

2013 COMMEMORATIVE YEARBOOK  
10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

*Journeys of the Heart*

**DONATE LIFE**

**2013 ROSE PARADE**



**DONATE LIFE**

**ROSE PARADE FLOAT**

EST. 2004



*Journeys of the Heart*



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## ONELEGACY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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## WELCOME TO PASADENA!

**W**e are so very excited that you are here to join us! Whether you are here to celebrate your second chance at life, honor and celebrate a loved one's legacy, or are just inspired to be a part of this remarkable experience, we welcome you!

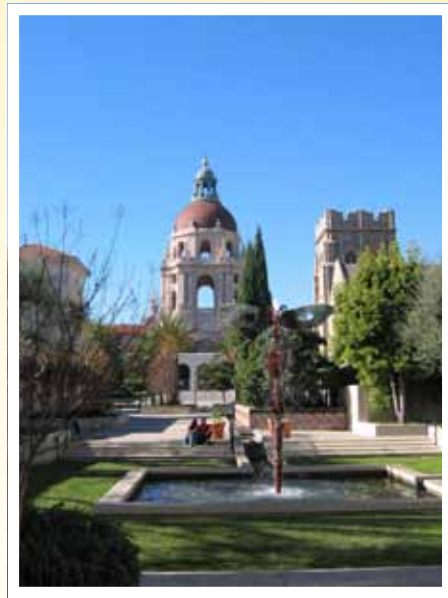
We hope that your time in Pasadena becomes a cherished memory that you hold dear to your heart for years to come. If there is anything we can do to help make your experience more memorable, please do not hesitate to ask.

To help you remember this remarkably emotional and at times overwhelming experience, we invite you to take this yearbook with you to companion you along the way. We hope that you will find an abundance of useful information along with the opportunity to write down your thoughts, collect pictures, and record contact information of your new life-long friends.

We welcome you to the Donate Life Rose Parade Float family and hope that you will look back on your experience years from now and your heart will be warmed by the wonderful memories made during your journey to Pasadena.

Warmest Wishes,

*Donate Life Rose Parade  
Float Committee*



### DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT COMMITTEE

Bryan Stewart	Anne Grey	Tom Mone
Glenn Abercrombie	Kathleen Hostert	Kevin Monroe
Thomas Asfeldt	Stephanie Jansky	Simera Nichols
Rivian Bell	Chrissy Jenkins	Erika Ospina Awad
Ester-Marie Carmichael	Annie Kiefhaber	Lisa Rhodes
Christina Courtney	Kari Kozuki	Renee Rhodes
Steve Ferkau	Karen Libs	Bryan Stewart
Gary Foxen	Randa Lipman	Amy Waterman
Mary Ganikos	Ginny McBride	Ann Wennerberg
Elisse Glennon	Betty McNamara	

## DEAR DONATE LIFE FLOAT FRIENDS,

On behalf of the Donate Life Rose Parade Float Committee, I welcome you to America's Donate Life Celebration. Our theme this year, of course, is "Journeys of the Heart." We chose this theme not only for how it relates to the experiences of those affected by our cause, but because of how it describes our path from one man's inspiration to a national tradition. As we look back from the vantage point of our tenth Rose Parade float entry, it has truly been a journey of the heart.

For me, this journey began one week after I joined OneLegacy, when Karen Libs shared a letter from lung recipient Gary Foxen suggesting a simple but powerful vision: a Rose Parade float that would thank donors and celebrate what transplant makes possible.

I saw the possibility of a future that would require the belief and participation of many. In addition to OneLegacy CEO Tom Mone, many of those honored with the Gary P. Foxen Inspiration Award made essential contributions as volunteers and visionaries in their own right.

Of course, none of this would be possible without OneLegacy's Communications and Aftercare teams, who have worked tirelessly each holiday season in service of our Rose Parade participation; dozens of sponsors whose confidence and creativity inspired our evolution; thousands of volunteers, some of whom who have decorated all ten years; and more than six hundred float riders and floragraph families whose love is felt long after they gift us with their participation.

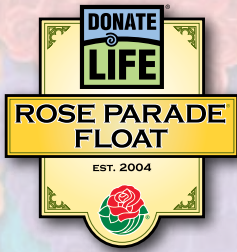
As all of us who have contributed to our tradition know only too well, it has never been just about the float. It is about what the float makes possible:

- A place to grieve, remember and celebrate
- A platform to amplify our cause nationally and internationally
- A centerpiece around which our national community could align

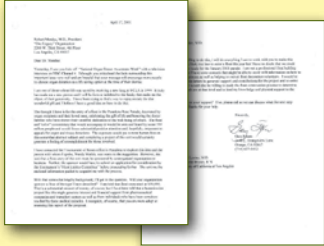
Ten years later, these possibilities have come fully into being at a level that none of us could have ever imagined when we began. Both personally and professionally, this has been a highlight of my life. I hope that you will also find your journey of the heart a meaningful and rich experience.

Sincerely,





# OUR JOURNEY



Letter from Gary Foxen envisions a donation-themed Rose Parade float



OneLegacy launches planning committee



2003: Tournament of Roses accepts application



Inaugural float unveiled at Coalition on Donation

*First sponsor: Vesta Therapeutics*



2008's "Life Takes Flight" wins Judges' Special Trophy



First floragraph decorated outside Pasadena



Floragraphs introduced



2007: First hospital rose ceremony



Colorado hosts first floragraph finishing event



2009's "Stars of Life" wins Queen's Trophy



"New Life Rises" wins 2010 Theme Trophy



2011 Theme Trophy aims to "Seize the Day!"

*Parade's first-ever abstract design*

*Floragraph events proliferate*

# OF THE HEART



Float decorating begins



30 million viewers see "A Symphony of Life" in 2004 Rose Parade



Rechristened as "Donate Life" float



"Many Families, One Gift" in 2005 Rose Parade



Seven living donors ride "Giving from the Heart" in 2007 Rose Parade



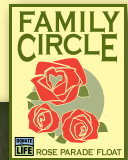
"Life Transformed" survives stormy 2006 parade



First rose placement ceremony



First rose dedication received



*First participant from Canada*

*"Done Vida" debuts*



2012's "...One More Day" wins Judges' Special Trophy



Nearly 3,000 news stories since 2003

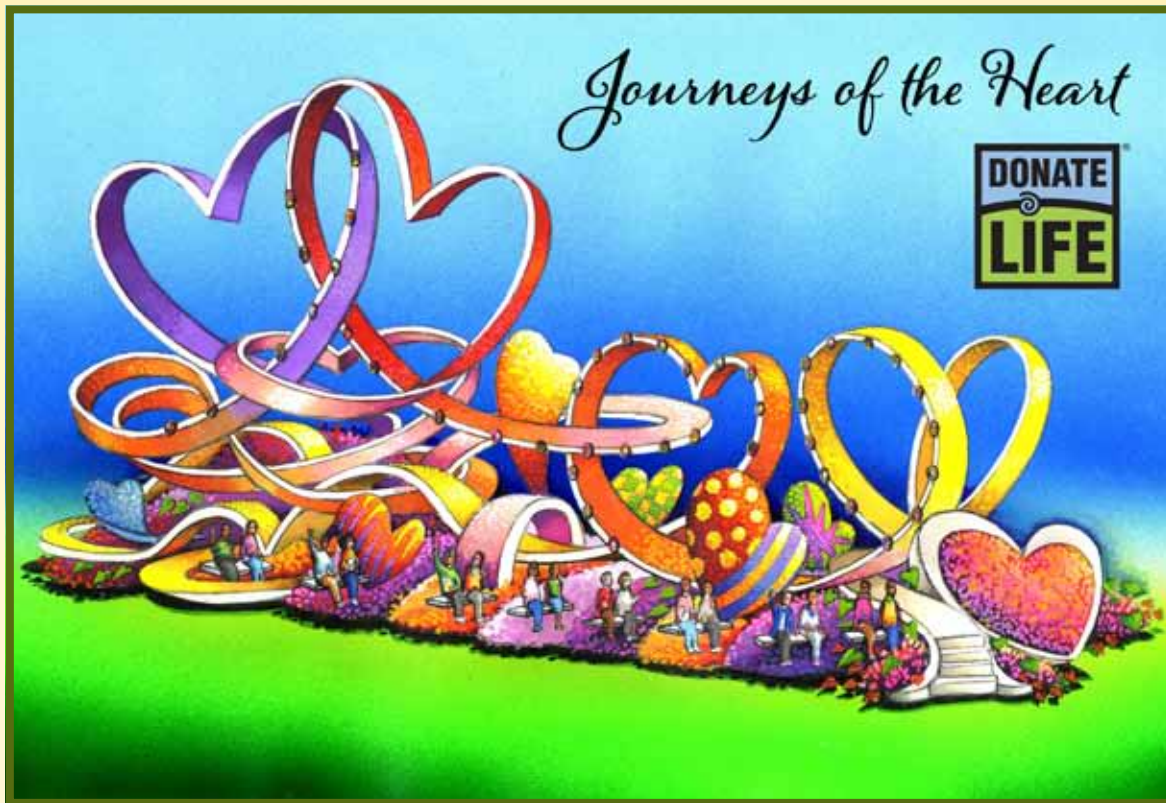


"Journeys of the Heart" involves 130 sponsors, 46 OPOs, 40 hospitals

**AMERICA'S DONATE LIFE CELEBRATION**

Our journey continues...

*Floragraphs from Canada, Japan & Taiwan*



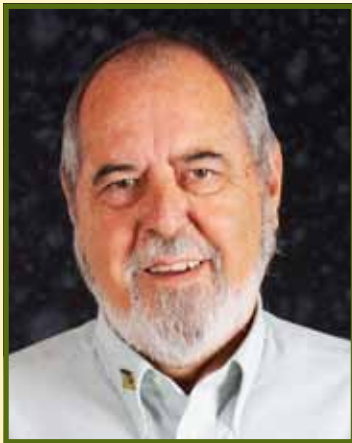
**T**he ups and downs of life teach us many lessons, with those experienced through organ and tissue donation and transplantation being among the most profound. Donor families pass through grief on the way to peace and remembrance; living donors step forward to give love and life to others; and transplant recipients courageously move forward from harrowing illness to health and gratitude. Though our paths vary from the places we start, we are all connected on our Journeys of the Heart.

Inspired by the 2013 Rose Parade® theme “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!™,” the tenth Donate Life Rose Parade float entry will transport 32 riders representing deceased organ, eye and tissue donors, living donors, and transplant recipients through a magical, heart-filled world encompassing the highs and lows that life has to offer. A pathway of looping hearts is lined with 72 memorial florigraph portraits of deceased donors who are remembered every step of the way. The float’s collection of joyful hearts representing the new life made possible by transplantation is grounded by a reverent dedication garden filled with roses bearing personal messages honoring those who make the gift of life possible. The journey peaks with overlapping red and purple hearts representing the love and courage that define humanity at its best.

