



Springfield Park District

www.springfieldparks.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD PARK DISTRICT PARTNERS WITH THE GIFT OF HOPE ORGAN & TISSUE DONOR NETWORK TO DEDICATE THE GIFT OF HOPE DONOR MEMORIAL GARDEN AT SOUTHWIND PARK.

[Springfield, IL] – The Springfield Park District has partnered with the Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network to install Donor Memorial Garden within Southwind Park as an ongoing reminder of the legacy of loved ones who have given the Gift of Hope through organ, cornea and tissue donation.

As a representative of Gift of Hope's Donor Advisory Council, Larry Lefferts, a local businessman first approached the Park District back in 2015 about the concept of a memorial garden. It was a project close to his heart, for he and his wife lost their own son at the young age of 22 and had donated his corneas, bones and tissues to enhance the lives of 37 others. A plan began, and with Matt Dillon of Pleasant Nursery and Donor Family Council work, a partnership with the Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network was forged to bring the garden to fruition. Funds from the Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network made construction of the Donor Memorial Garden possible.

The Park District is grateful for the addition this garden will bring to Southwind Park. “We are honored to be given the chance to host such a wonderful memorial as the Donor Memorial Garden.” – Leslie Sgro, Park Board President

Join us this Sunday, November 13th at 11:30 am at the Northeast side of Southwind Park as we plan to dedicate this long awaited project with a “**Day of Remembrance.**” This memorial garden is a special place for donor families to honor their loved ones and reflect on their selfless gift of donation.

*Nothing loved is ever lost;
And you were loved so much.*

Gift – Life - Hope

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Special appreciation to the Gift of Hope Partners: Eversight Illinois, Saving Sight, HSHS St. John's Hospital & Memorial Health System. For more information on this topic and any other Park District news related items, please visit our Website at www.springfieldparks.org

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