

WEST COUNTY JOURNAL

LETTER: Provide the gift of life

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I am writing to commend Jameka Merriweather on her recent article "Organ donation drive honors memory of Sondra Sharpe."

In her article, Merriweather calls attention to the great efforts being put forth to pay tribute to Sondra. In dire need of a transplant and facing an uphill battle with cystic fibrosis, Sondra never received her second chance at life.

In light of Sondra's passing, we call attention to her foundation's focus on organ donation by reminding all Illinois residents of the ever-increasing need for organ donor registrations as more than 4,700 Illinois residents and 99,000 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 5 million Illinois residents in the state's donor consent registry by the end of April 2009.

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 re-registered 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.

David Bosch

Donate Life Illinois

Campaign chair

Elmhurst, Ill.