

Share A Life



AND SHARE YOUR DECISION - BE AN ORGAN DONOR

Jim White and his family understand the value of time. They waited a long time for a liver donor. However, Jim was fortunate. Every year, an estimated 3,000 people die while waiting for organ transplants.

"When the call came about the organ donation I was shocked and surprised," said Jim. "I looked at Sandy's face (his wife) and she was flushed. I knew the wait was over."

As any transplant patient could tell you, time is not an unlimited resource. One day you might find yourself as one of the approximately 42,000 Americans waiting for an organ transplant.

Become an organ donor simply by signing a donor card, and by telling your family. Then, contact the Transplant Society of Michigan.

To register your gift, call: 1-800-642-4282.



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Recognized nationally, Henry Ford Hospital helps patients by offering transplants for bone marrow, heart, kidney, liver, lung, and pancreas. For transplant services, Henry Ford Health System accepts most insurances, including Alliance Health and Life Insurance Company, Blue Cross Blue Shield, HAP, Omnicare and SelectCare.

Unless more people become organ donors, many patients will have to play the waiting game until one is found. In some cases, patients will die waiting.

Jim White was lucky. A donor was found in time, giving him the chance to watch his kids grow up. Shouldn't everyone get the same chance?

IT'S EASY TO BE A DONOR. TELL YOUR FAMILY. FILL OUT THIS CARD, AND KEEP IT IN YOUR WALLET.

My Commitment To Share Life Uniform Donor Card

I, _____, have spoken to my family about organ and tissue donation. The following people have witnessed my commitment to be a donor. I wish to donate:

☐ any organs and tissues ☐ only the following organs and tissues: _____

Donor Signature _____ Date: _____
Witness _____ Date: _____
Witness _____ Date: _____

Pro-business attitude wins Rogers top spot with county

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

As he approaches his first full year as Oakland County deputy executive, Kenneth Rogers is convinced of one thing.

"You can teach an old dog new tricks," he said. "I'm living proof."

Rogers was an entrepreneur — involved in real estate for about 20 years — before joining the staff of county Executive L. Brooks Patterson. As a businessperson, he was concerned about the transition to government.

"During the campaign (1992, against Democrat Elizabeth Howe) I worked on some campaign issues for Brooks," he said. "After he won, Brooks asked me if I'd like to put some of those ideas to work."

With any other elected official, Rogers said he might have been reluctant. "But with Brooks," he recalled, "I didn't hesitate."

Patterson said he had no hesitation either. The new executive was confident he was matching the right person with the right job. "Ken was a businessman," said Patterson, "and he was unabashedly pro business. He was the right person to hire as director of community and economic development."

Rogers was promoted to deputy executive last summer when John L. Grubba retired.

Why Rogers? "Ken is very creative," said Patterson. "Many of the innovations we've made — like video teleconferencing for international businesses — germinated with him. But I got the credit."

Patterson said he also liked



FILE PHOTO

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson (left) and his deputy Kenneth Rogers.

Rogers' work ethic. "Ten-hour days are routine for Ken. Sometimes, I get e-mail messages sent from his home at 6:30 a.m."

Rogers' introduction to the business world was not particularly endearing. After graduating in 1957 from St. Michael's High School in Pontiac, he enrolled at Central Michigan University where he enjoyed college life and, among other things, played the banjo.

He was part of a group called The Wanderers, which cut two records — on 45 rpm vinyl — before disbanding.

Rogers left academia — and the carefree lifestyle of the college student — abruptly when his father's mechanical contracting business went belly-up.

What followed were a series of jobs, including some that were short on pay, but long on experience. He emptied ash trays and cleaned toilets at a bowling alley, for example, before moving into management where he was a trouble shooter for unprofitable bowling alleys.

"I also sold advertising," he

recalled, and in the process developed a respect for salespeople.

He went into business for himself and in 1973 became a partner in a real estate brokerage firm that developed into a multi-million dollar venture. He was also active in Oakland County chambers of commerce.

He was a partner in the part of the brokerage firm from 1973 until joining the executive's staff.

His life has been a busy; Rogers acknowledged, and, rewarding. He and his wife Jane, a nurse, have four grown children and several grandchildren. "They're spread out around the country," he said, "so we do some traveling."

Rogers also found time to get his degree, a bachelor in public administration from CMU, class of 1996. And, occasionally, he still plays the banjo.

Rogers said he enjoys working in government, or at least a government headed by Patterson. "Brooks doesn't micromanage," he said. "And he's open to innovation."

Of all the things he's been involved in, Rogers said trade overtures with Mexico have been among the more enjoyable. Rogers has been part of at least one trade mission to Mexico so far, and another is scheduled for June.

Those trade trips are demanding, Rogers said. "We have some long days," he said, but the people are nice and the results rewarding.

"I really believe much of the economic growth of the future is in international trade," he said.

OCC offers 'empowerment' day for women

Women will have an opportunity to participate in a day of information, education, empowerment and networking at a day-long conference on Saturday, March 22, at Oakland Community College.

"Women Together" begins at 8:30 a.m. on the college's Highland Lakes Campus in Waterford. Following the opening address, participants will

attend four workshops throughout the day. Topics include health issues, family economics, coping with the sandwich generation, non-traditional occupations, computers and women's legal rights. The registration fee of \$35 includes lunch.

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