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### **Advocate South Suburban Hospital awarded for commitment to eye, organ and tissue donation**

HAZEL CREST – The Illinois Eye-Bank, along with Secretary of State Jesse White other member organizations of Donate Life Illinois, are pleased to honor Advocate South Suburban Hospital with an appreciation award in recognition of the hospital’s commitment to eye, organ and tissue donation.

Last year, the Eye-Bank received more than 100 donor referrals from the hospital. Forty of these referrals went on to become eye donors. Additionally, 96 patients received a second chance for sight, thanks to cornea transplants performed by Dr. Thomas John, an ophthalmic surgeon at the hospital.

“Advocate South Suburban Hospital takes an active role in helping to give the gift of sight, both by supporting the donation process and making referrals and by being part of the transplantation process,” explains Mary Schlereth, the Eye-Bank’s Coordinator of Community and Professional Education.

The award will be presented during a ceremony in the hospital’s auditorium at 10 a.m. on March 2. Among the scheduled speakers is Rev. Larry Jackson, Advocate South Suburban Hospital’s Vice President of Spiritual Care, himself a bilateral cornea recipient. Rev. Jackson will perform the blessing.

The Illinois Eye-Bank 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.

