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## **Buddies await you at the Secretary of State Office**

ANN ARBOR – If you'll be visiting a Secretary of State Branch Office on April 12, you've got a friend... maybe even a Buddy.

Thanks to joint efforts of the Michigan Eye-Bank, the Michigan Department of State and Gift of Life Michigan, Buddy Day – an annual event that is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year – places volunteers, affectionately known as “Buddies”, in Secretary of State branch offices to help educate customers about the importance of eye, organ and tissue donation. More than 3,700 people across the state chose to add their names to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry on Buddy Day in 2010.

“It's our volunteers who make Buddy Day a success,” says Lisa Langley, Executive Director of the Michigan Eye-Bank. “Without them, this event wouldn't be possible.”

Last year, more than 400 people – many of them donor family members, transplant recipients and members of Lions and Lioness Clubs of Michigan – spent the day at their local Secretary of State branch offices, hoping to convince their neighbors to join the Donor Registry.

“It was inspiring to see so many people joined in their support for a great cause,” says Langley. “I believe this year will be even better.”

To learn more about the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, visit [www.IJoined.org](http://www.IJoined.org).

The Michigan Eye-Bank 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](http://www.michiganeyebank.org) or call (800) 247-7250.