Donate Life urges viewers to join America’s 105 million registered donors so everyone whose life depends on a transplant can have one. Sign up as an organ, eye and tissue donor when renewing your driver’s license or by visiting [www.DonateLifeAmerica.org](http://www.DonateLifeAmerica.org).

# DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT FLOAT RIDER CLASS OF 2013

The 32 riders aboard “Journeys of the Heart” represent millions of people touched by organ and tissue donation, including donor families, living donors, transplant recipients and transplant candidates.



**JOHN BEERS**  
HEMET, CA

John Beers was diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease at age 25. As an avid mountain climber and backpacker who still worked full time, failing kidneys and dialysis three times a week made life very difficult. That all changed in August 2005, when five years on the waiting list ended with a kidney transplant. Two years after his transplant, John joined his sons to climb Mt. Whitney, where he made it to 12,000 feet. Said the two-time Donate Life Ambassador of the Year for OneLegacy, “I received my second chance at a new life thanks to the generosity of my donor family.”



**NEAL BIRRA**  
CORAL SPRINGS, FL

On May 12, 2006, Neal Bira suffered a heart attack that damaged his heart so severely that he would need a transplant to survive. Because of his critical condition, Neal was placed at the top of the transplant waiting list and shortly after received a heart. Upon meeting his donor family, Neal was inspired to create the Organ Donor Awareness Foundation, which seeks to increase organ donor awareness, raise money for education and life’s necessities, and provide professional support for the children and families of organ donors. “Someone gave me life,” said Neal. “In return I am compelled to give back.”



**VALERIE  
VANDERVORT BOYER**  
CLAREMORE, OK

Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at six weeks of age, Valerie Vandervort was listed for transplant in 1999. She waited almost two years for a double lung transplant, receiving her gift of life from 15-year-old Colbey Oglesby just in time for her 30th birthday. Since her transplant, Valerie can breathe without oxygen, talk in complete sentences, sing, take showers and clean house. She has participated in the U.S. Transplant Games five times and won six medals. In 2010, Colbey’s parents cheered for Valerie at the Games. “I thank God for all my blessings, and my donor, and her family,” said Valerie. “I know I am truly blessed.”





**CHASE CASPERSEN**  
BOELUS, NE

Chase Caspersen was diagnosed with bone cancer one day after his ninth birthday. There was only one cure: removal of the bone and tumor. After chemotherapy and transplant of bone graft from a donor, Chase is now a very active sixth grader. Grateful for his second chance and inspired by the service dogs that visited him in the hospital, Chase had the idea to sell dog toys to benefit pediatric cancer research. PetSmart made the program national and Chase hopes his initiative will help children for years to come. As Chase's mom said, his donor "truly is the most honored person in his life."



**ERNESTO BRAVO CHAVEZ**  
PALM SPRINGS, CA

When Ernesto Bravo Chavez was three years old, he was frequently sick. One day he became very ill; his kidneys had failed. He had to start dialysis and was eventually listed for a kidney transplant. After 15 months of dialysis and complications due to severe asthma, Ernesto received a kidney transplant on October 5, 2005. "My donor, Gabriel Barajas, is a hero to me," said Ernesto. "Besides being a soldier, he gave me a second chance to live." Thanks to his donor, Ernesto is able to eat what he wants, take a shower or a dip in the pool. "Without my hero, I wouldn't be a normal kid," affirmed Ernesto.



**TROY DEJOOODE**  
ANKENY, IA

On May 6, 2010, Troy DeJooode received devastating news: A pickup truck broadsided his wife Heather's minivan. Riding with her were their children, five-year-old Carson, three-year-old Chase and five-month-old Claire. Chase was hurt but would recover. Carson and Claire were both resuscitated, but would succumb to their injuries in the days that followed. "I realized that organ donation was Carson's chance to be the hero that he knew himself to be," said Troy. The following day, his wife still in a coma, Troy was faced with making the same decision for his daughter Claire. Since Carson's and Claire's donations, Troy is active in the transplant community, telling their stories to trauma teams, hospital executives and state legislators.



**MICHELE SHANAHAN DEMOSS**  
INDEPENDENCE, MO

Michele Shanahan DeMoss knew her daughter Blair didn't have a problem with teddy bears. Blair's problem was babies' cold, bare feet. Each time a foster child came into her family's care, Blair asked, "Why do they always have stuffed animals, but no one can find them socks?" Determined to fix the problem, 11-year-old Blair envisioned Foster Socks, a program to provide socks to foster and homeless children. Blair's dream was dashed when she was fatally shot by a nearby Fourth of July reveler, but Foster Socks did not die with Blair, who gave new life to at least six people as a donor. "She would have gotten this done," said Michele. "Now it's up to us."



**LEILAH DOWSARI**  
LOMA LINDA, CA

Then known only as "Baby Eve," 26-year-old Leilah Dowsari made international headlines in January 1986 when she became the first female newborn to receive a heart transplant. The first newborn ever listed on the national waiting list, Leilah received a heart from 10-day-old "Baby Eric" of Atlanta, Ga. on her 17th day of life. Two more heart transplants in the quarter-century since her groundbreaking procedure made it possible for Leilah to have a baby of her own, Gabriel, in August 2011.



**DAVID ECKSTEIN**  
SANFORD, FL

2006 World Series MVP David Eckstein is immersed in the world of kidney disease. "My father, two sisters and brother all have it," said David. He has offered to be a living donor to his sister, like his mother and brother have been to other members of his family. "Throughout my life and career as a professional baseball player, knowing the daily struggles of my family has always been a driving force for me to never take a day for granted," said David. "I felt it was my obligation to always do my best, and when the time comes, I will be proud to add kidney donor to my list of achievements."





**RICK ECKSTEIN**  
SANFORD, FL

Rick Eckstein, hitting coach for the Washington Nationals, woke up one morning in September 2010 gripped by a thought he was unable and unwilling to shake. Rick knew at that moment that he was going to donate a kidney to his brother Ken, one of four immediate family members who had received kidney transplants. Two months later, Rick's kidney was transplanted into Ken, who returned to the full life he had enjoyed since receiving his first kidney transplant in 1991. As for Rick, his life has not skipped a beat: last year he married wife Caroline and he continues to give his all to his coaching career.



**JONATHAN FINGER**  
WESTMINSTER, CO

Diagnosed with a rare kidney disease, Jonathan Finger received a transplant from his mother in 2002, but the organ soon rejected completely. In 2009, after seven years of dialysis and open-heart surgery, Jonathan was re-activated on the transplant waiting list, but his doctor was not optimistic a match could be found, and Jonathan girded for long-term dialysis. Miraculously, two weeks later, Jonathan was preparing for transplant surgery. Jonathan later developed a wonderful relationship with the family of his donor, Taylor Storch. "Every aspect of my life has improved dramatically, and I'm so thankful," said Jonathan. "Thank God for Taylor and her gift to me."



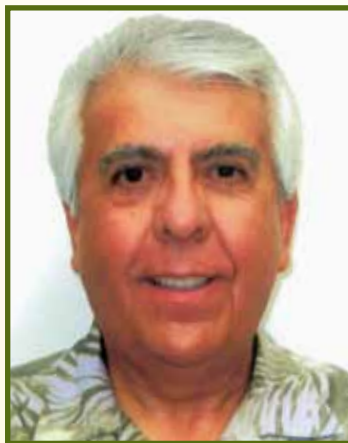
**ALFONSO GARCIA**  
PINOLE, CA

Alfonso Garcia was 15 when sudden fatigue revealed that a genetic disease was destroying his liver. Without a transplant, he would die. His prayers and those of his family were answered when a liver became available. Alfonso's transplant has given him renewed focus on what's important in life. "I was on the edge of dying, and through a miracle, I am alive today," said Alfonso. "It's because of a donor and his gift." Alfonso thanks his donor, 22-year-old George Becker, for making it possible to him to go to college and volunteer with the California Transplant Donor Network. "I think about George every day."



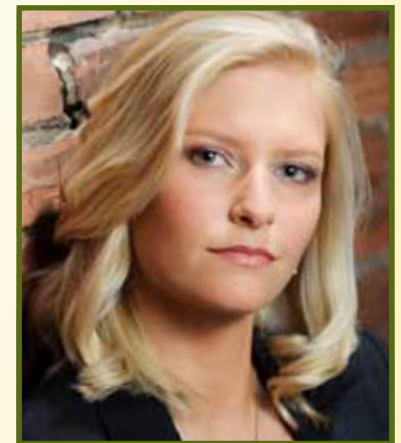
**CAROLYN HENRY GLASPAY**  
CINCINNATI, OH

Carolyn Henry Glaspay's life changed the morning of Dec. 17, 2009. Just when her son, Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chris Henry, was beginning to turn his troubled life around, he experienced a fatal fall. When Carolyn learned that Chris, 26, had suffered irreversible brain death, she made the decision to donate his organs. Eleven months after her son's death, Carolyn's tearful meeting with the four recipients of Chris's gift of life brought her closure. Since then, Carolyn has been called to tell people about her journey and the importance of being an organ and tissue donor.



**JOE GUTIERREZ**  
LITTLETON, CO

When Joe Gutierrez talks about salmon fishing, traveling and even skydiving, it's hard to imagine that less than a year ago, he was at risk of losing his arm. Joe was diagnosed with a noncancerous progressive giant cell tumor on his shoulder. Six months after the tumor was removed, it returned with a vengeance. Joe's doctor replaced a large portion of Joe's shoulder and upper arm with bone from a deceased donor, saving his arm from amputation. Joe hopes to meet his donor family someday. "I would love to thank them," said Joe. "I would really appreciate the chance to tell them my story and how much they have helped me."



**EMILY HENWOOD**  
OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

In August 2011, Emily Henwood's brother Jeremy was killed in the line of duty, and she was heartbroken. Jeremy was registered to be an organ donor, and was able to donate after he died. Life after Jeremy was killed was difficult for Emily. "I had to seek counseling to understand why such a terrible thing had to happen to our family," recalled Emily. Emily found strength, however, in Jeremy's donation of organs to two women. "His choice to be an organ donor has given us all a sense of honor and pride," said Emily. "The world is a better place because of my brother Jeremy and I am proud to be his sister."



**LARRY E. JOHNSON**  
BAYTOWN, TX

A Grammy Award-winning bassist, Larry Johnson is also a 60-year-old survivor of heart disease. After living with heart problems for almost 50 years, Larry was told he needed a new heart in 2009. He received a heart later that year, and Larry's gratitude for his gift of life knows no bounds. "After healing from the heart transplant surgery, I began to feel like a new person," said Larry. I am now able to spend quality time with my family, continue to make music and do a little fishing, too. I am truly a blessed man and my wife and I will be forever grateful to my donor and his family."



**MARIA KNOWLTON**  
WALKERTON, IN

Maria Knowlton knew from an early age that her life was not normal. Maria was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at birth and spent every day thereafter, along with her parents, caring for her lungs. She would eventually need a lung transplant, which she received in April 2000. "Life since my transplant has been so weird in that it's normal," shared Maria. She no longer has to spend all day taking care of her health. "I can spend that energy on our two beautiful children. I volunteer, teach Sunday school and serve as Cub Scout Master. My donor was a 42-year-old Ohioan and a hero."



