



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 13, 2011
Contact: Connie Fedor, 608-332-5201

Wisconsin organ, tissue and eye donor registry hits one million donors

Madison – Wisconsin’s new, online donor system has reached more than 1 million members, announced First Lady Tonette Walker and officials of Donate Life Wisconsin.

“This is an enormous step toward helping the 1,800 people in Wisconsin who are now on the national waiting list for a transplant,” said Mrs. Walker. “Since the registry was launched in March 2010, we’ve seen hundreds of lives saved.”

Before the registry, people expressed their wish to become an organ, tissue and eye donor by having an orange dot placed on their driver’s license. While the dot recorded their willingness to be a potential donor, it did not legally authorize organ, tissue and eye donation.

“Now, a person who applies for or renews their license or state ID makes the decision to be a legal registered donor,” said Donate Life Wisconsin President Martha Mallon, noting that since the registry was launched in March 2010, those choosing to authorize donation are automatically placed in the online donor registry.

“But there are still 3.5 million Wisconsin citizens out there – including many with orange dots – who are not legally registered donors,” said Mallon, explaining that in Wisconsin, people renew their license only once every eight years. “That’s why it’s important for those wishing to become a donor to not wait to go to the DMV, but to go online today and sign up on the registry.” Anyone older than age 15 1/2 who holds a driver’s license or state identification card can register.

Online registries have been shown to save lives because it provides advance legal permission. That means donation professionals have immediate access to a person’s donation decision, share that information with the donor’s family and work with them to honor that choice.

- more -

“The registry is secure and confidential. It is easy to use – and if people change their minds they may remove their names at any time,” said Mallon.

“We’re encouraging everyone who wishes to be an organ, tissue and eye donor, to register today using the online registry,” said Walker.

To learn more about organ, tissue and eye donation or to register as a donor, please visit www.YesIWillWisconsin.com.

#

Facts about donation:

- Register on the Wisconsin Donor Registry today at: YesIWillWisconsin.com
- People with an orange donor dot on their license or state ID should still sign up to ensure their wishes will be honored.
- You can also register at the Department of Transportation/Division of Motor Vehicles when you renew your license or ID, but because Wisconsin has an eight-year renewal process, registering online today ensures your wishes will be honored.
- Share your donation decision with your family and friends.
- Registering is legal consent for donation and cannot be changed by anyone else with the exception of persons less than 18 years of age. (Legal next of kin may alter donation status for minors; making it important that family understands your decision.)
- Only two to three percent of people die in a manner that allows for organ donation, making it imperative that everyone who is eligible to donate actually donates.