



Conkright fundraiser held

Information provided by Eric Greve

Kevin Conkright, age 36, suffered a fatal head injury in a freak accident during a soccer game on Thursday, November 29, 2012.

A fundraiser was held at Fruitport High School on Saturday, January 26, 2013 to help his wife Brie and daughters Aubrey, Kate and Natalie. Over 250 people attended the event. Every auctioned item and all the food was donated.

Additional donations can be made out to the Conkright Benefit Fund and taken to any Shelby State Bank.

Kevin's family donated his organs to help others.



New 'Donate Life' license plate now on sale

(Submitted by the Michigan Secretary of State)

Michigan's newest license plate, which encourages organ donation efforts, is now on sale.

The "Donate Life" plate carries the "Donate Life" logo and the message, "Be an Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor."

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the plate, which costs \$35 in addition to any applicable registration fees, will go to the Thomas Daley Gift of Life Fund to promote organ, tissue and eye donation. The fund is named in honor of Thomas Daley, 23, who died in an accident in 2011, and was an organ donor.

"The need is so great in Michigan and this will be a clear reminder to Michigan residents about the need for people willing to give the gift of life," said Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, who has championed organ donation awareness efforts since becoming secretary of state. Under her leadership, record numbers of people are signing up as potential donors on Michigan's Organ Donor Registry. The Registry grew by nearly 400,000 people — a 25 percent increase — last year.

The plate is formally known as the John J. Gleason Gift of Life Plate in honor of the state representative, John Gleason, who sponsored legislation creating the plate. Gleason is a kidney recipient.

"The new license plate is a great way for every compassionate Michigan citizen to show support, in a highly visible way, for organ, tissue and eye donation," said Richard Pietroski, CEO of Gift of Life Michigan, the state's organ and tissue recovery organization. "Just as importantly, it provides funding to educate the public about how everyone can be a hero to the thousands of people here and across the nation who need a life-saving transplant."

More than 3,000 people in Michigan are waiting for life-saving organ transplants. A single donor can save up to eight lives through organ transplants, and can improve the lives of up to 50 more through tissue and cornea transplants.

The Donate Life plate can be purchased by mail, fax, or at any Secretary of State office and will be mailed to customers. Donate Life plates may also be personalized using Plate it Your Way. For more information, visit the Secretary of State website at www.michigan.gov/sos.

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