**PETER DAVID LANG**  
GOLDEN, CO

Peter Lang was not quite 17 years old when his sister Perri lost her life. Perri was a strong-willed, spirited 20-year-old with beautiful blue eyes, an unforgettable smile and a lifelong love of softball. In the last few years of Perri's life, the siblings became closer than ever. Tragically, Perri died after sustaining injuries during a single-car accident on the street where she lived. "With time, I have realized what a great impact this unspeakably tragic event has had," said Peter. "With the gifts from my sister Perri, three lives were saved and many others have been changed. To me, there is nothing more special than the gift of life."



**VIVIAN LEFFERTS**  
NORMAL, IL

Vivian and Larry Lefferts honor the legacy of their son John, who died in 2004 at the age of 22 from an aortic aneurysm, by volunteering with Gift of Hope. John had registered his decision to be an organ and tissue donor, and through his donation of tissue he touched the lives of 37 recipients, including an army sergeant. After John's death, Vivian and Larry found a Gift of Hope bumper sticker among John's belongings. Knowing that John was a supporter of Gift of Hope and donation has brought them great comfort, and the Lefferts have encouraged thousands of people to join the state donor registry in his memory.



**KELLY LUCHINI**  
WILLISTON, VT

Kelly Luchini was 39 when she and her family had to unexpectedly say goodbye to her brother Michael, her senior by four years. When first approached with the opportunity to donate his organs, knowing Michael's caring nature, the family quickly concluded that donation is something he would have wished for. The memory of Michael's passing is difficult for Kelly, but the donation brings some comfort. "Knowing that there is someone out there living today as a direct result of a gift they received from Michael makes the pain of losing someone who was loved so much a bit more bearable," said Kelly.



**AMANDA MISSILDINE**  
TEMPE, AZ

Having been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease on her 12th birthday, doctor visits, hospital stays, needles and pills were just a part of growing up for Amanda Missildine. However, nothing could have prepared her for the spring of 2005, when Amanda went into liver failure. On Mother's Day 2005, she received a liver transplant and a second chance at life. After her experience, Amanda decided to become a nurse in the ICU where she was once a patient. "Working alongside the physicians and nurses that took care of me was a tremendous gift to be blessed with," said Amanda.



**AMY NASH**  
CLARENCE, NY

Amy Nash was diagnosed with end stage renal disease during her senior year in college. At age 23 she received her first kidney transplant in 1986. After 21 years, Amy's transplant failed and her friends were tested as potential donors. Amy's childhood friend was a match, and they had their surgeries in December 2008. Now, Amy volunteers as a way to express her gratitude to her two donors. As a little girl, Amy dreamt of being the Rose Queen. "On New Year's Day 2013, I will receive a far greater honor as one of the riders on the Donate Life Float in the Tournament of Roses Parade," said Amy.



**PATRICIA MARIE NELSON**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

In 2006, David Nelson was rushed to the hospital with an aneurysm. When it was clear that David would not survive, his mother Patricia and other family members were approached about donation. Because David had registered as a donor, his family did not have to make the decision on his behalf. Inspired by David's gift of life, his family and friends created the David Nelson Jr. Memorial Fund, which awards scholarships to children of donors. "We are committed to sharing David's compassion and desire to help others," said Patricia. "We are grateful to have had him in our lives and proud to remember him."



**VICKY NGUYEN**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

Shortly after Vicky Nguyen was born, she was diagnosed with biliary atresia, a potentially fatal liver condition. Just before she turned two, Vicky received her first liver transplant at UCLA Medical Center. Vicky received a second liver transplant in July 2000 at age 16. The difficult experiences Vicky has overcome have shown her how strong she is. "Believe it or not, having two transplants was a huge blessing in my life," said Vicky. "I don't take for granted that I've been a liver transplant survivor for more than 26 years. I'm able to turn my challenges into greater opportunities."



**CHARLES C. OKEKE**  
PHOENIX, AZ

After Charles Okeke's first heart transplant went into failure, he thought he might never receive another. To buy time, Charles received an artificial heart powered by a 400-pound driver. Because of the cumbersome size of the device, Charles remained in the hospital more than two years until he became the first patient in the U.S. to have a 13-pound portable version, allowing him to go home and resume life with his family. Less than one year later, against great odds Charles received a new heart and kidney. "There are no words to express my appreciation and respect for the family that made the courageous and generous decision to donate their loved one's organs – and my new heart," said Charles.



**SUE A. PASEWALD**  
HORICON, WI

Sue and Dave Pasewald tragically lost their 23-year-old daughter Christina in 2007. When the family was first asked about donation, Sue, still in shock, said "No," but Dave told her that this was something Christina would want to do. The couple said yes to tissue donation, and later learned that they had honored the donation sticker on Christina's driver's license. Today, Sue is a passionate volunteer for RTI Donor Services, speaking about donation in her community and sharing her story with others. "I have become aware of how many people are waiting for organs and tissues," said Sue. "Don't waste what could help someone else."



**CAITLYN PERSINGER**  
MUKWONAGO, WI

Caitlyn Persinger was 13 years old when she lost her brother Chris in a car accident. Chris had signed up to be a donor, and his tissues were recovered to help others. After Chris died, Caitlyn turned toward the one passion that Chris and she had shared: sports. A standout high school athlete, during a soccer game she tore her ACL and meniscus. In a miracle of fate, one last remaining tissue from Chris's donation was used to reconstruct Caitlyn's ACL. "I always knew Chris was watching over me, but I never thought he could be a part of me like he is now," said Caitlyn.





**MARK E. REAGAN**  
MORRISTOWN, NJ

In August 1995, two weeks after returning from a business trip to Brazil, Mark Reagan learned that a virus had damaged his heart; eventually he would need a heart transplant. Mark was admitted to the hospital in the fall of 2002, and five months later he received the gift of life. Since receiving his life-saving transplant, Mark has met and become close with his donor's family. Life's challenges also take on new meaning for Mark, who feels blessed with a new heart, a new family and a new life. "The bumps in the road of life don't quite seem the same after you've received a new heart."



**KEVIN RIEPL**  
WINNETKA, CA

In the blink of an eye, Kevin Riepl mysteriously suffered end-stage heart failure. His only hope was a new heart, and nine months later his need for a life-saving transplant was met. It was only six weeks after the heart transplant that doctors discovered the reason for Kevin's heart failure: a rare genetic tumor above his adrenal gland. Kevin is extremely grateful for his new heart, his donor and the donor's family, "I am here today because of my donor family. Not only have they given me a second chance at life, but very well saved the lives of my children and family members at risk of this genetic tumor."



**CLAUDIA SANCHEZ**  
CANOGA PARK, CA

Claudia Sanchez considers herself fortunate to have inherited diabetes from her parents. "Some people might think I'm crazy when I say this, but this condition has brought me the most amazing experiences," said Claudia. A kidney-pancreas transplant changed not only Claudia's health, but her outlook on life. "After her transplant, she decided to remain working in the dialysis field." I feel a deep and unique connection with my patients," said Claudia. One year after the transplant she ran her first marathon, which before would have been impossible. "When I crossed the finish line, the only thing on my mind was my donor and how thankful I am."



**SUSAN E. SPRAGUE**  
SYRACUSE, NY

At age four, Sue Sprague was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, and by her mid-30s it had taken a toll on her kidneys. Told she would need a kidney transplant, she received her gift of life in 1997 after one year on the waiting list. Of that momentous event fifteen years ago, Sue said, "That is a day I will never forget. I got my life back." Sue appreciates life, is very thankful for her second chance, and calls her donor, 39-year-old soldier Terry Brown, "My donor, my savior, my angel." This year she celebrated her 50th birthday and her 15th transplant anniversary, "All thanks to my hero, Terry."



**DENIEN VITTORIO WILDE**  
BRYAN, OH

In June 2008, Denien Wilde's husband Patrick discovered their two-month old son, Quinn, unresponsive and not breathing. Quinn had sustained severe brain damage, likely from a seizure that caused him to stop breathing. Once it was determined he would not recover, Denien and Patrick made the heartbreaking decision to remove their son from life support and let nature take its course. They also decided to donate his heart valves, helping to save the lives of two infant girls, one Quinn's age and the other five months old. It is the Wildes' great hope to continue to honor their son's memory and to provide strength and hope to others by sharing their story.



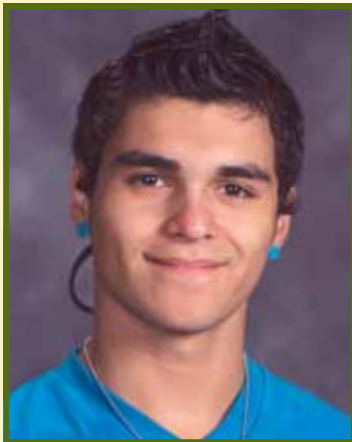
The Donate Life Dedication Garden offers donor families, transplant recipients and candidates, hospitals, transplant centers and organizations nationwide the opportunity to dedicate roses placed on the Donate Life float in the Rose Parade, which is watched by tens of millions of people in the U.S. and worldwide each New Year.

Each dedicated rose is placed in a vial that carries a unique, personal message of love, hope and remembrance, and honors donors, recipients and others touched by organ and tissue donation. Altogether, thousands of roses create a Dedication Garden that is a featured design element on the Donate Life float each year.



# DONATE LIFE ROSE PARADE FLOAT 2013 FLORAGRAPH HONOREES

Each year, the Donate Life float's floragraphs honor deceased organ, eye and tissue donors nationwide. Through these memorial portraits – most of which are decorated by the honorees' family members – we offer a tribute to them, their families, and donors everywhere.



**ANTHONY RAY  
ALVAREZ JR.**  
EASTVALE, CA

Anthony Ray Alvarez Jr. was an all-around good kid who had a positive attitude and lived life to the fullest. In April 2011, Anthony was enjoying a Sunday afternoon at the beach, when he suddenly got caught in a rip tide; tragically, he did not survive. Anthony had designated himself as a donor when he received his California ID, one year before. When his ID arrived, his mother asked why it had a donor sticker and Anthony replied, "When I'm gone, my organs aren't going to be any good to me. I'd rather they help someone else." That he did, for as many 100 people in need.



**GABRIEL BARAJAS**  
LOS ANGELES, CA

The third of four brothers, Gabriel Barajas was certified as a Police Explorer at only 15 years of age. He went into the armed forces and trained in Georgia and Texas, then deployed to Iraq for two years. During his tour of duty, he was part of the Special Forces team that captured the dictator. After completing his service in 2004, Gabriel's life was cut short by an accident on the highway. Seven years later, Gabriel's family has a close relationship with the recipient of one of his kidneys, Ernesto Chavez, who will ride the Donate Life float featuring Gabriel's floragraph.



