



PRESS RELEASE

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Columbia Faith Communities Focus on Organ and Tissue Donation

Columbia, Mo. (November 2, 2004) – Many faith leaders throughout the greater Columbia area will deliver a message on the importance of eye, organ and tissue donation to congregations on Donor Sabbath Weekend, November 12-14, 2004. The annual event encourages faith communities to discuss donation in order to increase knowledge and education about pledging to become an eye, organ and tissue donor. Organizations like the Heartland Lions Eye Banks, are reaching out into the Columbia community to provide detailed information to the public during this observance.

During National Donor Sabbath, the eye, organ and tissue banking community delivers a message of donation that focuses on the importance of pledging to become an eye donor. This can be done by joining Missouri's donor registry and visiting www.dhss.state.mo.us/OrganDonor/ or signing a driver's license or state ID to become a donor. However, just as important as pledging to donate is letting your family or next-of-kin know of your decision to become an eye, organ or tissue donor. This way, upon your death, your family will know of your wishes and it will be easier for them to give consent for donation.

The Heartland Lions Eye Banks encourages the public and members of faith based organizations to visit its web site, www.hleb.org, to download a variety of materials created for use during the National Donor Sabbath weekend.

The Heartland Lions Eye Banks is a program of the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation based out of Columbia, Mo. Each day, the Eye Bank provides the gift of sight to cornea transplant recipients by retrieving, processing and distributing the highest quality donor eye tissue to transplant surgeons. For more information about the Eye Bank or the Foundation, please call our Columbia, Mo. headquarters at 800-753-2265.

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