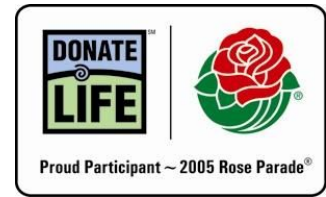


2005 Donate Life Rose Parade® Float



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DONATE LIFE RETURNS TO ROSE PARADE WITH 23 EXTRAORDINARY RIDERS HERALDING LIFE-SAVING ORGAN, TISSUE DONATION

Riders Include Columbine Survivor and Family of Nicholas Green

Los Angeles, Calif. – Sept. 7, 2004 – Twenty-three people from across the U.S. will ride proudly down Colorado Boulevard on New Year’s Day to demonstrate how many families benefit from the gift of organ and tissue donation. A nationwide partnership of organizations united to inspire all people to “Donate Life” through organ and tissue donation today announced the featured riders representing living donors, donor family members and transplant recipients whose presence on the float underscores the float theme, *Many Families, One Gift*.

“Family is the core of the celebration of life, and the gift of organ and tissue donation saves, enhances and strengthens the lives of thousands of individuals and their loved ones every year,” said Bryan Stewart, chairman of the Donate Life Rose Parade Float organizing committee and director of communications for OneLegacy, the transplant donor network serving 17 million people in Southern California. “Our float promises to bring a distinct dimension to the Tournament of Roses Parade theme, Celebrate Family. Donation is a celebration for both those whose health and families are renewed by organ or tissue transplantation, but also for donor families who honor their loved ones’ legacies of caring and generosity.”

Float riders include the family of **Nicholas Green**, the young boy whose murder in Italy 10 years ago this month and subsequent donation of multiple organs spurred a global donation movement called “The Nicholas Effect.” **The Green** family is joined by 10 pairs of float riders who illustrate how families are strengthened through the power of organ and tissue donation and transplantation. The riders, ranging in age from 13 to 75, hail from communities throughout the nation, including California, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Oklahoma. Complete information on all riders is now available by clicking in on the Rose Parade 2005 icon at www.onelegacy.org.

Kacey Ruegsegger and her sister, **Britney Ruegsegger**, will come from Littleton, Col. to celebrate the gift of bone tissue that enabled Kacey to keep and use her arm and hand following shotgun blasts in the library at Columbine High School. Kacey, who is completing her nursing degree, acknowledged that “my experience with Columbine really did help me want to become a nurse. While I was in the hospital fighting horrible injuries, I had such wonderful nurses that

made such a difference in my recovery and taking care of my family as well. I want to make that kind of difference in other people's lives.”

From the East Coast come sisters **Deborah Quick** and **Mary Palmer** of Staten Island, N.Y. and Somerset N.J., who donated the organs and tissues of both a brother and sister. In Darien Center, N.Y., husband and wife **Ellie and Dan Tomczak** have experienced both sides of donation: Ellie survived due to a kidney transplant, and Dan later donated his kidney anonymously. The recipient turned out to be Michael Stern of Deerfield Beach, Fla., who met Dan a year ago, talks with him regularly, and feels deeply that “Dan is inside me. He is me.”

More than 86,000 Americans currently await organ transplants, while every year hundreds of thousands of people need donated tissue to prevent or cure blindness, heal burns or save limbs. In 2004, America celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first successful organ transplant—a miracle of modern medicine that for two generations has paved the way for hundreds of thousands of individuals and their families to enjoy longer, fuller lives together.

According to David Fleming, executive director of the Coalition on Donation, “the Rose Parade offers a unique setting to inspire more than 30 million viewers to make the commitment to donate life, discuss organ and tissue donation with their families, and sign up to be donors in states with donor registries.”

