

April 17, 2001

Robert Mendez, M.D., President  
"One Legacy" Organization  
2200 W. Third Street, 4th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Dear Dr. Mendez:

Yesterday, I saw you kick off "National Organ Donor Awareness Week" with a television interview on NBC Channel 4. I thought you articulated the facts surrounding this important issue very well and am hopeful that your message will encourage more people to choose organ donation as a life saving option at the time of their demise.

I am one of those whose life was saved by receiving a new lung at UCLA in 1999. It truly has made me a new person and I will be forever indebted to the family that made me the object of their generosity. I have been trying to find a way to repay society for this wonderful gift and I believe I have a good idea on how to do that.

The thought I have is for the entry of a float in the Pasadena Rose Parade, decorated by organ recipients and their loved ones, celebrating the gift of life and honoring the donor families who have shown their unselfish dedication to the well-being of others. The float and "color" commentary that would accompany it would be seen and heard by some 350 million people and would focus substantial positive attention and, hopefully, responses to appeals for organ and tissue donations. The exposure would put a more human face on this somewhat abstract subject and completing a project of this sort would certainly generate a feeling of accomplishment for those involved.

I have contacted the Tournament of Roses office in Pasadena to explore this idea and the person with whom I spoke, Wendy Mathis, was warm to the suggestion. However, she said that a float entry of this sort must be sponsored by a recognized organization or business. Further, the sponsor would have to submit an application for consideration by the Tournament's "Float Entries Committee" before proceeding further. She sent me the enclosed information packet to acquaint me with the process.

With that somewhat lengthy background, I'll get to the question. Will your organization sponsor a float of the type I have described? I am told that float costs start at \$50,000. That is a substantial amount of money, of course, but I have been told that a humanitarian project like this might generate interest and financial support from pharmaceutical companies and transplant centers as well as from individuals who have been somehow touched by these medical miracles. I recognize, of course, that you are more adept at assessing this aspect of the proposal.

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If you are willing to do this, I will do everything I can to work with you to make this happen. It is likely too late to enter a float this year but I have no doubt that we could have an entry ready for the January 2003 parade. I am not a professional float building organizer but I have some contacts that might be able to assist with information on how to manage the process as well as helping to recruit float decoration volunteers. I would be willing to write letters to generate support and contributions for the project and to enlist volunteers. I would also be willing to study the float construction process to determine what the needs are at that level and to lend my knowledge and physical support to the effort

Can I count on your support? If so, please call so we can discuss what the next step should be. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,



Gary Foxen

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