**Donor Program receives AAMVA PACE awards**


**Loyola Medical Center sets record-breaking number of lung transplants**

May 8-9, 2014, were record-breaking days at Loyola Medical Center in Chicago as pulmonary transplant teams performed five lung transplants within 25 hours at the medical facility. In comparison, five lung transplants are performed daily across the United States.

The transplants included both double- and single-lung transplants on the five patients, including a judge and a teacher. The availability of the donor organs and the location of the patients waiting for them made the record-breaking procedure possible. The medical center had to coordinate all the surgeons and additional staff needed, prep all the patients, recover the donated lungs and perform the surgeries in a monumental medical procedure lasting just over 24 hours. Four of the surgeries occurred simultaneously. Because of these successful lung transplants, five individuals have been given a second chance at life all on the same day. Congratulation to Loyola’s outstanding medical transplant staff!

**Sister donates kidneys to sister**

Suzanne Ruff of Mt. Greenwood, N.C., formally from Chicago, comes from a family plagued for generations by kidney disease. In her lifetime she has lost her mother, several aunts and uncles and cousins to polycystic kidney disease (PKD), the most common of all life-threatening genetic diseases. Both her sisters — JoAnn Villanueva of Huntersville, N.C., and Janice Gill of Orland Park — inherited the disease, but Suzanne did not. When Suzanne’s younger sister, JoAnn, fell ill shortly after their mother’s death in 2003, Suzanne decided to do something about it. She had always been afraid of doctors and needles, but says with God’s help she found the courage to save JoAnn’s life by donating a kidney to her sister. In the months leading up to the surgery in October 2004, Suzanne spent time journaling and eventually published a book based on her notes and memories. Her hope is that The Reluctant Donor will find its way into the hands of others who are facing a difficult life-and-death decision, and help them find the courage they need to get through it.

Suzanne’s family has been active with the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation since its inception in 1982. The foundation is a source of information for newly diagnosed patients and helps fund research to find a cure.

**Kidney donor Suzanne Ruff (center) with her sisters JoAnn Villanueva and Janice Gill, who both suffer from polycystic kidney disease.**

Suzanne’s family has been active with the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation since its inception in 1982. The foundation is a source of information for newly diagnosed patients and helps fund research to find a cure.

**Springtime was very busy with many exciting donor activities throughout the state. During Donate Life Month in April, we showcased the importance of donation at many colleges, community events and businesses throughout Illinois. We surpassed our expectations and added more than 24,000 names to the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor registry, giving more hope to those waiting for a lifesaving transplant.**

The most exciting project that concluded this April was our inaugural “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign. Out of 49 community colleges in Illinois, 43 percent participated in the challenge to register new donors and create innovative campaigns to attract students and faculty. “Be a Hero!” team members designed creative activities to involve fellow students and staff in their quest to register more donors and the results were phenomenal.

This issue highlights the heart-warming stories and photos from the many events held across the state during Donate Life Month. We thank each and every one of you who have helped increase the donor registry this spring at Driver Services facilities, health fairs, sporting events and many other venues. You are truly lifesavers!

**Kidney donor Suzanne Ruff (center) with her sisters JoAnn Villanueva and Janice Gill, who both suffer from polycystic kidney disease.**

**By the students. We commend every school for their efforts.**

Illinois Community College (ICC) Board Executive Director Karen Anderson’s support was phenomenal in encouraging participation from the schools. She drafted a letter to all community college presidents supporting the program and encouraging schools to participate.

Three winning colleges were selected regionally — one from northern Illinois, one from central Illinois and one from southern Illinois.

**First Place:** Elgin Community College

Second Place: Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield

Third Place: Olney Community College

(continued from page 2)
Colleges were judged on the creative aspect of their campaigns, the effectiveness of their efforts and the number of people they registered during the course of the campaign, which ran from mid-February through April 30. Each of the three winners were selected one student to receive one of three internships. Team members for all the participating schools also received valuable community service hours as determined by their individual schools.

For Elgin Community College, nursing student Candice Hopman, age 19, of Streamwood and president of the college’s Associated Nursing Students, received a paid summer internship with LIFESOURCE Blood Center in Rosemont. Manrted with two young sons, Candice is excited to continue her nursing career and work with LIFESOURCE this summer. The designated administrator for the Elgin students was Beverly Felder, RN, BSN, and health professions retention specialist at the college.

For Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), student Tyler Mathews, age 19, of Petersburg received a paid summer internship with SPRINGFIELD Memorial Medical Center’s Transplant Team. He will be assisting with donor events and promotions through the hospital and Springfield’s LIFE GOES ON Committee. The designated administrator for the LLCC students was Joanie Rogers, Alumni Services and Foundation coordinator.

