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CHICAGO FIRE, FANS TO CELEBRATE 'DONOR DAY'

CHICAGO—Right now, more than 4,600 Illinoisans are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants. Every day, across the country, 15 people die while waiting.

That's why the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois will join Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, the Chicago Fire and thousands of Chicago soccer fans for 'Donor Day' at Soldier Field on Sept. 8, promoting awareness of organ and tissue donation in Illinois.

Before the 7 p.m. Chicago Fire game, Secretary White will join game fans at two information booths for donor card signings – signing the Uniform Donor Cards on the back of their drivers licenses. The cards are an indication of one's wishes to become an organ and tissue donor.

During Donor Day, area transplant recipients, donor families and other volunteers will staff booths providing T-shirts, giveaways and information about organ donation and the Illinois donor registry maintained by the secretary of state's office. The Chicago Fire also will provide public-service announcements about donation.

“Obviously, our major objective is to promote organ donation awareness in our community,” said John Valencia, Business Partners and Latino Affairs Coordinator for the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois. “We commend Secretary White for his ongoing and critically important efforts supporting donation, and the Chicago Fire for its commitment to public service in sharing the donation message with tens of thousands of people.”

For 'Donor Day' ticket information, call the Chicago Fire box office at 312/705-7200.

For information about organ donation in Illinois, call ROBI at 877/577-3747 or visit www.robi.org. ROBI is the not-for-profit, federally designated organ procurement organization serving the northern three-fourths of Illinois and northwest Indiana. So far this year, ROBI has worked with the families of 155 donors to make possible 494 organ transplants.

For information on the Illinois' confidential organ and tissue donor registry maintained by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, call 1-800-210-2106 or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Everyone, no matter how young or old, can be a lifesaver by choosing to be an organ and tissue donor. . One donor can save or enhance the lives of more than 25 people. Choosing to become a donor is as simple as signing a Uniform Donor Card (such as the card on the back of the driver's license) and, most importantly, sharing the decision to donate with family members

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