Fifteen of the riders are transplant recipients and seven are donors or donor family members. In addition to the families described above, float rider families include:

- **Lynn Allred**, 49, of Carteret, N.J., who received a kidney from friend **Tammy Schlesinger**, 43, also of Carteret;
- **Nancy Eluskie**, 62, of River Ridge, Mich., who donated tissue to nephew **Tim Eluskie**, 40, of Pinckney, Mich.;
- **Derrick Floyd**, 40, and son **D.J. Floyd**, 13, of Charlotte, N.C., who celebrate Derrick’s kidney transplant;
- **Nimfa Melesio**, 41, and daughter **Susana Melesio**, 15, of Berwyn, Ill., who celebrate Nimfa’s new life after a liver transplant;
- **Chyrrel and Richard Mock, Jr.**, 57 and 65 respectively, of Edmond, Okla., who donated the tissue of their daughter Anna, who was killed in a car accident;

- **Kelly Olmo**, 17, who survived neonatal hepatitis by receiving a liver transplant at age two, and her mother, **Cathy Olmo**, 46, of Pleasanton, Calif.;
- **Analia Quintanar**, 19, of Bellflower, Calif., who received a kidney from her twin sister, **Liliana Quintanar**, of La Puente, Calif.

Spearheaded by Coalition on Donation member OneLegacy, *Many Families, One Gift* is supported by dozens of official partners from across the nation, including organ and tissue recovery organizations, for-profit contributors, transplant centers and transplant recipient organizations.

The 116th Rose Parade, themed *Celebrate Family*, will take place on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005 at 8:00am PST featuring spirited marching bands from throughout the nation, majestic floral floats and high-stepping equestrian units. The *Many Families, One Gift* float will present a park scene in full blossom with families enjoying the simple pleasures of everyday life. The scene is accented by the symbols of life: water flowing gracefully in a fountain, a bridge linking people together, and a majestic full-grown tree.

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(Editor's Note: A list of float riders, the float rendering and list of official partners as of September 2004 follows.)

Tim Eluskie	Tissue recipient	40	M	Purchasing	Pinckney, MI		
Derrick Floyd	Kidney recipient	40	M	Truck driver	Charlotte, NC	Derrick Floyd, a 40-year-old kidney transplant recipient, and his son D.J. are featured in the Coalition on Donation's award-winning public service announcement campaign. "Since the transplant, there are so many things I can do," Floyd said. "Walk my dog, go to the park with my family. Having a new kidney has given me another chance at life. I can never forget that I'm alive today because someone, at some point said, 'I'm going to become an organ donor.'"	
D.J. Floyd	Son of kidney recipient	13	M	Student	Charlotte, NC		NA
Reg Green	Donor father	75	M	Author and Co-Founder, Nicholas Green Foundation	La Canada, CA	Seven year-old Nicholas Green of California was killed by highway robbers in 1994 while vacationing in Italy with his family. His parents agreed to donate his organs and corneas, which went to seven Italians waiting for transplants. Reg and Maggie Green spoke openly to the media, with no bitterness, about their loss and decision. The world took the story--and the Greens--to its heart. In the first few days after his death, the number of people signing organ donor cards in Italy quadrupled. Donations there last year were almost triple the rate they were in the year before he died.	
Maggie Green	Donor mother	43	F	Co-Founder, Nicholas Green Foundation	La Canada, CA		NA
Eleanor Green	Donor sister	14	F	Student	La Canada, CA		NA

2005 Donate Life Rose Parade® Float Float Riders (cont'd)

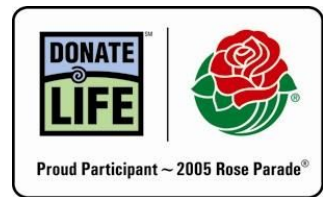
Name	Rel'ship to Donation	Age	Sex	Occupation	Hometown	Notes
Nimfa S. Melesio	Liver recipient	41	F	Payroll clerk	Berwyn, IL	Nimfa's liver transplant was preceded by 15 years of sickness. "Susana was always by my side," she said. "After transplantation, I vowed to do everything I wish I had done in my life, including attending college. Now, after graduating, I am reuniting with my family. I'm no longer stuck with my nose in a book."
Susana Melesio	Daughter of liver recipient	15?	F	Student	Berwyn, IL	

Chyrrel Mock	Donor mother	57	F	National Representative, Donor Family Network, American Red Cross Transplantatio n Services	Edmond, OK	
Dick Mock	Donor father	65	M	Oklahoma Diamond Exchange	Edmond, OK	

