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## Faith communities recognize National Donor Sabbath

CHICAGO – Every major religion in the United States accepts eye, organ and tissue donation as a good and charitable thing, but not everybody knows that.

“People are often unsure of how their religion feels about eye, organ and tissue donation,” says Mary Schlereth, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Illinois Eye-Bank.

To help people better understand where their religion stands on the issue of donation, the transplant community teams up with the religious community every year for National Donor Sabbath. This year, National Donor Sabbath will be recognized **November 13-15**.

Houses of worship of all faiths across Illinois will take time to recognize the lifesaving benefits of organ donation, and encourage organ and tissue donor registration. Though beliefs differ between denominations, the underlying theme – that organ and tissue donation is one of the highest forms of giving – directly correlates with the principles of most religions.

Donate Life Illinois will be supplying donor registration cards, along with pins and bible bookmarks in support of donation.

To sign up on the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry, visit [www.IJoined.org](http://www.IJoined.org). To order supplies for a donor registration table, contact Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network at (888) 307-DON8 (3668) or email [info@giftofhope.org](mailto:info@giftofhope.org).

The Illinois Eye-Bank, a division of Midwest Eye-Banks, is a charitable, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. 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](http://www.illinoiseyebank.org) or call (800) 548-4703.

