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Advocate Condell hospital surpasses organ donor goal

Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville surpassed a goal to support organ and tissue donation.

The Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network challenged hospital staff to register as donors through the Itasca-based nonprofit organization's Hospitals for Hope campaign.

Advocate Condell responded by registering 246 staff and community members as donors last month — earning the status of a top-performing hospital in the campaign.

"We understand the importance of organ and tissue donation and the critical need for people to register as donors," said Raeann Fuller, the intensive care unit's nurse manager, in a prepared statement. "We witness the hope that donor families derive from their loved one's decision to donate. We also see the lifesaving benefits of donation for those who receive the gift of life because they are members of our community and patients that we serve."

Gift of Hope President and CEO Kevin Cmunt applauded the registration drive.

"Advocate Condell Medical Center showed its passion and commitment for donation by supporting this lifesaving effort," Cmunt said in a prepared statement. "With an average of 18 people dying every day waiting for organ transplants, this level of support from the Advocate Condell Medical Center community is much-needed and deeply appreciated. We hope others throughout Libertyville will follow their lead and choose to become donors, as well."

More than 5,000 people in Illinois are waiting for transplants, according to Gift of Hope.

For more information, visit GiftofHope.org.

<http://libertyville.suntimes.com/news/organbrief-LIB-06272013:article>

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