

From the Office of
Sue Dwyer
Cayuga County Clerk
160 Genesee Street, Auburn, NY 13021
Office (315) 253-1271 Cell (315) 730-4686

For Immediate Release
March 29, 2018

CAYUGA COUNTY DMV KICKS OFF ORGAN DONOR MONTH ON APRIL 2

Auburn, NY – The Cayuga County Department of Motor Vehicles is kicking off their 8th Annual **Organ Donor Month** on **Monday, April 2 at 10 a.m.** County Clerk Sue Dwyer is partnering with the **New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD)** to encourage people to become organ/tissue donors.

Dwyer said: "The DMV is a great place to get people thinking about this important decision; 85 per cent of people who enroll in the Donate Life Registry do so through their local DMV Office."

"DMV offices are on the frontlines of this battle. This is where New Yorkers can make the important decision to be a hero to a person in need and give the gift of life," explained Aisha Tator, the Executive Director of NYAD.

Dwyer said, "We try to help educate the public on how they can make a huge impact on other people's lives and families." "During the entire month of April our local DMV Office will be encouraging New Yorkers to learn more about organ, eye, and tissue donation and the impact it has on thousands of people in New York State."

Although New York State has the third highest need for donors in the entire country, New York State has one of the lowest rates of designated donors in the nation. Only 32% of adults have enrolled in the New York State Donate Life registry, compared to the national average of 42%, and 36% of Cayuga residents are donors.

"The statistics are truly eye opening," Dwyer said, "Every 18 minutes a person dies waiting for a transplant, and more than 9,500 patients in the United States are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant." "YOU can make a difference!" "The greatest gift we can give is the promise to save or enhance someone else's life with organs and tissues that we no longer need."

Dwyer said "It only takes a few minutes to sign a donor form and your decision today can save a life tomorrow. Our kick off is **Monday, April 2 at 10 a.m.** at the DMV office in the Cayuga County Office Building, 160 Genesee Street in Auburn. We'll have refreshments for all DMV visitors, and we'll have items to give away as a reminder to promote organ donation. Dwyer said, "We will be focusing on organ donation until April 30. Anyone 16 and older can sign up to be a donor, and it's a very easy process. The public is invited to visit us, ask questions, and complete a donor card."

"I want to commend our DMV Supervisor Shereen Androsko and the entire DMV staff for their enthusiasm and help in organizing this month-long initiative" Dwyer said. "Over the past eight years,

our DMV staff has signed up more than a thousand new donors and they have made a significant impact on the amount of registered organ donors in Cayuga County.”

Dwyer said, “One organ donor can save up to 8 lives and tissue donors can actually enhance as many as 75 lives.” Sign up to be a donor! Be a hero and give the gift of life!

For more information on organ donation, please contact these organizations:

Donate Life

The New York Alliance for Donation at (518)326-3237 or visit www.alliancefordonation.org

The Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network at 1-800-810-5494, or visit: www.donorrecovery.org