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**ILLINOIS COALITION, THEATERS TO PROMOTE
DONOR AWARENESS DURING OPENING OF 'JOHN Q'**

ELMHURST, Ill. – Denzel Washington’s new movie “John Q” opens nationwide this weekend, telling the fictional story of a parent desperate to see his son receive a lifesaving heart transplant.

Working with Goodrich Quality Theatres and Century Theatres to raise additional awareness about the critical need for organ and tissue donation, the Illinois Coalition on Donation through the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois will sponsor lobby events at several theatres showing the film Saturday, Feb. 16.

Participating Goodrich theatres are:

- Kendall 10, 95 Fifth St., Oswego
- Randall 16, 550 N. Randall Road, Batavia
- Savoy 16, 232 W. Burwash, Savoy (near Champaign)
- Willow Knolls 14, 4100 W. Willow Knolls, Peoria

Participating Century Theatres are:

- Century Evanston 1-6 and 7-12, 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston

Transplant recipients and donor family members will provide donor cards, donation information and materials in theatre lobbies.

At the Goodrich locations, donor family members and recipients will make brief announcements before two film showings at each theatre. The theatres will make brochures about organ and tissue donation also available to theatre-goers through March 15, said Goodrich Marketing Manager Matt Johnson.

Goodrich and New Line Cinemas also donated services to provide a special advance screening of "John Q" at the Randall 16 this week, for Illinois donor family members, transplant recipients and donation/ transplantation professionals.

“We applaud Century and Goodrich in providing this critical community service,” said Kim McCullough, Illinois Coalition on Donation chair. “More than 4,600 men, women and children in Illinois are waiting for a chance to live through an organ transplant. Nationally, 16 people die every day because the organ shortage is so severe. More people are needed to say ‘yes’ to giving the gift of life through organ donation.”

The Illinois Coalition on Donation is a statewide effort to focus greater public attention to organ and tissue donation in Illinois. Its message: Decide to be a donor, sign a uniform donor card and, most importantly, make your intentions known to your family to ensure your wishes are carried out. In Illinois, as in most states, a family’s consent is required before donation can occur.

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Editor’s note: Illinois donation and transplant experts, transplant recipients, donor families and waiting list patients can be made available for interviews. For more information, contact Kim McCullough at 630/758-2736.