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Michigan Eye-Bank hosts Donor Registry station at Blood Drive

CLARE – Those attending the Mary Echelbarger Memorial Blood Drive on March 27th will have a unique opportunity to save and change lives – simply by adding their names to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

According to the Michigan Eye-Bank, those who consider joining the Registry should remember to bring their driver's license number or state identification to the Health Fair, where the Eye-Bank will be hosting a Donate Life Station. The Station features a laptop computer with a wireless Internet card, enabling Eye-Bank representatives to sign people up on the Donor Registry via the Internet. Those who sign up will receive their red "DONOR" 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 Engagement Coordinator for the Michigan Eye-Bank. "If you don't have a red 'DONOR' heart sticker on your license, you're not on the new, computerized, confidential Registry."

To add a person's name to the Donor Registry, all that is needed are the person's full name, driver's license number and birth date.

The new Michigan Eye-Bank Donate Life Stations are part of the second phase of the Eye-Bank's ***I Joined!*** campaign, a grassroots initiative to get the word out about the importance of joining the state's Donor Registry.

The blood drive, which is being sponsored by Michigan Blood, was arranged by Rev. Eric Echelbarger, in memory of his wife, Mary, who was a cornea donor. It will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New Hope Missionary Church, 9115 Pere Marquette Road, in Clare.

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.