Cathy Olmo	Mother of liver recipient	46	F	Community Outreach Coordinator, California Transplant Donor Network	Pleasanton, CA	Kelly Olmo, born with neonatal hepatitis and given less than one week to live, received a liver transplant just after her second birthday. Kelly is now a senior at Amador High School in Pleasanton, has been active in sports, and was a national spokesperson for Saturn Donor Day in 2000. Says Kelly's mother Cathy, "It has been 15 years since Kelly was transplanted. We are in awe that a family in the most tragic moment of their lives chose to help a perfect stranger. We think of her donor family and thank them in our hearts every day."
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Kelly Olmo	Liver recipient	17	F	Student	Pleasanton, CA
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Mary Palmer	Tissue donor sister	54	F	Retired	Somerset, NJ	
Deborah Quick	Tissue donor sister	50	F	School food service manager	Staten Island, NY	
Analia Quintanar	Kidney recipient	19	F	Student	Bellflower, CA	NA
Liliana Quintanar	Living kidney donor	19	F	Real estate agent assistant	La Puente, CA	
Kacey Ruegsegger	Tissue recipient	22	F	Nurse	Littleton, CO	NA
Britney Ruegsegger	Sister of tissue recipient	20	F	College student	Littleton, CO	
Dan Tomczak	Living kidney donor	55	M	Retired/Student	Darien Center, NY	<p>Ellie Tomczak gradually lost kidney function starting in December 1983 caused by glomerular sclerosis. On August 4, 1999, just as Ellie was preparing herself to begin dialysis, a donor organ became available. After Ellie received her kidney transplant, her husband Dan was so grateful for the gift his wife received that he wanted to give another person the opportunity for renewed life. In the spring of 2002, Dan donated a kidney to a perfect stranger.</p>
Ellie Tomczak	Kidney recipient	54	F	Clerk/Receptionist	Darien Center, NY	



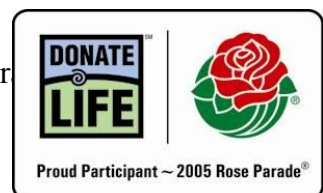
“Many Families, One Gift”

Family is the core of the celebration of life, and the gift of organ and tissue donation saves, enhances and strengthens “Many Families” who are touched by the “One Gift” of life.

Organ and tissue donation is a celebration for not only those whose health and families are renewed by organ or tissue transplantation, but also to donor families who honor their loved ones’ legacies of caring and generosity.

The Donate Life Rose Parade® float will feature 23 people representing living donors, donor family members and transplant recipients, all enjoying a sunny day in the park surrounded by symbols of life: a beautiful three-tiered water fountain; an elegant garden bridge; an ornate gazebo; and a sturdy tree. The riders will consist of eleven family pairings who, be they directly related or sharing a close bond, illustrate how families are strengthened through the power of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

The float’s many official partners and hundreds of volunteers encourage worldwide to “Donate Life” by choosing to be an organ and tissue donor.



2005 Donate Life Rose Parade® Float

Official Partners*

Benefactors

OneLegacy

Patrons

AlloSource
American Red Cross Transplantation Services
California Transplant Donor Network
Coalition on Donation
Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network

Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation
New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network
RTI Donor Services
Upstate New York Transplant Services, Inc.

Contributing Partners

American Liver Foundation Greater Los Angeles Chapter
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
Barr Laboratories, Inc.
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center - Center for
Liver & Kidney Diseases & Transplantation
Donor Alliance
Donor Network of Arizona
Health Promotions Now
LDT Systems, Inc.
Life Alliance Organ Recovery Agency,
University of Miami
Life Connection of Ohio
LifeBanc
Lifeline of Ohio

LifeShare Of The Carolinas
LifeShare Transplant Donor Services of Oklahoma
Lifesharing Community Organ & Tissue Donation
Loma Linda University Medical Center Transplantation
Institute
Mid-South Transplant Foundation
Nevada Donor Network
Phoenix Decorating Co.
Sallop Insurance Agency, Inc.
St. Joseph Hospital
UCLA Healthcare
Vesta Therapeutics, Inc.
Washington Regional Transplant Consortium

Friends

American Medical Bill Review
Fiji Water
Gift of Life Donor Program
Home Depot of Orange
LifeChoice Donor Services

LifeQuest Organ Recovery Services
New York Organ Donor Network
Organ Recovery Systems
Tennessee Donor Services
Wisconsin Donor Network

Promotional Partners

National Kidney Foundation
Transplant Recipients International Organization,
Ventura County/West Valley

United Organ Transplant Association

** as of 6/11/04*