

Daily Leader

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It's about you — Luke Bowton

By Sheila Shelton
Staff Reporter

This story is about a 28-year-old Pontiac man that you may have seen on television commercials this month and he is hoping that many people will listen to the message on the commercial in which he appears and respond in a positive way.

It's about
YOU!

"It is an incredible honor to be able to help get the word out about the importance of registering as an organ donor," said Bowton. "A registered organ donor is responsible for saving my life and I can only hope others will take 30 seconds out of their day to ensure they've re-registered in the new Illinois registry."

Bowton has been an officer at Pontiac Correctional Center for the past 6 1/2 years. He received his first kidney transplant on Dec. 3, 1987.

"When I was 2 years old I had a very severe case of strep throat and doctors later thought it caused kidney deterioration," he said. "My

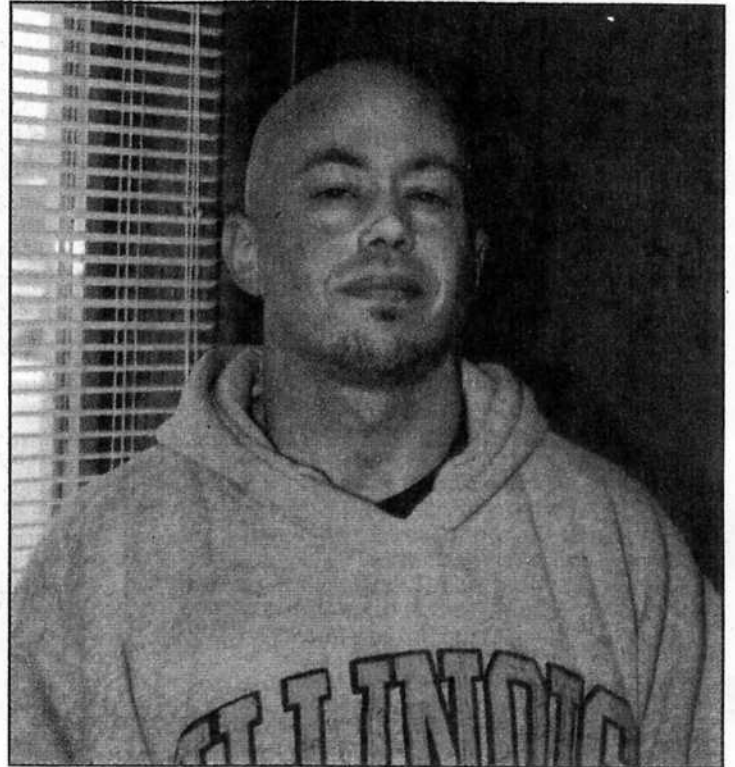
father, Robert Bowton of Peoria, donated my first kidney to me. That lasted me until 1991 when my body rejected the kidney. I was then on dialysis for six years. I received my second kidney on Oct. 28, 1997, and I don't know from whom this kidney came."

Donate Life Illinois and Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White have designated April as "Donate Life Month" in Illinois and are taking steps to make certain everyone in the state knows there is now a new form of registry. This new form took effect on Jan. 1.

"If you were registered before Jan. 1, that registry is no longer valid," said Bowton.

Dave Bosch, president of Donate Life America and chairman of the Illinois campaign, said if every person in Illinois who believes registering is the right thing to do took a moment to register it would make tremendous progress toward eliminating deaths on the transplant waiting list.

People can register on-line at www.IAMAREYOU.org.



Luke Bowton