**ERIC JAMES BARLAMENT**  
BRILLION, WI

In April 2003, Kari's husband Eric died in an auto accident. Miraculously, Kari and her unborn daughter survived. Kari donated her husband's tissues in accordance with his prior wishes. Their daughter Erica, born on her father's birthday, accompanied her mother to Pasadena where Kari rode the inaugural Donate Life Rose Parade Float. This past summer, Erica won the National American Miss Wisconsin Jr. Pre-Teen title. Her platform: the importance of organ and tissue donation. "The greatest gift my father has taught me is to not be selfish and help others whenever possible," said Erica. "He is forever with me in my heart and as my guardian angel watching over me from heaven."



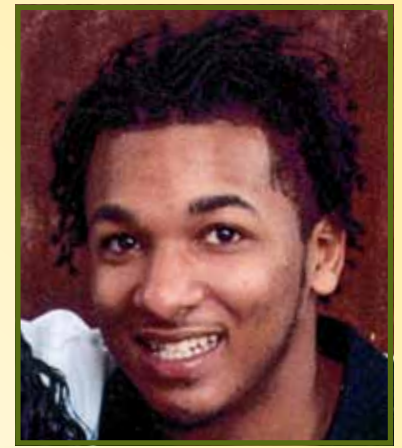
**ROBERT H. BARRENTINE**  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Robert Barrentine was a giant of a man, both physically and morally. He believed, above all, in family and in giving back. He served his country in the military, as a federal civilian, and in the community through the Boy Scouts of America. After 22 years in the U.S. Army, he worked as a civilian in the U.S. Dept. of Defense, from which he retired only months before his passing. His family feels that by donating his corneas after his sudden death from heart failure at age 62, Bob was able to continue his good works.



**GEORGE BECKER**  
LINCOLN, CA

In January 2010, 22-year-old George Becker was focused on going into the Navy. He was suffering from a bad sinus infection and thought he had beat it. But on Jan. 30, George became very ill and developed a severe headache. He was rushed to the hospital where he was later declared brain dead, the infection had reached his brain. George had registered as an organ donor which meant that he could save the lives of three people. One was a teenager, Alfonso Garcia, who is now 18 and a college student. Alfonso is a tireless advocate for donation who uses George's story to inspire students to register as donors when they obtain their driver's licenses. Alfonso will ride the Donate Life float beside his donor's portrait.



**MARALEIUS BIRDSONG**  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

Maraleius Gardner-Birdsong was a natural ball of fire with a tremendous sense of humor. Known for his popcorn and Game Stop visits, he was attending Trident Technical College and pursuing a degree in electrical engineering. To help pay his way through school, Maraleius worked as a delivery driver for Domino's Pizza. Three months after his job started, 20-year-old Maraleius was shot while making a delivery and died the next day. A registered organ donor, he was able to save the lives of five people, including a cousin battling kidney disease. He gave the gift of sight to two and helped countless others through tissue donation.



**NICHOLAS JOHN BOGIE**  
GROTON, VT

Nicholas John Bogie was a devoted husband and a loving father to his 14-month old son. He was an accomplished outdoorsman with an interest in hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, tractor pulling, ice fishing, and maple sugaring. On March 29, 2011, Nick had an accident at work and suffered severe brain damage. He died two days later at the age of 26. Nick's family decided to donate his organs and tissue. His brother said, "If everyone could have just a little piece of Nick, then this world would be a better place."



**DANNY L. BOST**  
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

Danny Bost would help anyone that he could, no matter what race or gender. He tried to instill this value in his children and grandchildren. "Dad taught his three girls to care for others as you would want them to care for you," said his daughter Christy. One morning in September 2010, Danny suffered a stroke and did not wake up after emergency surgery was completed. Danny's family knew Danny would want to help others by being a donor. According to his wife Jean, "Danny would be happy to know that he helped save many lives in his passing." With the gifts of his liver, kidneys, corneas and bone, he did just that.



**MATTHEW E. BOWERS**  
EL MONTE, CA

Alicia Menchaca's youngest son, Matthew Bowers, was the light of her life with a smile that would brighten any room. He would often stop playing with his older brother Artie to jump on her lap, squeeze her cheeks and tell her he loved her. In May 1999, at age three, he died after being hit by a car while crossing the street with a family member. As an organ donor, Matthew saved the lives of five individuals. Alicia was glad he served a mighty purpose and made an impact on the world at such a young age.



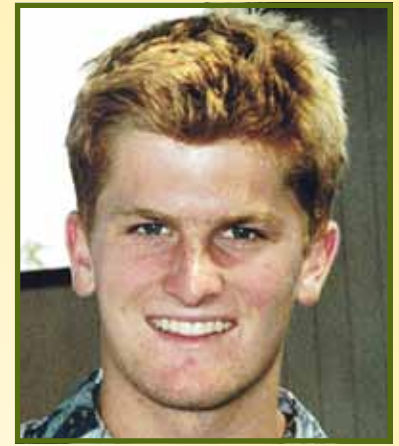
**BEN BREEDLOVE**  
AUSTIN, TX

From the age of 13 months, Ben Breedlove had to deal with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. As he grew up, he realized a heart transplant was a likely part of his future. Until that time, he managed his life and condition wisely, making videos, and wakeboarding so as not to overtax his heart. Even though his childhood included many hospital ICU stays, surgeries and treatments, he continued to be joyful, sensitive to others and giving. On Christmas Day 2011, 18-year-old Ben suffered a cardiac arrest – his fourth – and could not be resuscitated. Instead of receiving a heart transplant in his lifetime, Ben ended up giving tissue that would help more than 100 people.



**BRITTANY NICOLE CAIL**  
TORRANCE, CA

In January 2008, Brittany Nicole Cail was very proud to receive a driver's license in her newly adopted home state of Louisiana. Brittany told her mother Raquel that she had registered as an organ donor and wanted her eyes, her favorite feature, to be donated. Three months later, Brittany was in a severe car accident and died five days later. Four of Brittany's organs saved three lives, and her gifts of bone, skin and corneas helped people in need from at least ten states. Raquel carries on Brittany's legacy as a volunteer in the Los Angeles area, where Brittany graduated from high school.



**BRIAN SCOTT CAMPBELL**  
NEWPORT BEACH, CA

Blessed with athletic abilities, Brian Scott Campbell loved to play football, ride motocross, snowboard and water ski. He had tremendous love, loyalty, and devotion and an incredible zest for life. Brian had a unique ability to see the needs of others and was consistently there to help the young and the old. This was never more apparent than when, at age 17, he had a brain hemorrhage and died. Just six months prior to his death, he had told his family that he wanted to register as an organ donor to help save others. On January 9, 2001, Brian profoundly changed six lives by donating his heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and pancreas.



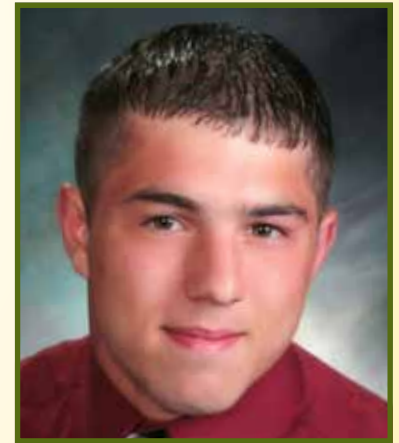
**ELLIOT CARBAJAL**  
ARLINGTON, WA

Elliot Carbajal, 40, was a kind, giving and caring man. He loved many things, especially his family and family gatherings. Although he didn't have much, he was generous with all he did have. He loved learning and helping others succeed, and often tutored children. During his lifetime, he donated more than six gallons of whole blood, platelets and plasma. One of his biggest wishes was to become an organ donor and help others even after his passing, which he did on December 16, 2009. Elliot continues to be a great inspiration and has motivated countless family members, friends and strangers to become organ donors and to donate blood regularly.



**ANDREA RENAE CLEVELAND**  
CORSICA, SD

"Wherever Andrea was, she always lit up the room," said Jeff Cleveland about his sweet, fun loving, spirited 16-year-old daughter, Andrea Cleveland. On November 1, 2011, Andrea lost control of her car while driving on an unfamiliar rural road, and later died from her injuries. Jeff and Marlene honored Andrea's decision to be an organ and tissue donor, which she had proudly marked on her driver's license. Andrea's gifts of organ donation saved the lives of five people, and her gifts of tissue donation will benefit people across the country. "I am so proud of her for doing this," said her mother Marlene.



**RYAN JOSEPH CONVERSE**  
WATERTOWN, NY

Ryan Joseph Converse grew up in a large, loving family with strong moral values. He excelled at many different sports and was a popular member of the community. On July 1, 2010, 21-year-old, Ryan was hit by a vehicle in front of his home. He was declared brain dead the next day. His parents, Joe and Vicki Converse, had decided to donate his organs to make "something positive out of this tragedy." Ryan was able to donate two kidneys and a liver that kept three fathers with their families. To keep his memory alive, his family established the Ryan Converse Memorial Foundation that has already raised \$12,500 for their local organ recovery agency and other local charities.



**SHELBY COOPER**  
LUCAS, OH

Shelby Ann Cooper was a fun-loving, outgoing 16-year-old involved in sports, 4-H, National Honor Society, and her church youth group. On Oct. 21, 2004, Shelby was in a single car accident and died from a brain injury. Her calling hours were a testimony to how many people she touched in her short life. Her family has corresponded with the recipients of Shelby's kidneys, pancreas and liver; they have met her kidney and pancreas recipient, who got married on her first transplant anniversary. "It is comforting to know Shelby saved three lives," said her mother Tammy. The Coopers established a scholarship in Shelby's memory at their local school and host a golf outing each June to support the fund.



**DALE ALAN COVINGTON**  
SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA

A former varsity football star and senior class president, Dale Alan Covington went on to become a Recreation Supervisor for his hometown, Santa Fe Springs. He loved his job and was a respected member of the city's administrative leadership team. In addition to enjoying cooking, music, gardening and buying the perfect gift, Dale also liked designing and building haunted houses. While working on one in 2006, he collapsed and died a few days later from a series of heart attacks. A registered donor, Dale was able to heal dozens of lives through tissue donation. The City of Santa Fe Springs flew the flag over City Hall at half-mast, an honor usually reserved for Federal, State and City Council members.



**LEXIE DAVIS**  
MEMPHIS, TN

After being diagnosed with epilepsy at age eight, Lexie Davis suffered seizures for more than half her life. However, she remained happy, humble and thoughtful, always trying to find the good in people. A student at East High School in Memphis, she excelled in art, sang in her church choir and enjoyed belly dancing. In August 2011, just weeks after turning 17, she suffered a seizure, fell in the tub and drowned. Her family asked about donation, and Lexie was able to donate organs and tissue. Her family now takes comfort in knowing Lexie's positive attitude carries on through the positive impact of her gifts of life.



**SALUSTIANO DE JESUS SANTIAGO**  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Everyone who met Sallustiano DeJesus – affectionately known by his family as "Chee-Chee" – found him to be a happy person, someone who truly enjoyed life. It came as such a shock to his relatives and friends when the 39-year-old father of two died in 2006, a week after suffering a stroke. But in death, as he did in life, Chee-Chee brought hope and joy to others. Mario Flores, 60, received his liver, and fifty-five-year-old Neal Bira, who will rider the Donate Life float in memory of Chee Chee, received his heart.