For Olney Community College, nursing student Ashlee Goss, age 20, of Oblong received an unpaid internship with GIFT OF HOPE Organ and Tissue Donor Network’s Springfield office. The designated administrator for the Olney students was Sharon Willard, director of the Student Nurses Association.

April is National Donate Life Month in Illinois

ABOVE — A large group of volleyball players and volunteers turned out to raise money for the Casey Williams Foundation at the Casey Williams 5th Annual Volleyball Tournament in Mt. Zion.

PHOTO #1 — Secretary of State Jesse White kicked off Donate Life Month at a press conference with members of the donor community, donor families and transplant recipients.

PHOTO #2 — Anna Drive Services facility staff members held a Donate Life banner in honor of National Blue and Green Day on April 11.

PHOTO #3 — Grundy County Health Department personnel in Morris at a donor event, including administrator Phillip Jones (right).

PHOTO #4 — Four-year-old liver transplant recipient Jackson Wagner of Utica celebrates Jackson Wagner Day in his honor at the Quincy Drive Services facility.

PHOTO #5 — Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle signed up to be a donor at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital, accompanied by Secretary White and hospital CEO Dr. Jay Shannon.

PHOTO #6 — Secretary White helped plant a tree in honor of donor families at Organ Transplant Support’s Annual Tree Planting and Donor Dedication at Naper Settlement in Naperville, IL. Joining him are (left to right) David and Mary Lou donor parents, Naperville Mayor George Pradel, and liver recipient and OTS President Pete Cashman.

PHOTO #7 — Chicago White Sox announce Ed Farmer (forced to left) receives the Champion for Life Award at the James R. Thompson Center during a White Sox autograph-signing event. Joining him are (left to right) White Sox announcer, Darrin Jackson; White Sox player Alexei Ramirez; Secretary White; player Alejandro De Aza; and Don Rowley, cornea recipient and former Champion for Life Award winner.

PHOTO #8 — Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest Winner Alexandra Garcia, age 18 and a student at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School, was the grand-prize winner of the 2014 Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest. Secretary White awarded her prize at his Springfield office, which included a plaque, a personalized Chicago White Sox autographed cap and one of the illinois Blue Book gift certificates. Alexantra’s poster has been distributed to Drive Services facilities, hospitals and public libraries across Illinois.
April is National Donate Life Month in Illinois

Colleges were judged on the creative aspect of their campaigns, the effectiveness of their efforts and the number of people they registered during the course of the campaign, which ran from mid-February through April 30. Each of the three winning campaigns selected one student to receive one of three internships. Team members for all the participating schools also received valuable community service hours as determined by their individual schools.

For Elgin Community College, nursing student Candice Hompan, age 19, Streamwood and president of the college's Associated Nursing Students, received a paid summer internship with LifeSource Blood Center in Rosemont. Married with two young sons, Candice is excited to continue her nursing career and work with LifeSource this summer. The designated administrator for the Elgin students was Beverly Felder, RN, BSN, and health professions retention specialist at the college.

For Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), student Tyler Mathews, age 19, of Petersburg received a paid summer internship with Springfield's Memorial Medical Center's Transplant Team. He will be assisting with donor events and promotions through the hospital and Springfield's Life Goes On Committee. The designated administrator for the LLCC students was Joanie Rogers, Alumni Services and Foundation coordinator.

For Olney Community College, nursing student Ashley Goss, age 20, of Oblong received an unpaid internship with Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network's Springfield office. The designated administrator for the Olney students was Sharen Wolke, director of the Student Nurses Association.

For Elgin Community College, nursing student Candice Hompan, age 19, Streamwood and president of the college's Associated Nursing Students, received a paid summer internship with LifeSource Blood Center in Rosemont. Married with two young sons, Candice is excited to continue her nursing career and work with LifeSource this summer. The designated administrator for the Elgin students was Beverly Felder, RN, BSN, and health professions retention specialist at the college.

For Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), student Tyler Mathews, age 19, of Petersburg received a paid summer internship with Springfield's Memorial Medical Center's Transplant Team. He will be assisting with donor events and promotions through the hospital and Springfield's Life Goes On Committee. The designated administrator for the LLCC students was Joanie Rogers, Alumni Services and Foundation coordinator.

For Olney Community College, nursing student Ashley Goss, age 20, of Oblong received an unpaid internship with Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network's Springfield office. The designated administrator for the Olney students was Sharen Wolke, director of the Student Nurses Association. (photos continued on page 4)
Chicago, Ill. – The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors from press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

“This campaign was one of the most exciting endeavors of my office’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program in many years,” said Secretary White. “I was so impressed when I traveled to the many colleges, participated in numerous press conferences, and saw firsthand the creative campaigns designed by the students. We commend every school for their efforts.”

