



Tyrrell family from Moline promotes organ donation

By Deirdre Cox Baker | Tuesday, May 27, 2008

The family of Matthew Tyrrell takes comfort in the knowledge that the tragedy which killed the 22-year-old in March has translated to other lives saved and improved because of organ and tissue donation.

The young man died of massive head injuries March 9, and the family honored the donation wishes he had agreed to by signing his Illinois driver's license.

"It's helped a lot, knowing a little part of him is still out there somewhere, helping others," his father, Andy Tyrrell of Moline, said Tuesday.

Tyrrell was a featured speaker during Tuesday's Trinity Commitment Day to Donation, which was held at [Trinity Medical Center](#)-West Campus, Rock Island.

Organ donations do not depend on age, said Dr. Walter Bradley, Trinity's EMS medical director, who noted that the oldest known donor was 85 years and the youngest was 3 months of age. Most important is the condition of the organs at the time of the incident, he explained.

An organ/tissue donor can save or improve up to 25 lives, officials said at the event, which honored Matthew Tyrrell's parents, sister and brother-in-law, the Illinois State Police (who handle the donor database) and Trinity personnel who work with organ and tissue donations.

Both Illinois and Iowa have "first-person" consent laws for adults older than 18 years. The law allows donations without the family's consent.

To donate, sign up when you renew your driver's license or state identification card, check the Web site, [lifegoeson.com](#), or call toll-free, (800) 210-2106.

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