

Organ donation issue is key to the future

Wednesday November 5, 2008

I am writing to commend Debra Pressey on her Oct. 25 article, "Students racing to recruit organ donors." In her article, Pressey calls attention to the strong efforts being put forth by University of Illinois students to register fellow students and members of the UI community as organ and tissue donors.

As a 2008 UI nursing major graduate, this story struck a personal chord for me. Last May, my life was changed forever when my father passed away as he waited for a liver transplant. It saddens me to think how different my world could be if more people simply registered as donors.

Earlier this month, the national transplant waiting list crossed the 100,000 mark for the first time ever. In addition, more than 4,700 Illinois residents currently await lifesaving transplants. Together, we can all make a difference in these lives by taking a moment to register.

In conjunction with Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network and donation agencies across the state, Donate Life Illinois is working diligently to register 5 million Illinois residents in the state's donor consent registry by April 30, 2009.

Please take 30 seconds today to register. You can view a video of my personal story here: www.youtube.com/DonateLifeIllinois and you can access the donor registry at www.DonateLifeIllinois.org. It could be the most important moment of your day – and someday – someone else's life.

LAURA DUGGAN

Urbana