



Illinois Eye-Bank asks citizens to join Donor Registry during Donate Life Month

CHICAGO – During the month of April, the Illinois Eye-Bank joins its fellow transplant organizations in celebrating the gifts given by eye, organ and tissue donors. More importantly, the Eye-Bank makes a special effort to remind members of the community to consider donation, discuss it with their families and sign their state’s Donor Registry.

“Signing the Donor Registry is one of the simplest things one person can do to save lives and restore health,” says Kevin Ross, CEO of the Eye-Bank. “Eye, organ and tissue donation is a natural part of the life cycle. It’s truly a heroic act when donors and their families say ‘yes’ to donation.”

The Eye-Bank has developed a comprehensive outreach campaign called “**I Joined!**”, encouraging people to join the state Donor Registry. It has also created a special online portal at www.IJoined.org to help Illinois residents find and join the online Registry.

Congress initiated the official recognition of eye, organ and tissue donation in 1983 with a special awareness week taking place each April. Then, in 2003, the awareness effort was expanded to the entire month of April, making it National Donate Life Month.

The Illinois Eye-Bank is a division of Midwest Eye-Banks, and is a charitable not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. Through its facilities in Chicago and Bloomington, it recovers, evaluates, and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education, and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. For more information, visit the Illinois Eye-Bank online at www.illinoiseyebank.org or call (800) 548-4703.

