

Contact: Kim McCullough, Public Relations
Tel: 630/758-2736
Pager: 630/255-6650

630/758-2600
www.giftofhope.org

2002 'LIFESAVING PARTNERS' ANNOUNCED FOR SUPPORT OF ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

ELMHURST, Ill. (Dec. 3, 2002) – They aren't necessarily household names, but they are unsung heroes in helping to save lives.

As the Chicago Historical Society pays tribute to national heroes in its exhibits "Remembering September 11" and "Time Person of the Year at 75," the health care community gathers next week to salute 15 medical professionals and civic leaders as local heroes addressing the region's critical need for organ and tissue donation.

On Dec. 11, Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network will present its 2002 Lifesaving Partners awards for outstanding support of its mission to save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation. Hosting the awards ceremony will be CBS 2 anchor Mary Ann Childers, who will join Gift of Hope President/CEO Jerry Anderson to present the honors.

The 2002 honorees are:

- Eric Althoff, Effingham County Coroner
- Ernestine Daniels, neurosurgery administrator, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
- The Doings Newspapers, represented by Pamela Lannom, editor
- Edmund R. Donoghue, MD, chief medical examiner of Cook County
- Don Fishman, MD, trauma surgeon and director of the surgical intensive care, Advocate Christ Medical Center
- Thomas F. Fitzgerald, owner and director, Fitzgerald & Associates
- Jeffrey Frank, MD, director of neuromedical/neurosurgical intensive care, University of Chicago Hospitals
- Lynn Hennessy, RN, director of critical care, Advocate Christ Medical Center
- Corey Hoze, Region V representative to Secretary Tommy S. Thompson, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Marge Lantz, RN, assistant director of the neurological intensive care unit, Hinsdale Hospital
- David Miller, chief operating officer, Mount Sinai Hospital
- Robert Restuccia, MD, director of pediatric critical care medicine, Rockford Memorial Hospital
- Kathy Rich, RN, clinical specialist in critical care, The Methodist Hospitals, Inc.
- 7-Eleven Wiliana Franchise Owners Association, represented by Bob Strauss, President
- Sharon Ward, RN, manager of trauma services, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

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Each year, 10 physicians, nurses, administrators and allied hospital professionals are selected for the Lifesaving Partner honor, from among the tens of thousands of hospital professionals in Illinois and northwest Indiana. This year, five additional individuals representing the forensic community, media, corporate community and government will be recognized.

Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network is responsible for coordinating organ and tissue donation in Illinois and northwest Indiana. Through its work in 2001, 250 donors made possible 792 lifesaving organ transplants for desperately ill patients. Additionally, 588 families consented to donation, enabling thousands of patients to receive medical transplants of heart valves, bones and other tissue.

Yet the critical need for donors continues to rapidly outpace the supply. An average of 17 people die each day waiting for transplantable organs that do not become available, while more than 100 new names are added to the national organ transplant waiting list. In the United States, more than 80,000 patients – including more than 4,500 in Illinois – await lifesaving transplants.

For more information, contact Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network at 888/307-DON8 or visit www.giftofhope.org.

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