The most exciting project that concluded this April was our inaugural “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign. Out of 49 community colleges in Illinois, 43 percent participated in the challenge to register new donors and create innovative campaigns to attract students and faculty. “Be a Hero!” team members designed creative activities to involve fellow students and staff in their quest to register more donors and the results were phenomenal.

This issue highlights the heartwarming stories and photos from the many events held across the state during Donate Life Month. We thank each and every one of you who have helped increase the donor registry this spring at Driver Services facilities, health fairs, sporting events and many other venues. You are truly lifesavers!

Jesse White
Secretary of State

Loyola Medical Center sets record-breaking number of lung transplants

May 8-9, 2014, were record-breaking days at Loyola Medical Center in Chicago as pulmonary transplant teams performed five lung transplants within 25 hours at the medical facility. In comparison, five lung transplants are performed daily across the United States.

The transplants included both double- and single-lung transplants on the five patients, including a judge and a teacher. The availability of the donor organs and the location of the patients waiting for them made the record-breaking procedure possible. The medical center had to coordinate all the surgeries and additional staff needed, prep all the patients, recover the donated lungs and perform the surgeries in a monumental medical procedure lasting just over 24 hours. Four of the surgeries occurred simultaneously. Because of these successful lung transplants, five individuals have been given a second chance at life all on the same day. Congratulations to Loyola’s outstanding medical transplant staff!

Sister donates kidney to sister

Suzanne Ruff of Mt. Greenwood, N.C., formerly from Chicago, comes from a family plagued for generations by kidney disease. In her lifetime she has lost her mother, several aunts and uncles and cousins to polycystic kidney disease (PKD), the most common of all life-threatening genetic diseases. Both her sisters – JoAnn Villanueva of Huntersville, N.C., and Janice Gill of Orland Park – inherited the disease, but Suzanne did not.

When Suzanne’s younger sister, JoAnn, fell ill shortly after their mother’s death in 2003, Suzanne decided to do something about it. She had always been afraid of doctors and needles, but says with God’s help she found the courage to save JoAnn’s life by donating a kidney to her sister. In the months leading up to the surgery in October 2004, Suzanne spent time journaling and eventually published a book based on her notes and memories. Her hope is that The Reluctant Donor will find its way into the hands of others who are facing a difficult life-and-death decision, and help them find the courage they need to get through it.

Suzanne’s family has been active with the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation since its inception in 1982. The foundation is a source of information for newly diagnosed patients and helps fund research to find a cure.

Kidney donor Suzanne Ruff (center) with her sisters Janice (left) and JoAnn, who both suffer from polycystic kidney disease.

Kidney donor Suzanne Ruff (center) with her sisters Janice (left) and JoAnn, who both suffer from polycystic kidney disease.

Donor Program receives AAMVA PACE awards


The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

This campaign was one of the most exciting endeavors of my office’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program in many years,” said Secretary White. “I was so impressed when I traveled to the many colleges, participated in numerous press conferences, and saw firsthand the creative campaigns designed by the students. We commend every school for their efforts.”

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

“Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign winners

The State of Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Program in many years,” said Secretary White. “I was so impressed when I traveled to the many colleges, participated in numerous press conferences, and saw firsthand the creative campaigns designed by the students. We commend every school for their efforts.”

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

This campaign was one of the most exciting endeavors of my office’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program in many years,” said Secretary White. “I was so impressed when I traveled to the many colleges, participated in numerous press conferences, and saw firsthand the creative campaigns designed by the students. We commend every school for their efforts.”

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

This campaign was one of the most exciting endeavors of my office’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program in many years,” said Secretary White. “I was so impressed when I traveled to the many colleges, participated in numerous press conferences, and saw firsthand the creative campaigns designed by the students. We commend every school for their efforts.”

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

This campaign was one of the most exciting endeavors of my office’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program in many years,” said Secretary White. “I was so impressed when I traveled to the many colleges, participated in numerous press conferences, and saw firsthand the creative campaigns designed by the students. We commend every school for their efforts.”

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.

The much-anticipated results of the Secretary of State’s “Be a Hero!” Community College Campaign were announced at an awards ceremony at Secretary of State Jesse White’s Springfield office on May 28, 2014. All participating colleges did an outstanding job of showcasing their individual campus activities to attract new donors. From press conferences to a donor brick dedication on a walkway, to student testimonials, to dressing up as superheroes, team members pulled out all the stops.