**MARY FRANCES DEFERRARI**  
LAFAYETTE, CA

Mary was a wife, mother, daughter, sister, student, and beloved friend who touched the lives of many people. She suffered for 20 years with seizures and migraines resulting from a congenital brain abnormality. Despite her health issues, Mary loved real estate and decided to become an architect. She was working on her degree when, at age 41, she underwent a surgery that she did not survive. Mary's spirit lives on in the lives of the people she saved, one of whom is Gary Foxen, who first envisioned a Donate Life float in the Rose Parade and has helped shepherd for ten years. Gary breathes with Mary's lung and has been in touch with Mary's daughter, Jessica. The two will meet for the first time when Jessica decorates her mother's floragraph.



**ALFREDO G. DIAZ**  
ONTARIO, CA

Alfredo Diaz moved to the U.S. from Cuba with his family when he was seven. From the time he was very young, Al loved designing and building things and decided he wanted to be an architect. After obtaining his degree, he practiced with different firms and also worked with the San Bernardino County Planning Department for several years. One of Al's passions was his service as a Tournament of Roses volunteer for more than 25 years; he even requested to be buried in the classic white suit and red tie that committee members wear during the parade. Al helped 50 to 150 people battling cancer, as well as cardiac patients, through his donation of corneas and tissue.



**JASON MICHAEL DODDS**  
ENCINITAS, CA

Jason Michael Dodds was a beloved brother, uncle and friend who passed away on June 2, 2005, at age 24. He was a fun, spirited, gracious, intelligent human being with a love of the ocean – the same color as his beautiful blue eyes that smiled with kindness and wisdom. He enjoyed all outdoor sports, nature, travel and movies, but for him, the love for family and friends always came first. When Jason’s family was told about organ donation, they understood the legacy that he could leave behind and that they would be honoring his wishes.



**MICHAEL S. DOHERTY JR.**  
BOXFORD, MA

Michael Doherty, Jr. was a caring and outgoing person whose main passions included motocross racing, his yellow GTO, and his baby brother Matthew. When Michael was 15, his family had a discussion about organ donation during which Michael voiced his support. Just three years later, in October 2009, Michael was a passenger in a fatal car accident. His parents knew they were following Michael’s wishes when they donated his organs, tissue and corneas. His family is comforted knowing that Michael’s love of life and his spirit of helping and giving lives on in others.



**JESUS FERNANDEZ**  
SANTA ANA, CA

Jesus Fernandez was a loving and caring father, son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend with a big heart. Two of his passions were riding his motorcycle and fixing up old Mustangs. On August 29, 2004, after a family gathering, Jesus left on his bike and was involved in an accident that led to his death. He had never shared with his family his opinion about organ donation, but when presented with the opportunity they knew Jesus would have done anything to help others. He became an organ donor and has brought healing and joy to many families.



**CARISSA FOUSHEE**  
PAYNERVILLE, KY

A smart, energetic, beautiful and headstrong young mother, Carissa Dawn Foushee discussed her wish to be an organ donor with her mother, Cathy Mattingly, during the summer of 2009. Just months later, Carissa was bringing her two children, Rance and Adie, to Cathy’s home after a recent snow fall. She hit a slick spot on the road, lost control of her vehicle and hit a large truck head on. Rance and Adie were killed instantly and Carissa was declared brain dead the next day. As an organ donor, Carissa saved three lives. Cathy has since met Carissa’s heart and kidney recipients. “When I heard Carissa’s heart beating life into a once-dying woman, a sense of warmth wrapped around me,” recalled Cathy. “All my hate, sorrow, grief and pain left my body. I was at peace.”



**DAVID LEE FOX**  
EL DORADO, AR

David Lee Fox was a man of integrity and honor. A loving, giving, gentle soul, he believed that something good existed in everyone. David and his wife Liz were community-oriented and loved working with children. A chemical engineer, David earned much recognition for his work designing and creating specialty rubber compounds for offshore marine and mining divisions. On September 25, 2004, David died from a massive heart attack at age 48. Unwavering in his belief to help others, his giving nature was expressed by his donation of corneas and tissue, which have helped more than 100 people in need.



**MARY JO GASE**  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

Her two children, Joey and Ashley, were the center of Mary Jo Gase’s world. She enjoyed spending time with them and was their biggest supporter, attending all of their sporting activities. Mary grew up in the small town of Norway, Iowa. After high school, she became a successful hair stylist at JCPenney for more than 20 years. In April 2011, Mary suffered a brain aneurysm and died. She was 44. Joey and Ashley decided to donate her organs and tissues, saving and healing many lives.



**JAMES (JIMMY) E. GINTER**  
MT. STERLING, KY

James “Jimmy” Edward Ginter was a very loving, outgoing and giving person. He enjoyed football and golf, but most of all he loved to make people laugh. He was very active in his church youth group, where he spent most of his time. After one of these meetings, at the age of 18, he had a fatal car accident. Jimmy had received his driver’s license just six months earlier and had signed as an organ donor. Thanks to his gift of corneas and tissue, Jimmy has been able to help heal more than 50 people.



**JORGE A. GONZALEZ**  
MIAMI, FL

Jorge Gonzalez had a heart of gold. During his first college semester, Jorge was in a horrific car accident and spent nearly four months in a coma. During this time his family spent every waking moment with him, celebrating all holidays and family birthdays, including his own. On March 18, 2003, Jorge was pronounced brain dead at age 19. Three years later, the Gonzalez family met Jorge’s heart recipient, Mark Reagan, who will ride the 2013 Donate Life float in Jorge’s honor. They all agree that the most special part was getting to hear Jorge’s heart beat again. “Jorge’s heart was special, and Mark is the perfect person to receive his heart,” said Jorge’s mother. “The joy that Mark has brought to our family made us realize that Jorge still lives within us.”



**JEREMY HENWOOD**  
SAN DIEGO, CA

Officer Jeremy Nicholas Henwood Captain (Major Select) USMC was born in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and grew up in San Antonio. Jeremy became a U.S. citizen in order to become an officer in the United States Marine Corps. After proudly serving the country through three overseas deployments, he left active duty in 2007 and joined the San Diego Police Department. On Aug. 6, 2011, Jeremy pulled over to assist a driver when he was shot point blank with a shotgun. Even in death, Jeremy proved his commitment to help others through his choice to register as an organ and tissue donor at the DMV. His younger sister Emily Henwood will ride the 2013 Donate Life Rose Parade float in her brother’s honor.



**CHRISTOPHER HERSHBERGER**  
GREENVILLE, PA

As an active and fun-loving boy with Down Syndrome, Christopher Hershberger had many gifts and special talents that he loved to share with others. Some of his favorite things were simple pleasures that others may take for granted: thunderstorms, giant snowflakes, jumping in leaves and dancing everywhere. On January 18, 2012, 17-year-old Christopher died from a sudden illness. “I had never thought of organ donation before, nor did anyone mention anything to me,” said Christopher’s mother Roseanne. “It was Christopher – he needed to go on to make more people laugh, smile and live.” Through the gifts of his liver, heart valves, kidneys and pancreas, Christopher helped to save the lives of four people.



**QUINN ALEC HOOVER**  
HAGERSTOWN, MD

Quinn Alec Hoover was busy as usual on the last day of his life. He had worked a 5K run, helped at a church fundraiser, and took a girl on a first date. Later that night in March 2012, 17-year-old Quinn was driving home from the date when he fell asleep, sustaining serious head injuries in a single-car accident. His parents Sonja and Tom Hoover offered the gift of his organs before even being asked. The Hoovers heard later from Quinn’s biomedical teacher that Quinn was adamant about being a donor. Since his death, hundreds of t-shirts have been sold in his honor that read “Take a Stand, Leave a Legacy. Be an Organ Donor. Be a Hero.”



**TROY ANDREW JENSEN**  
FOREST LAKE, MN

Troy Andrew Jensen was a proud husband, father and IT professional. After the birth of two children with wife Trisha, a rollercoaster sequence of events rocked the family over a 16-month period beginning in March 2010. Five months after their son Nathan was diagnosed with a brain tumor, Troy and Trisha found out they were expecting a third child. Then three months later, Troy died unexpectedly of an asthma attack at age 35; in his passing he helped over 60 people as a tissue donor. The following year Trisha gave birth to a daughter and eight-year-old Nathan lost his battle against DIPG. “I find great comfort knowing that Troy lives on in others due the decision to donate his tissues,” said Trisha. “His gift makes my heart happy in the midst of this tragedy.”





**JASON JIAA**  
LIVINGSTON, NJ

Since he was born, Jason Jiaa had great energy. He jumped around to songs by the Backstreet Boys before he could talk. As he grew older, he was able to channel his energy into creative endeavors such as drawing, oil painting, piano, violin, gymnastics, and Tae Kwon Do. While he had impressive artistic talent, he was most enthusiastic about animals, and by age 11 he already had his heart set on being a marine biologist. On February 10, 2008, Jason suffered sudden anaphylactic shock and was later pronounced brain dead. His family donated his organs and corneas so that other parents and families would not have to feel the same loss they experienced.



**KRISTEN JOE**  
DETROIT, MI

Kristen Michelle Joe began singing in her church choir as a child and played piano, violin and harp. After graduating high school at age 16, she earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. She loved her job as Community Affairs Coordinator with the Detroit Tigers, was extremely active in her community, and enjoyed shopping and traveling. In February 2012, while vacationing in the Virgin Islands, Kristen suffered a fatal asthma attack. Her family honored her wish to be a donor and looks forward to meeting Kristen's organ recipients to see firsthand how her life continues to help others.



**MICHAEL N. KALLAL**  
JERSEYVILLE, IL

On September 24, 2004, Michael Kallal went to the gym before sharing a daily ritual of drinking coffee and reading the newspaper with his wife Patty. Shortly after Mike left for work, he was killed in a head-on car crash. Six months before Mike's accident, his family had discussed organ donation. Mike had said, "When I die they can take whatever they need because where I am going, I won't need them." Since Mike's death, the Kallal family has actively promoted the importance of organ and tissue donation. In 2008, they began an annual run/walk to fund a scholarship set up in Mike's memory.



**ZACKARY TYLER KALLEM**  
SHERWOOD, OR

Zackary Tyler Kallem, lived life in the fast lane. The faster he could drive, the happier he was. Central to his life and values were his family, sports and the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting. Zack ended his own life on September 16, 2011, at the age of 20, but through organ donation, he gave three people their second chance at life, and he improved the lives of countless others through eye and tissue donation. Zack's mother Nancy said she is glad his desire to help others through organ donation could be honored and that he was "able to keep on giving through the gift of giving of himself, as he always did."



