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ROBI ANNOUNCES RECORD NUMBER OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTS IN JULY

Twenty-nine families in Illinois and northwest Indiana said “yes” to organ donation during July – making possible 110 lifesaving organ transplants in one month, the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois announced this week.

The number ties the record for the most transplants in one month as a result of ROBI’s work with organ donation. “Right now, 110 people who were desperately awaiting transplants are celebrating new life with their families, because 29 others chose to selflessly make something positive out of a loved one’s death,” said Jerry Anderson, ROBI President/CEO. “We are proud to be part of that, through our work with these donor families and the hospitals in our area.”

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.

Anderson credited the work of nurses, physicians, chaplains and other hospital staff in Illinois and northwest Indiana for their tireless efforts alongside ROBI staff – many on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week – to help many men, women and children each day through organ and tissue donation.

The record donation number unfortunately accompanies record need. As of July 27, more than 77,000 people were on the national transplant waiting list. Another name is added to that list every 13 minutes and every day, 15 people die waiting.

In Illinois, more than 4,500 people await lifesaving transplants. Three hundred and forty nine people died last year while waiting. Many of those deaths could be prevented if all potential donors would, in fact, become donors. That’s because one donor can save or enhance the lives of more than 25 people.

Everyone, no matter how young or old, can be a lifesaver by choosing to be an organ and tissue donor. 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.

ROBI is responsible for recovering and distributing organs and tissues for transplantation in accordance with strict federal guidelines. In addition, ROBI provides education about organ and tissue donation for healthcare professionals and the general public. Its mission is to save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation.

ROBI offices are located throughout Illinois in Chicago, Rockford, Peoria, Champaign, Springfield and Bloomington. For more information on donation, call ROBI at 312/431-3600 or visit online at www.robi.org.

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