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Illinois Eye-Bank's Eye Donor Month calendar spotlights local residents

CHICAGO – Residents from all over Illinois are showing their support for eye, organ and tissue donation in honor of National Eye Donor Month this March.

The Illinois Eye-Bank has created a March calendar featuring the photos of more than 30 Illinois residents who made their desire to be a donor known by signing up on the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry. The calendar also offers facts and action items regarding donation and eye health.

"The action items are easy things people can do to support our mission during Eye Donor Month," explains Mary Schlereth, the Illinois Eye-Bank's Community Engagement Coordinator. "Inviting a family member to join the Donor Registry, for example, takes very little time, but has the potential to save lives and eyesight."

The poster-sized Eye Donor Month calendar will be displayed at community gathering places, such as libraries and town halls, as well as local businesses, hospitals and schools. It is also viewable on the Illinois Eye-Bank Web site, www.illinoiseyebank.org.

Charitable contributions in honor and in memory of those who have become eye, organ and tissue donors are also welcome. Contributions can be made online at www.illinoiseyebank.org or by mail to the Illinois Eye-Bank, 547 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 600, Chicago 60661.

March has been recognized by Congress as National Eye Donor Month since 1983, in an effort to increase public awareness of the ongoing need for eye donors.

The Illinois Eye-Bank is a division of Midwest Eye-Banks, 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. Visit www.illinoiseyebank.org or call (800) 548-4703 for more information.