**TERENCE KENNEDY**  
BALTIMORE, MD

Terence Kennedy was known as a proud father of five and a kind, warm, humble and generous man. Through his work as a financial consultant to many non-profit and religious organizations, he was able to show his commitment to service and to his community. Terence was able to spend a great deal of time with his family, including his nine grandchildren, until his sudden death on August 12, 2011, at the age of 73. As a cornea donor, he helped two people regain the gift of sight. Terence was a man who, in the words of his daughter Karen, "lived his life in service to others; through donation, he was able to continue that service to others."



**DALTON CHASE LAWYER**  
COLLEGE STATION, TX

Dalton Lawyer was a swimmer, basketball player, adored brother and wonderful son. On July 30, 2009, eight-year-old Dalton rode his bike down the driveway and was instantly hit by a truck. He was declared brain dead five days later. Dalton's life ended, while four other lives were saved, including a five-year-old girl from Boston, Avery Toole, who received his heart. "Through Dalton's donation and God's amazing grace, our family also received a gift: an extended family, the Tooles," said his mother. The two families met almost one year after Dalton and Avery's lives merged. Three years later they still visit and talk often.



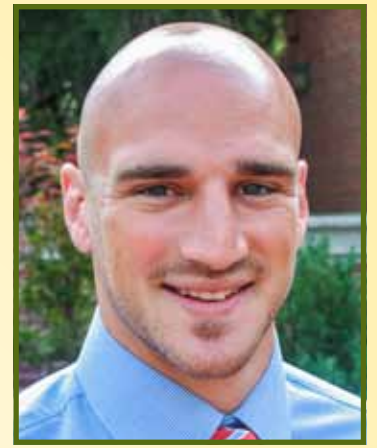
**ELIZABETH LOGELIN**  
MINNETONKA, MN

Elizabeth Ann Logelin (Goodman) was a wonderful, smart, gorgeous, 30-year old woman, with a bright future and limitless potential ahead of her. Liz and her husband Matt traveled the world, searching for their next adventure, looking forward to a lifetime of excitement and fun together. On March 24, 2008, Liz gave birth to their first child, a daughter named Madeline Elizabeth, seven weeks before her due date. The next day, as Liz excitedly prepared to hold Madeline for the first time, she collapsed in Matt's arms and died. When approached about the opportunity to donate, Matt knew the answer. "She would want this. She would want someone to live on and live better, thanks in part to her, and because of this, Liz lives on."



**DEANNA MAUER**  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA

An accomplished scholar-athlete, Deanna Mauer earned a four-year letter in softball and All-League Honors while at Fountain Valley High School. She went on to play softball for Central Arizona College before transferring to San Jose State, where she set a school record by striking out 15 batters in a single game. After graduation, Deanna moved back to Orange County and began working as an assistant coach. In April 2011, she died from injuries she sustained when her stopped car was struck by a distracted driver. She donated her liver and kidneys for transplant and her pancreas for research. In May 2012, Central Arizona College retired her number and held the first Deanna Mauer Classic softball tournament.



**TODD DAVIS MILLER**  
SPRINGFIELD, VA

Todd Davis Miller was a very talented musician who discovered rugby in college. Within two years, he became the highest-scoring rugby player in Virginia while achieving a perfect 4.0 GPA. Just six weeks before he would have graduated from college, Todd collided with an opponent during a rugby match. Eight days later, 25-year-old Todd was declared brain dead. Todd's death gave life and better health to five organ recipients and sight to another. His mother Ellie noted, "He had a special gift to motivate, inspire and lift up those he met. Giving the gift of life was the ultimate gift." Each year Longwood University's Todd Miller Rugby Tournament raises money for a scholarship in his name.



**JARET TOSHIRO MINAMI**  
TORRANCE, CA

Jaret Toshio "JT" Minami started playing club soccer at age seven and went on to garner an athletic scholarship to play on the men's soccer team at Cal State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). According to his coach, "JT was definitely the most quietly competitive person I have ever met, and he's probably the nicest kid I've ever coached." At age 25, JT suffered a sudden neurological disorder; he died four days later. His family all agreed JT would want to be an organ donor, a decision that was confirmed when they discovered JT had already signed up on the donor registry.



**LANDON JAMES COLE MITCHELL**  
SOLOMON, KS

The oldest of three and the only boy, Landon James Cole Mitchell was very active in football and enjoyed hunting and fishing. At only 17, he had a bright future as a junior at Solomon High School. On December 19, 2010, Landon lost control of his truck and died from his injuries. A registered organ donor, Landon was able to help more than 57 individuals through the gift of organ, tissue and cornea donation. His family is close with the recipients of his lungs and heart. "Not only did Landon save their lives, but he also saved ours by bringing them into our lives as a result of his gifts of donation," said his mother Tammy.



**CORINA MARIE MURRIETA**  
COLTON, CA

Corina Marie Murrieta was an independent young woman who loved sports, listening to oldies, and vacationing with her family. She played soccer and softball until the age of 14, sang in the choir and was a "wrestlerette." She attended cosmetology school and gave birth to children in 2002 and 2007. After suffering from depression and taking a fatal overdose of pills, Corina gave a better quality of life to three other people, including a family friend to whom the family directed the donation of one of her kidneys. Said her mother Regina, "I have never regretted my decision because it was the right thing to do."



**ELIJAH NABUA**  
CORONA, CA

Elijah Nabua was a lively teenager who loved to make his family laugh. He had a strong Christian faith, as well as a strong sense of loyalty towards his friend and school. One morning, a pick-up truck hit Elijah as he was crossing the street to the school bus. His family agreed to donate his organs and within a year of his death, several recipients sent letters of gratitude. Their words and encouragement have brought Elijah's family much joy and healing knowing that their son's death made a difference in the lives of others.



**DAVID MARTIN NELSON JR.**  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

David Martin Nelson, Jr. was a gentle soul with a great deal of empathy and compassion for others. On July 10, 2006, David died from an aneurysm. "During the next two days, there was a constant flow of family and friends at the hospital and we learned just how far David's caring and compassion reached," said his mother Patricia. Inspired by his early commitment to being an organ donor, David's family and friends created the David Nelson Jr. Memorial Fund to raise money for scholarships for children of donor parents.



**MOLLY NOBLE**  
SACRAMENTO, CA

From the time she was in fifth grade, Molly Noble's heart belonged to UCLA. She graduated as valedictorian from Rio Linda High School in 2001 and was accepted to UCLA as a National Merit Scholar as well as a Regents Scholar. She loved UCLA sports and was thrilled when she had the opportunity to meet basketball coaching legend John Wooden. As she began her final three undergraduate classes, Molly suffered a brain aneurysm. Among the five organs she donated, her heart was transplanted at UCLA. The university graciously awarded Molly a bachelor's degree in psychology diploma posthumously. The diploma is framed in her family's home alongside a beautiful watercolor of the UCLA's Powell Library.



**ROBERT A. NOVAK, JR.**  
DEEP RIVER, CT

Robert Novak, Jr. was a man admired by all and loved by many. He earned a degree in Civil Engineering and married his college sweetheart Sage in 2000. They had two daughters with whom he shared his loves of football, fishing and boating. On June 7, 2008, after winning a golf tournament with his father, 33-year-old Rob suffered an undetermined medical episode and died while driving home. Among those who benefited from his gifts of life were three infant boys. The Rob Novak Memorial Golf Tournament raises both awareness and funds for Donate Life Connecticut and keeps Rob's helpful and kind spirit still living on today.



**JOHN NUÑEZ**  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

The youngest of six siblings, John Nuñez was everyone's favorite and had many lifetime friends. John worked well with his hands in roofing, woodworking and gardening. After the death of his first wife, he decided to be a donor in the hopes of helping others. He was married twice and was a good and caring father to his six children. After battling esophageal cancer for more than a year, John died in May 2009 at the age of 51. He went on to donate his corneas, providing two people with the gift of sight.



**TYLER PLUMMER**  
DICKINSON, ND

Tyler Plummer embodied the "never give up" spirit. He loved to work on his 40-acre ranch caring for his 700 trees and horses. When he was 19, Tyler had breathed in an airborne virus that settled in his heart lining and led to cardiomyopathy. He lived with and fought hard against his heart condition for 14 years, but he lost his battle in 2012 at age 33. Tyler had seen a banner in the Ronald McDonald House in Denver that read: "Don't take your organs to heaven - heaven knows we need them here." His wife Annika affirmed that "Tyler truly believed this and would be very happy that his corneas are helping someone receive the gift of sight."



**TONY RADULESCU**  
PORT ORCHARD, WA

After immigrating to the U.S. in his teens, Tony Radulescu served his new country as a highly decorated member of the U.S. Army, then joined the Washington State Patrol. Trooper Tony's motto was "Be positive, be kind, be nice." Tragically, he was killed in the line of duty at age 44 on February 23, 2012. Tony had signed up early on to be a donor, and his gifts gave sight to a woman in California and a man in Korea. As his life partner Gina Miller wrote in a letter to Tony's cornea recipients, "I hope this finds you busy enjoying smile-inducing sights that life has to offer. That is exactly what your eye tissue donor, Trooper Tony Radulescu, would have wanted."



**JOSHUA KEITH ROBERTSON**  
BAKERSFIELD, CA

Joshua Keith Robertson was a witty and fun-loving 27-year-old. He loved his family, friends, two-year-old daughter and softball. He was full of life, gave plenty of hugs and was often referred to as "big brother." On the evening of July 17, 2009, he tried standing up for a female fast food restaurant worker who was being treated rudely by some young men. They beat Josh, leaving him on life support until his family realized there was no hope for recovery. His parents, brother and sister chose organ donation so that through this tragic loss, someone else could live.



**DAVID H. RODRIGUEZ**  
BALDWIN PARK, CA

Always with a story to tell and a warm loving hug to give, David Horacio Rodriguez was a dependable son, loyal brother, and loving uncle and friend. In March 2011, David was struck by a car as he crossed the street; he died the following day. "Although my family and I are filled with sadness, we are comforted by the fact that David had chosen to be an organ donor," said his sister Margarita. It is the sincerest hope of his parents, thirteen siblings and 28 nieces and nephews that other individuals and families can experience the bittersweet comfort that comes from donation after such a loss.



**SCOTT SANTANA**  
PLACERVILLE, CA

Scott Santana, 17, was genuinely funny, generous and loved anything vintage. What set Scott apart was his desire to make everyone smile. In the days following the May 2011 car accident that took his life, hundreds of stories were told to his family of Scott's ability to bring sunshine to the darkest day. As a registered organ donor, Scott became a hero to six people. He also gave sight to two individuals, and donated tissue to countless others. Scott's family takes great pride in telling his story. "On the day we received the worst news of our lives, six other families were getting the best news of their lives."



**ALEXIS LUCIA SCANLIN**  
ORLANDO, FL

Always ready to lend an ear or to help others, Alexis "Lexi" Scanlin made the decision to register as an organ donor at the age of 16. Lexi matured into a charming young woman who was living life to the fullest, following her dreams from Florida to Hawaii to Las Vegas, where her story took a tragic turn. Ten years after signing up as a donor as a 16-year-old, Lexi's decision saved and healed lives. The Alexis Scanlin Memorial Scholarship and a 5K "Dash for Donations" are among several initiatives that keep her spirit alive.



