

Nicholas County drivers above average in organ donor program

Waiting lists for organ transplants are shorter in Kentucky than many places because there is a higher percentage of organ donation here than in most states. This heightened awareness of organ and tissue donation is partly due to the efforts of the Kentucky Circuit Clerks Trust For Life and the generosity of many Kentuckians who donate an extra \$1 to the Trust when they renew their drivers license.

Many Nicholas County drivers again proved their support of organ and tissue donation by donating an extra dollar to the trust when they renewed their Kentucky drivers licenses in 2001. According to the Trust For

Life office in Frankfort, Nicholas Circuit Court Clerk Sandy Watkins' office received donations from 21 percent of those renewing their drivers license last year. The average number of drivers who donated \$1 when they renewed their licenses in the state last year was 42.2 percent.

"Nicholas County should be proud of their above average participation in this very important effort," said Trust Executive Director Berkeley Scott, "and Sandy Watkins and her staff should be commended for their success."

The Trust For Life was created by the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks

Association and the state legislature in 1992 to collect donations at license renewal time to fund a year-round information and promotion effort to encourage Kentuckians to donate their organs and tissues at death so that others may live. According to the Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA), the federally-designated organ procurement organization, the organ donation rate has risen significantly in the state since the establishment of the Trust while elsewhere across the nation it has dropped.

On the back of each Kentucky drivers license is a

place where drivers can note their desire to have their tissue and organs donated. Special "donor dot" stickers are also available at Circuit Clerks' offices that drivers can place on the front of their licenses that designate the same desire. It is very important, according to Scott, that individuals talk to their families about this decision because the final consent for donation rests with the next-of-kin.

For more information about the Trust and its organ donor awareness program, Kentuckians may call (502) 695-4253 or connect to the Trust's web site at www.trustforlife.org.

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- America's Workforce Network at www.servicelocator.org
- Save the Children at www.save-thechildren.org
- New York Life at www.newyorklife.com
- Kids Foot Locker at www.footlocker.com
- German Agricultural Marketing Board at www.cmanorthamerica.org
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