

## Precious gifts

*December 19, 2007*

### **VOICE OF THE PEOPLE**

We are now in the midst of another holiday season full of celebration. Whether it is at a church, synagogue, mosque, home or anywhere we choose, we celebrate our lives, our families and our friends.

The giving of gifts is one of the more recognized traditions this time of year. We give them out of love so others know how much they mean to us. These gifts can be expensive or inexpensive, purchased or handmade.

It does not matter.

It is in the giving that we let others know how we feel about them.

I write this letter to encourage another type of giving. It is a giving where we share the gift of life.

I am referring to the gift of organ and tissue donor.

This selfless act of compassion, for those in desperate need, has the power to change and save lives.

Hundreds die waiting for this precious gift.

I have seen and felt the power of this gift.

My son, John, became an eye, bone and tissue donor in October of 2004.

He was a staunch supporter of donation.

We have come to find out that his gift has had far-reaching impact on a multitude of recipients.

Two people are able to see and 35 others have received John's donated bone and tissue.

This donation was not only a benefit to the recipients, it has given us immeasurable comfort and healing knowing that some good came from something so tragic.

Please, as you celebrate this month, become an organ and tissue donor by going to [www.donatelifellinois.org](http://www.donatelifellinois.org), [www.lifegoeson.com](http://www.lifegoeson.com) or calling 888-307-3668.

It will be a gift more precious than anything we can purchase in a store.

Life, in all its glory, really can go on.

*Larry Lefferts*

*Athens, Ill.*