



The Gate, Back of the Yards, Chicago (TBA monthly visitors)
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New TV Show to Encourage Organ Donation Among Latinos

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Just two months ago, Donate Life America, the national coalition of Organ Procurement Organizations in the U.S. announced that they had reached 100 million people registered as donors, a goal they had been trying to reach since 2006.

Nevertheless, being motivated by the increasing awareness that thousands of people die without having the possibility of a second chance of life, these organizations are seeking to add an additional 20 million people to the list of selfless heroes in 2012.

Raiza Mendoza, Latino public affairs coordinator at Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network said

that, "this requires intense work with our community. We need to help them see that when they do not need any of their organs any longer, that there are people who have the opportunity to live if they receive a donation. It would help them return to a healthy and normal life for them and their loved ones."

Mendoza announced that because of this Gift of Hope has created a Spanish television program that will air on Univision Chicago every Sunday from 7 to 7:30 a.m. The show's purpose is to educate and inspire Latinos. "We will share donation stories, including transplant recipients and people who are on the waiting list or have died while waiting." The show will also address the specific situation of each story with the collaboration of medical professionals and experts with various backgrounds.

"If you have a nice organ donation story even if it is a sad one, remember that 18 people die each day in this country because they do not receive the organ that could have saved their lives. Please share your story with me on 'Sin Condición,'" expressed Mendoza. She assures that there is nothing that she would like more than for Latinos to help reach the goal of 20 million people registered as organ and tissue donors in the U.S.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Juan García, a DePaul University student of Mexican descent, said "I had not thought much about the topic, but now that I know a little more and I am going to renew my license soon, I'm going to register as an organ donor."

Mendoza invites every Latino who lives in Illinois and wants to help to join Gift of Hope on Facebook and ask all the questions they want. She also asks that they talk about it on their Facebook and Twitter pages. For more information, visit www.giftofhope.org/espanol or call 1-800-368-6666.

Mendoza says that one of the most important steps to achieve this goal is that the parents in each family encourage their children who are going to get their driver's license or are close to turning 18-years-old to respond yes when they are asked if they want to be organ donors. Another method is to invite new neighbors, ones that came to live in Illinois from other states, to do the same.

In Illinois, there are more than 5,000 people waiting for an organ transplant. Of them, 15.7 percent or 810 are Latinos with the majority waiting for a kidney.

<http://www.thegatenewspaper.com/2012/01/new-tv-show-to-encourage-organ-donation-among-latinos/>