

Posted: Monday, 22 February 2010 1:27PM

Chicago docs celebrate life-saving heart device

Regine Schlesinger Reporting

CHICAGO (WBBM) -- A Chicago-area hospital today is celebrating the success of a life-saving device. WBBM's Regine Schlesinger reports the mechanical heart pump offers gravely-ill heart patients a new chance at life.

For five years now, a medical team at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn has been surgically-implanting the HeartMate II in patients with advanced stage heart failure. Dr. Gheeta Bhat says it's intended for patients who aren't eligible for a transplant or are waiting for a donor heart.

Someone like Johnny McCann of Chicago. He's the nation's longest-surviving HeartMate II patient. When he received the device 5 years ago at the age of 55, he says his heart was pumping only at about 10 percent on its own. "I couldn't walk across the room - I was out of breath."

Now he says his life has been given back to him so that he can still enjoy time with his daughter and 4 grandchildren.

Contents of this site are Copyright 2010 by WBBM.