

The New York Times

**Freakonomics**

The Hidden Side of Everything

---

APRIL 21, 2010, 2:00 PM

## One More Organ Donor

By [STEPHEN J. DUBNER](#)

Yesterday was a first for me. During a lecture, I briefly discussed the [sad state of organ donation](#), and how altruism alone cannot satisfy the demand for organs. Afterward, I sat down to sign some books. A woman approached and, after getting her book signed, put something else in front of me for a signature: her driver's license. She had decided that she wanted to sign up as an organ donor, and asked me to be one of her signing witnesses. Her name is **Jackie Stanley**. I have to say, it was very moving. The only problem is that someone with Jackie's characteristics — caring, foresight, etc. — is probably less likely to get in a fatal car crash than someone with the opposite traits (I hope so, at least).

---

Copyright 2010 The New York Times Company | [Privacy Policy](#) | [NYTimes.com](#) 620 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10018