

For immediate release

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‘Lifesaving Partners’ named for 2006 achievements supporting organ/tissue donation

ELMHURST, Ill. (April 20, 2007) – A select group of hospitals and hospital/civic professionals from throughout Illinois and northwest Indiana have been recognized for outstanding achievement in their fields addressing the region’s critical need for organ and tissue donation.

Named 2007 Lifesaving Partners by Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, the honorees were selected from among thousands of hospital, forensic and business professionals who work to help coordinate donation, enable lifesaving transplants, support the families of donors, educate other healthcare professionals and draw public attention to the critical need for donation.

“These hospitals’ and individuals’ accomplishments set a gold standard in our collective efforts to ultimately help the lives of so many in need of life-giving organ and tissue transplants,” said Gift of Hope President/CEO Jarold Anderson.

Gift of Hope will present the awards at a ceremony in Chicago on April 26. The honorees are:

- **Blessing Hospital, Quincy**, for its leadership partnering with Gift of Hope to develop and implement best-practice public education and campaigns for hospital staff and the public in 2006.
- **OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria**, for overall performance in collaborative practice, process improvements, education and life-giving donation. In 2006, OSF Saint Francis worked with Gift of Hope to achieve the greatest number of organ and tissue donations among all 183 hospitals in Gift of Hope’s donation service area.
- **Provena Health / eICU Connection**, for applying health system innovation to lifesaving donation. In 2006, Provena established the nation’s first system-wide eICU incorporating the role of telemedicine units in early identification and referral of potential donors. In addition to this pioneering achievement, the eICU management and staff will be recognized for individual commitment and vision leading the initiative from concept to reality.
- **Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island**, for best practice in comprehensive education through administration, medical and nursing leadership involvement, as well as public education.
- **University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago**, for all-around partnership excellence with Gift of Hope in collaborative and improvement practice, clinical partnership and support, physician and nursing education, leadership involvement, administrative support and public education.

(continued)

(2007 Lifesaving Partners, cont.)

- **Sangamon County Coroner Susan Boone**, for best practice in partnership with Gift of Hope directing forensic teams, coordinating with state's attorney offices, legal authorities and hospitals; and extending personal leadership and involvement to increase and ensure opportunities for life-giving donation.
- **Nancy Daw, RN, MS, The Methodist Hospitals**, for best-practice nursing involvement at the individual level—through consistent, comprehensive and committed personal involvement in addressing referrals, coordinating donation processes and policies, and coordinating hospital staff involvement and support in all aspects of development.
- **Peoria County Coroner Johnna Ingersoll**, for best practice in partnership with Gift of Hope directing forensic teams, coordinating with state's attorney offices, legal authorities and hospitals; and extending personal leadership and involvement to increase and ensure opportunities for life-giving donation.
- **Megan Kuck, RN, Medical Intensive Care Unit, Loyola University Medical Center**, for best-practice nursing involvement at the unit level, ensuring improvement through nursing and physician training, education and referrals.
- **The Rev. Senator James Meeks, Pastor, Salem Baptist Church of Chicago**, for significantly raising awareness of the need for donation in the African-American community. In partnership with Gift of Hope's African-American Task Force, Salem Baptist Church hosted a "Give 2 Live" event and telethon during April 30, 2006, services that inspired more than 3,000 men and women to register as organ/tissue donors.
- **Carol Payson, Director of Patient Care Services, Northwestern Memorial Hospital**, for highest achievement coordinating institutional policy and practice change among hospital leadership, practitioners and committees partnering with Gift of Hope in the donation process—opening the door for new opportunities for donation that will directly save more lives in the future.
- **The Honorable Jesse White, Illinois Secretary of State**, for pioneering a national standard among state officeholders in influencing public opinion and increasing public commitment to donation. In partnership with Gift of Hope, his advocacy established legislative support and led to the launch of the state's new donor consent registry in 2006, which to date has registered nearly 2 million Illinoisans as life-giving donors.

More than 4,700 patients in Illinois await lifesaving organ transplants, in addition to thousands more in need of cornea, heart valve and other tissue transplants. Nationally, an average of 18 people die each day waiting for transplantable organs that do not become available.

Organs and tissues from a single donor can help more than 25 individuals. To become a donor, Illinoisans need to join the state's new donor registry by visiting the Donate Life Illinois campaign site at www.IAmAreYou.org; visiting any Illinois state driver's license facility; or by calling the Illinois Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Program at 800/210-2106. Indiana residents should register at www.donatelifelifeindiana.org.

For more information about organ/tissue donation, contact Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network at 888/307-DON8 or visit www.giftofhope.org. Gift of Hope is proud to serve as the federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organization (OPO) responsible for coordinating organ and tissue donation and services to families of donors in the northern three-quarters of Illinois and northwest Indiana. Since its inception in 1986, Gift of Hope has coordinated donations that have saved the lives of more than 10,000 organ transplant recipients, and improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of tissue transplant recipients.

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