**EVIN JOEL SHOAP**  
FAIRFAX, VA

Evin Joel Shoap was a loving and caring young man who tried to live life to the fullest. An avid reader, he also loved photography, cooking and swimming. As a heart transplant recipient at age 15, he was passionate about organ and tissue donation. Evin was enrolled in the Masters of Teaching program at James Madison University when he died in March 2007 and became a cornea donor. It is a testament to him that his friends still gather each year to remember him, and many participate on Team Evin in the annual Race to Donate Life 5K.



**HOLLAND DRU SHOEMAKE**

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Holland Dru Shoemake was gentle and kind, befriending those who needed an extra boost. Her sweet spirit always searched out those who needed help, including her friend Dan, who suffered from Asperger's Syndrome. On September 10, 2004, Holland lost control of her car about a mile from home and hit a tree. Sixteen-year-old Holland died six days later and became an organ, tissue, and cornea donor. In her wallet, her parents found a small piece of paper on which she had written: "People can either be better or worse for having met you in life and they might as well be better."



**JOHALAN ANTONIO SINOHUI**

CHANDLER, AZ

Johalan Sinohui was a high school student with big dreams and a lot of heart who had a beautiful, infectious and joy-filled smile. He wanted to become a doctor to help others and it was with that same sense of purpose that he signed up his state's donor registry. On August 2, 2011, Johalan was hit by a car and died, becoming an organ and tissue donor. His mother, Guadalupe Sinohui, has since become an active volunteer for Donor Network of Arizona and inspires others by sharing her son's legacy.



**JUSTIN D. SOLLOHUB**

JACKSONVILLE, AL

Justin "Sollo" Sollohub was born on Valentine's Day in 1984 – a fitting birthdate given his love for his parents, brother, friends and community. After graduating from Jacksonville State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, Justin went on to become a member of the Special Response Team with the Anniston Police Department. On August 24, 2011, Justin was fatally shot in the head while pursuing a fleeing suspect. His family honored his life by donating his organs and saving four lives. His fraternity remembered one of their own by establishing the Justin Sollohub Scholarship for Criminal Justice at Jacksonville State University.



**JESSIE STARNES**

CHATTANOOGA, TN

A very active 9-year-old, Jessie Anna Starnes enjoyed karate, softball, basketball, Girl Scouts, reading and video games. She was also very attentive to the needs around her and would provide smiles, hugs and even her possessions as needed. During Spring break of her third grade year, she collapsed at home and began to have a seizure as a result of a brain aneurysm. It only made sense for her family to choose organ donation so Jessie, and she gifted life to seven individuals and was also a cornea donor. Her family Jessie's Desk, a nonprofit organization that provides children with school supplies, as Jessie used to do.



**MARK STARR, MD**

THOUSAND OAKS, CA

Mark Lewis Starr, M.D., was a dedicated physician who lived to help people. To get some exercise and enjoy the outdoors, Dr. Starr started to ride his bike all over town. He started out early one morning before going to work, but never finished his ride. He fell and was brought to the ER in the hospital where he worked, never to regain consciousness. "There was no question that he would want to donate his organs and any other parts of his body in order to help others," said his wife Kathy. The shock of having "one of their own" suffer such a sudden death was overwhelming to the Los Robles Hospital employees, but knowing that his legacy lives on in the spirit of others gives them comfort.



**TAYLOR STORCH**

COPPELL, TX

Taylor Paige Storch loved to make videos, go shopping, work on computers and laugh with her friends. But most of all, she loved being with her family. Touching the lives of so many people around her, Taylor also gave guidance, support, friendship, and the kind of love you never want to let go. On March 15, 2010, 13-year-old Taylor had a fatal skiing accident. Her parents made the prayerful choice to have Taylor donate the gift of life. To encourage others to "Outlive Yourself" and to honor her legacy, they established the Taylor's Gift Foundation, which was recently named Best New Charity at the 4th Annual CLASSY Awards for its influence on organ donation registrations.



**FABIAN A. TRUJILLO**  
LAS VEGAS, NM

Fabian Trujillo was a loving father, a mentor to the hundreds of children he taught and coached in sports, and a consummate athlete who was inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 1993. After suffering fatal injuries in a highway traffic accident, he became an organ and tissue donor. Fabian saved four lives through organ donation, gave the gift of sight through his corneas, and helped others heal and live pain-free lives through his gift of bone and other tissue. In life, Fabian had found his calling to service in public schools, and in death he continued that service by touching many lives through organ donation.



**DARLENE M. UECKER**  
WEBSTER, WI

As a worker in implant manufacturing and the recipient of three pacemakers, Darlene Uecker knew that implants could improve health and save lives. This knowledge led to her decision to become an organ donor. A mother of eight with a passion for quilting, she did her best to make sure everyone got at least one quilt to treasure. A believer in guardian angels, Darlene became a donor after she died of a cerebral aneurysm. "I think Darlene's decision was her way of keeping guardian angels around us," said her husband Don. "Darlene gave the greatest gift of all: a piece of herself to live on in others."



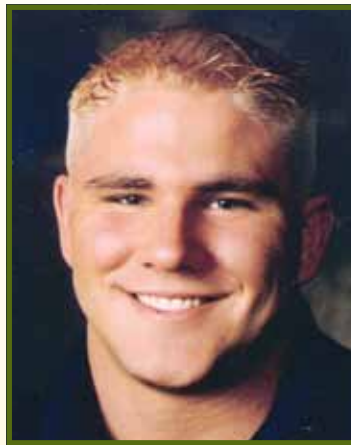
**DELANY ALEXANDRA VAN WERT**  
NISKAYUNA, NY

Delany Van Wert was a curious girl whose favorite subject in school was English. She wrote many poems, including "Glimmering Star," with the prophetic last line: "I would be everlasting like a candle never blown out." When she was 12, she asked her father about the red heart on his driver's license. He explained that it signified his choice to be a registered organ donor. She decided that she would do the same. The following year, Delany died from a brain aneurysm, and saved five people's lives through the donation of her heart, two kidneys, liver, and both lungs, as well as her corneas and other tissue.



**SANDRA MARIANA VELAZQUEZ**  
ORANGE, CA

Born in Mexico and raised in the United States, Sandra M. Velazquez was a happy and joyful young woman. She was full of vitality and very loving with her family, especially with her two little sisters. Sandra was very proud that her name meant "protector of humans." When she passed away after a car accident, she became the protector of four recipients, among them a 15-year-old who is now free of dialysis treatments.



**RYAN ROBERT VIATOR**  
LAFAYETTE, LA

Ryan Robert Viator was a loving and tenderhearted young man with a great spirit of adventure and belief in staying healthy. At the age of 20, he was the proud owner of a local health club that inspired others to live healthy lifestyles. On April 7, 2000, Ryan's life ended, but three others were able to live thanks to the donation of Ryan's liver and kidneys. Ryan was never able to realize two of his dreams: flying in a fighter jet and visiting California. Donation made both possible, as one of his recipients is a retired Air Force pilot and his image will adorn the Donate Life float in the Rose Parade.



**THOMAS WALLS**  
EVANSVILLE, IN

Thomas Franklin Walls was a healthy, smart, funny, athletic and loving young man who was getting ready to start his junior year in engineering at Purdue University. It was August 2007 when 20-year-old Thomas was stabbed in the neck at a party in Evansville, Ind. He later died of his wounds but was still able to carry out a decision he made at age 16 to be an organ donor, saving six lives. The number six was also Thomas' number as a hockey player for the Evansville Thunder, where he played for 12 years. His family says they have been lifted up from his senseless murder to embrace his generous spirit.



**RYAN LEE WEBSTER**  
WACO, TX

Ryan Lee Webster was a vivacious 11-year-old who loved sports, singing, and making new friends. On Friday, March 13, 1998, Ryan was at the skating rink as usual while his parents were at a local restaurant. They saw an ambulance speed by, not realizing it carried Ryan, who had suffered a brain aneurysm. Two weeks prior, Ryan and his sister Brooke had watched an Oprah Winfrey show where a family met the recipients of their son's organs. Ryan told his mother that day that he wanted to do the same thing. Ryan's organs saved seven lives, including that of a groomsman in his sister's wedding 10 years later.



