



MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Glen Oaks Students Saving Lives, Competing for Trophy in Statewide Organ Donor Drive**

*Students, faculty, alumni and supporters encouraged to show some heart!*

Centreville, MI, January 14, 2009 – Glen Oaks Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa is competing with other Michigan colleges and universities in a life-saving organ donor drive. The annual Gift of Life Campus Challenge is a six-week contest to see which school can get the most people to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. This is GOCC’s first year competing in the event.

“The energy and enthusiasm that Glen Oaks Community College students bring to organ and tissue donation is refreshing,” said Richard Pietroski, executive director of Gift of Life Michigan. “Glen Oaks students recognize that organ donation is about the continuation of life and offering hope to others in need.”

In its sixth year, the Gift of Life Campus Challenge has already resulted in more than 19,500 Michigan residents to sign up on the state’s Donor Registry. On-campus promotions will include donor drive stations on the concourse, as well as distribution of posters and flyers. Some schools will host guest speakers, typically organ transplant recipients or family members of deceased donors, to inspire greater support for the Campus Challenge.

Each Michigan resident who signs up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry receives a red heart donor sticker from the Secretary of State, to place on the front of the driver’s license or state ID card. People who have signed up in the past or who have signed the back of their license, but do not have a red heart donor sticker, need to update their registration. Out-of-state students and others without a Michigan license or ID are welcome to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, but will not receive a donor sticker.

Current standings in the Gift of Life Campus Challenge can be found at [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org), where visitors also can sign up on the Donor Registry and credit Glen Oaks Community College for referring them. Signing up on the Donor Registry takes less than a minute, but offers a lifetime to those in need of an organ or tissue transplant.

The Gift of Life Campus Challenge is one of the most successful organ donation college outreach programs in the nation, and has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for its exceptional results. Gift of Life Michigan is the state’s federally designated full service organ and tissue recovery organization, which acts as the intermediary between donors, physicians and hospital staff. Gift of Life Michigan, in collaboration with the Michigan Eye-Bank, provides all services necessary for organ, tissue and eye donation.

To sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry and credit Glen Oaks Community College, or to learn more about the organ and tissue donation, visit [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org) or call 800-482-4881.

(more)

**Schools participating in the 2009 Gift of Life Campus Challenge include:**

- ◆ Calvin College
- ◆ Ferris State University
- ◆ Glen Oaks Community College
- ◆ Grand Valley State University
- ◆ Kalamazoo Valley Community College
- ◆ Lake Superior State University
- ◆ Michigan State University
- ◆ North Central Michigan College
- ◆ Northern Michigan University
- ◆ Oakland University
- ◆ Sienna Heights University
- ◆ Traverse City University Center
- ◆ University of Detroit-Mercy
- ◆ University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
- ◆ Western Michigan University

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