a student at Mt. Zion High School, joins the donor registry during a presentation at the high school with teachers Mary Jane McMullen and Ben Davis. Morgan was anxious to register when she turned 18 because she had lost a cousin who was a tissue donor.

#9 Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey issues a donation proclamation along with Jan Eschen, donor program regional coordinator (whose husband did not receive a marrow transplant in time), and heart recipients Brian Troy and Bill Perkins.

#10 Three children who have received the gift of life celebrated together at the McLean County Life Goes On 10-Year Anniversary Celebration in Bloomington: heart recipient Mikahlia Thornton, liver recipient Anna Tiede and heart recipient Alexis Shaw.

#11 Secretary White presents Decatur Driver Services facility manager Dee Mathews (center) a counter display featuring tissue donor Casey Williams of Assumption.

#12 Donor staff member Darius Blanks (second from left) and the Peoria Life Goes On Committee with Secretary White at the Proctor Hospital Bench Dedication Ceremony in Peoria.

#13 Donor parents Jay and Pat Landers with Secretary White at the 16th annual Brother James Court Benefit Auction and Dinner. Jay is director of development for the agency, which provides services for developmentally disabled men.

#14 Secretary White kicked off Donate Life Month at a press conference at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago along with a young heart recipient and friends.

#15 The Swanson family, Robyn and Scott with 17-month-old twin sons Jake and Luke, who both need a liver transplant, have a lighthearted moment with Secretary White at Children’s Memorial Hospital.

#16 Secretary White and Jarold Anderson (back row, third from left), CEO of Gift of Hope, with transplant recipients, people on the waiting list and hospital staff at Children’s Memorial Hospital.

(continued on page 4)
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Other April events featured visits by Secretary White to schools, businesses, union halls and churches, and several town proclamations in honor of donation. (See photos on pages 2-4.)

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The DONOR POSTER CONTEST WINNER – Secretary of State Jesse White congratulated grand-prize winner of the 2010 Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest, 5-year-old Kirran Baurer of Pecatonica. The winner is featured in Driver Services facilities, libraries, schools and other places across Illinois. (See photo of other winners on page 3.)

It’s easy to join the Organ/Tissue Donor Registry:
• Visit www.LifeGoesOn.com (it only takes 60 seconds to register online).
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