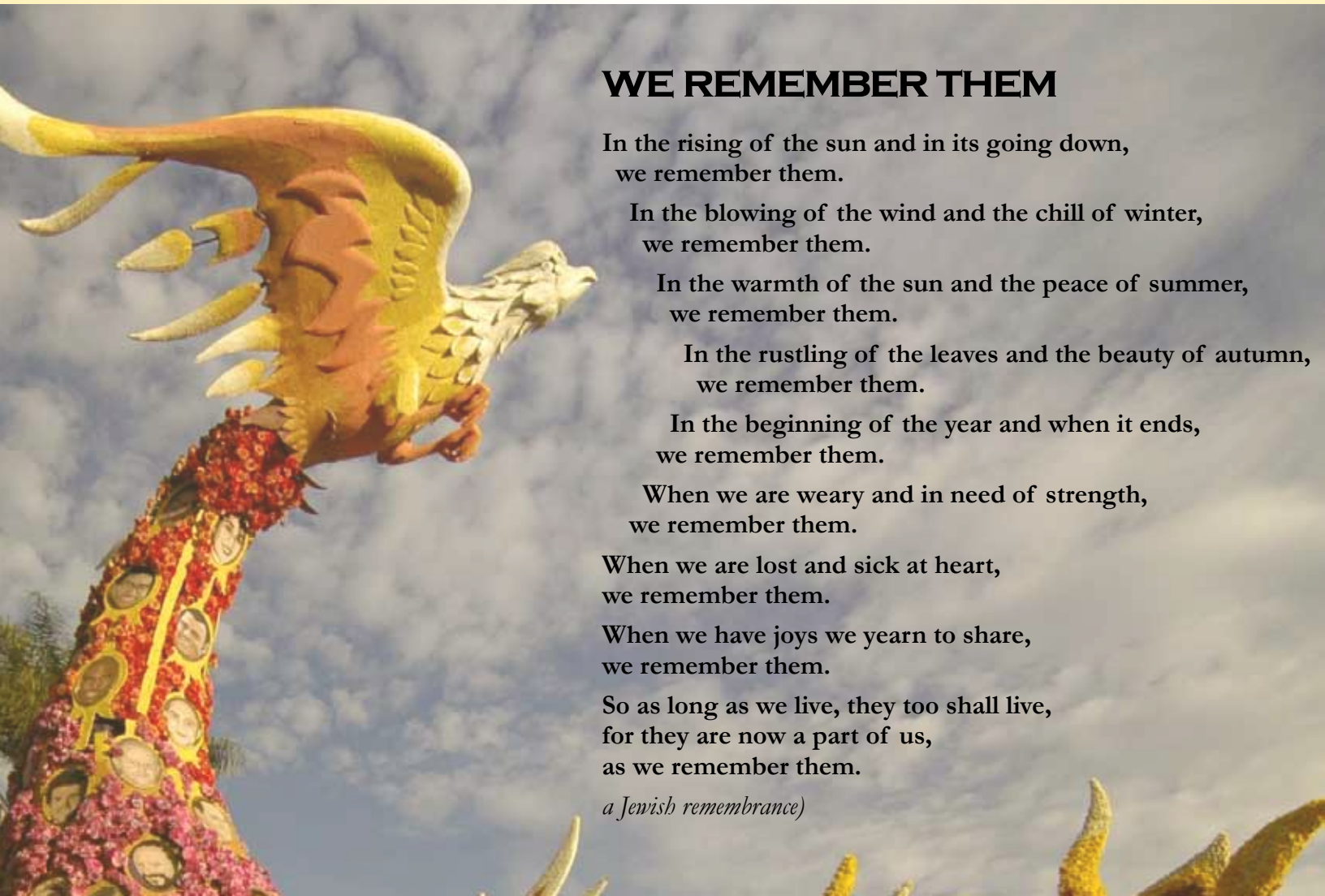
**QUINN VITTORIO WILDE**  
BRYAN, OH

Quinn Vittorio Wilde was born on March 28, 2008. Nine weeks later, his father discovered Quinn not breathing and unresponsive. Quinn was put on life support although he continued to breathe on his own. Tests confirmed that he had sustained severe brain damage from the lack of oxygen. The neurologist theorized that Quinn had a seizure disorder which had possibly caused him to stop breathing. Quinn's parents, Patrick and Denien, made the heartbreaking decision to take Quinn off life support and let nature take its course. Quinn passed away on June 7, 2008. His donated heart valves helped to save the lives of two infant girls. On New Year's Day 2013, Denien Vittorio Wilde will ride the Donate Life float in Quinn's honor.



**MAEGAN ARIANA YEAKLEY**  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Maegan Ariana Yeakley of Oklahoma City was the first of four children for Rusty and Marilyn. She had beautiful olive skin, dark brown hair and long, brown eyelashes. At only two months old, she was diagnosed with a pre-birth brain injury that required a shunt to be placed in her head. More than a year later, the week before Christmas 2003, Maegan's shunt quit working properly and she stopped breathing. As registered organ donors all of their adult lives, her parents did not hesitate to donate her organs and saved the lives of three children and two adults.



## **WE REMEMBER THEM**

**In the rising of the sun and in its going down,  
we remember them.**

**In the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter,  
we remember them.**

**In the warmth of the sun and the peace of summer,  
we remember them.**

**In the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn,  
we remember them.**

**In the beginning of the year and when it ends,  
we remember them.**

**When we are weary and in need of strength,  
we remember them.**

**When we are lost and sick at heart,  
we remember them.**

**When we have joys we yearn to share,  
we remember them.**

**So as long as we live, they too shall live,  
for they are now a part of us,  
as we remember them.**

*a Jewish remembrance)*

# NOTES AND CONTACTS

# NOTES AND CONTACTS

# MEMORIES OF PASADENA

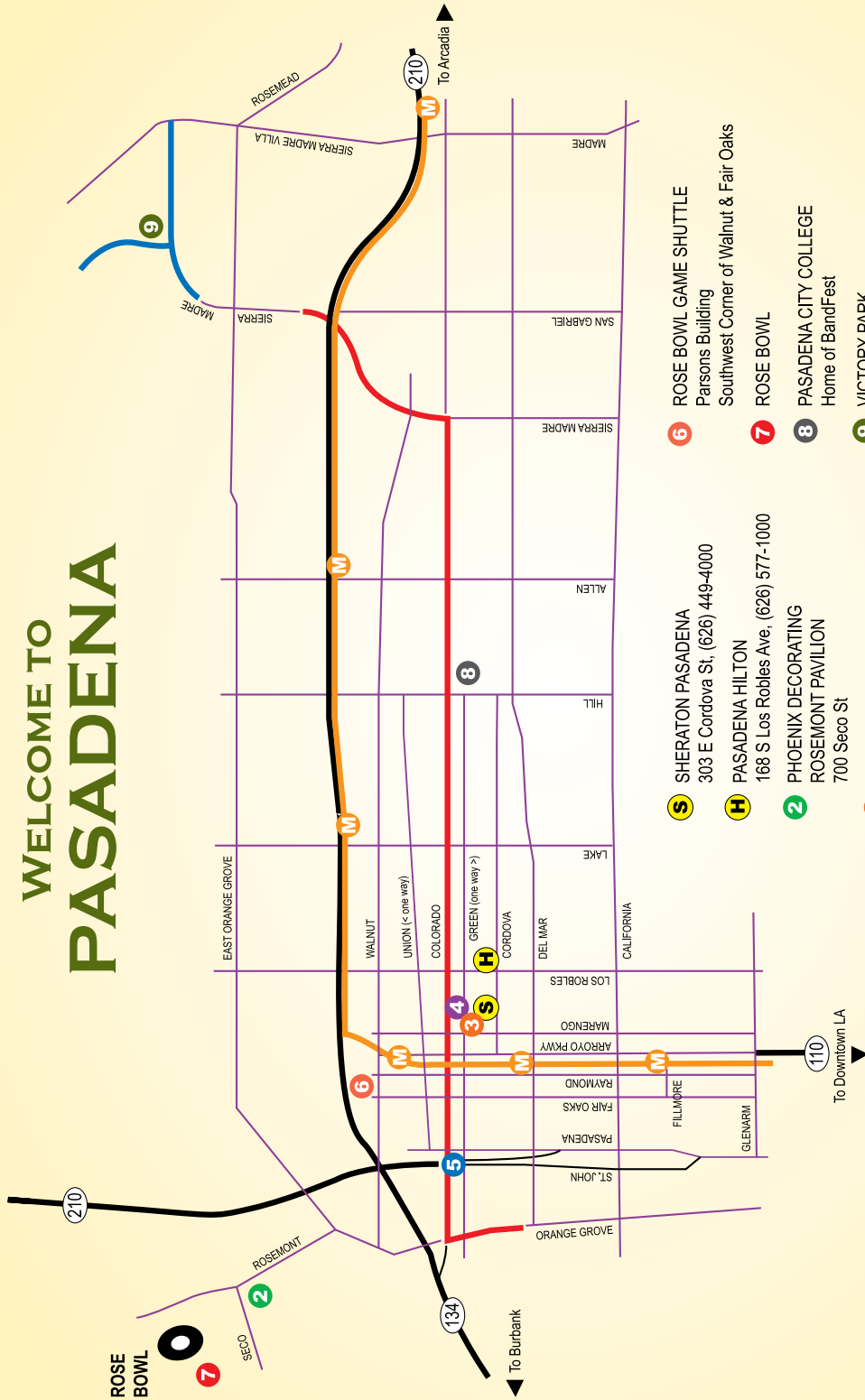
# MEMORIES OF PASADENA

## 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>SAT DEC 1</b>	9am–5pm	Dry & Floragraph Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
<b>SAT DEC 8</b>	9am–5pm	Dry & Floragraph Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
<b>SAT DEC 15</b>	9am–5pm	Dry & Floragraph Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
<b>SAT DEC 22</b>	9am–5pm	Dry Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
<b>WED DEC 26</b>	8am–3pm, 3pm–9pm	Dry Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
<b>THU DEC 27</b>	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm	Dry Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
<b>FRI DEC 28</b>	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm	Dry Decorating	Rosemont Pavilion
<b>SAT DEC 29</b>	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm 10am–10pm	Floral Decorating Dedication Garden Rose Placement	Rosemont Pavilion Rosemont Pavilion
	5pm–8pm	Float Rider Dinner	Pasadena Conv. Ctr. Atrium
<b>SUN DEC 30</b>	8am–4pm, 4pm–11pm 10am–12pm 6pm–11pm	Floral Decorating Floragraph Family Breakfast Donate Life Gala Dinner	Rosemont Pavilion Pasadena Conv. Ctr. Atrium Pasadena Convention Center
<b>MON DEC 31</b>	8am–1pm 12pm–2pm 2:30pm–4:30pm	Decorating – Final Touches Lunch at Rosemont Float Judging	Rosemont Pavilion Rosemont Pavilion Rosemont Pavilion
<b>TUE JAN 1</b>	8am–10:30am 10:30am–12:30pm 2pm	124th Rose Parade Post-Parade Reception 98th Rose Bowl Game	Colorado Blvd. Porto Alegre at Paseo Colorado Rose Bowl

\* Float decorating and judging at Phoenix Decorating Rosemont Pavilion, 700 Seco Street, Pasadena CA 91103; Schedule subject to change

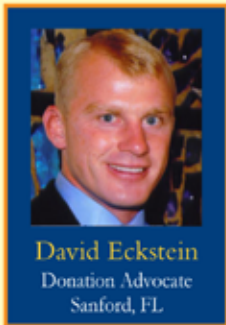
# WELCOME TO PASADENA



- 1** ROSE BOWL  
Parsons Building  
Southwest Corner of Walnut & Fair Oaks
- 2** PHOENIX DECORATING  
ROSEMONT PAVILION  
700 Seco St
- 3** PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER
- 4** PASEO COLORADO  
Grandstands: 300 E Colorado Blvd  
Receptions at Porto Alegre
- 5** DONATE LIFE WEST GRANDSTANDS  
235 W Colorado Blvd (North Side)  
240 W Colorado Blvd (South Side)
- 6** ROSE BOWL GAME SHUTTLE  
Parsons Building  
Southwest Corner of Walnut & Fair Oaks
- 7** ROSE BOWL
- 8** PASADENA CITY COLLEGE  
Home of BandFest
- 9** VICTORY PARK  
Home of Post-Parade Float Viewing
- M** METRO GOLD LINE/STATION
- PARADE ROUTE
- POST-PARADE AREA



RP35D-111812



**David Eckstein**  
Donation Advocate  
Sanford, FL



**Claudia Sanchez**  
Kidney-Pancreas Recipient, 2005  
Canoga Park, CA



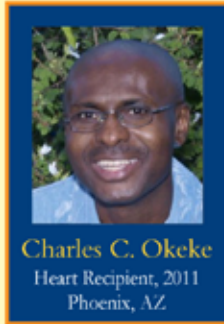
**Jason Jia**  
Organ & Eye Donor, 1998  
Livingston, NJ



**Gabriel Barajas**  
Organ Donor, 2005  
Los Angeles, CA



**Valerie Nguyen**  
Liver Recipient, 1986/2000  
Los Angeles, CA



**Charles C. Okeke**  
Heart Recipient, 2011  
Phoenix, AZ

**Your Journey of the Heart  
begins by registering as  
an organ and tissue donor.**

**DonateLifeAmerica.org**



**Kristen Joe**  
Organ, Eye & Tissue Donor, 2012  
Detroit, MI



**Jeremy Henwood**  
Organ Donor, 2011  
San Diego, CA

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University of Missouri Health Care

*Special thanks to the families and organizations whose roses of love and remembrance fill our Donate Life Dedication Garden.*