

Letters to the Editor

Published Friday, December 07, 2007

Take a minute to register on donor consent registry

I am writing to commend Debra Landis on her Wednesday article, "Matt Felts lives vigorously a year after transplant."

In her article, Landis calls attention to Matt's year-long road to recovery as a heart transplant recipient. Through the power of transplantation, Matt now has the ability to live the life of a regular college student.

With the holiday season upon us, we remind Illinois residents of the ever-increasing need for organ donor registrations as more than 4,700 Illinois residents and 98,000 people nationwide continue to wait for their gift of life.

In conjunction with Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network and donation agencies across the state, the Donate Life Illinois campaign continues working diligently to register 3.5 million Illinois residents in the state's donor consent registry by April 2008.

Many Illinois residents still assume signing the back of your driver's license makes you an organ donor, which is no longer adequate.

It is important to make sure you have reregistered since Jan. 1, 2006. That is when state law established the donor consent registry that, unlike the old donor intent registry, ensures that your wishes to donate will be honored.

Please take 30 seconds today to register. You can access the donor consent registry www.DonateLifeIllinois.org. It could be the most important moment of your day — and someday, someone else's life. Just ask Matt.

David Bosch, Donate Life Illinois, Campaign chair, Elmhurst