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Contact:
Dan Reynolds
Director of Communications
734-780-2609
Fax: 734-780-2143
dan@illinoiseyebank.org

National Donor Sabbath brings eye, organ and tissue donation to religious communities

CHICAGO – Most religions in the United States accept eye, organ and tissue donation as a good and charitable thing, according to information released by Donate Life America.

To help people better understand where their religion stands on the issue of donation, the transplant community teams up with the religious community every year for National Donor Sabbath. This year, National Donor Sabbath will be recognized **November 11-13**, and the Illinois Eye-Bank is looking for volunteers willing to help get the word out.

“Each of us can make a difference in our own way,” says Jessica Rathert, the Eye-Bank’s community engagement coordinator. “Together, we can save and enhance the lives of Illinois residents in need of eye, organ and tissue transplants. Whether you are a faith leader, health minister, recipient, donor family member or friend of the Eye-Bank, your connection to others through your faith is crucial to the success of this year’s National Donor Sabbath.”

If you would like be a part of National Donor Sabbath, the Eye-Bank would be happy to supply you with the necessary information and materials – just contact Rathert at 800-548-4703, ext. 740 or jrathert@illinoiseyebank.org. Your participation can be tailored to fit the needs of your faith community.

To show your support for National Donor Sabbath by joining the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry, visit www.ilsos.gov/organdonorregister/.

The Illinois Eye-Bank is a charitable, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. It recovers, evaluates and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education, and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. For more information, visit the Illinois Eye-Bank online at www.illinoiseyebank.org or call (800) 548-4703.

