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Albion Lions Club hosts Donor Registry station at Festival

ANN ARBOR – If you want to add your name to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, make sure to bring your driver's license or state identification to the Albion Festival of the Forks on September 19, when the Albion Lions Club will be hosting a Michigan Eye-Bank Donate Life Station.

The Donate Life Station consists of a laptop computer, a banner, a table sign, mints and stickers. Using the laptop computer, along with a wireless internet card, Lions volunteers will be able to sign people up on the Donor Registry via the internet. Those who sign up will receive their red heart stickers from the Secretary of State in the mail in a few weeks.

"Most people don't know that signing the back of their driver's licenses isn't enough," explains Alison Claerhout, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Michigan Eye-Bank. "If you don't have a red heart sticker on your license, you're not on the Donor Registry."

All the Lions need in order to add somebody to the Donor Registry is his or her driver's license – or, more specifically, the person's driver's license number and birth date.

"The Lions and the Michigan Eye-Bank share similar missions, both strive to restore sight," says Claerhout. "By hosting a Donate Life Station, the Albion Lions are helping to ensure that people in their community understand that they have the power to give the gifts of sight, life and mobility to others in need."

The Michigan Eye-Bank Donate Life Station is part of the second phase of the Michigan Eye-Bank's ***I Joined!*** campaign, a grass-roots initiative to get the word out about the importance of signing up on your state's organ donor registry.

The Michigan Eye-Bank, a division of Midwest Eye-Banks, is a charitable, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sight. It recovers, evaluates and distributes human eye tissue for transplantation. It also supports research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions, promotes donation awareness through public and professional education, and provides humanitarian aid to people in need of corneal transplantation throughout the world. For more information, visit the Michigan Eye-Bank online at www.michiganeyebank.org or call (800) 247-7250.

