



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media assets available [here](#)

******B-ROLL AVAILABLE AT 5:15 P.M.; INTERVIEWS AFTER 5:30 P.M. PRESENTATION WITH CARTHESA & CHRISTOPHER HUTSON SR., RMC CAREGIVERS & MTN TEAM ******

RESEARCH MEDICAL CENTER AND MIDWEST TRANSPLANT NETWORK REUNITE PARENTS OF ROAD RAGE VICTIM CHRISTOPHER HUTSON JR. WITH CAREGIVERS AND ORGAN RECIPIENT AT DEC. 20 EVENT

Victim of a road rage incident on May 25, 2017, at 104th & Holmes, Hutson's death led to new life for seven individuals who received his organs.

As Midwest Transplant Network's Rose Parade honoree, Hutson's florigraph will be part of the 2022 Donate Life Rose Parade® "Courage to Hope" float in Pasadena, California.

WHO: Family of Christopher Hutson Jr., Research Medical Center Trauma Care Team, Heart Recipient and Midwest Transplant Network
WHAT: Hutson Jr., whose florigraph will be on 2022 Donate Life Rose Parade Float, "Courage to Hope," will be honored as family is reunited with caregivers.
WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Monday, December 20, 2021
WHERE: RESEARCH MEDICAL CENTER COFFEE SHOP: 2330 E Meyer Blvd, Kansas City, MO
MEDIA: Please go to Patient Registration Entrance for escort to event. Masks required.

Research Medical Center and Midwest Transplant Network will partner on Monday to reunite a Lee's Summit family with their late son's caregivers and medical team, as well as his heart organ recipient, for an emotional send-off to the New Year's Day Rose Parade®.

Christopher Hutson Jr. was [killed](#) by an enraged driver in 2017, just two weeks after celebrating his 19th birthday and four months after registering to be an organ donor. Hutson's mother, Carthesa Hutson, who also lost her brother to gun violence, was suddenly thrust into a role as an advocate to encourage organ donation and to stop gun violence.

"Christopher is living on through other people," Carthesa Hutson often says when sharing with others the loss of her oldest son, affectionately known as "Little Chris." Any time I get the opportunity to say Christopher's name and talk about him I feel like he's still here."

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In addition to Carthesa and Christopher Hutson Sr., the couple's two college-age sons will attend Monday's ceremony. The family will travel to the Rose Parade that will be nationally televised on New Year's Day. All Rose Parade floats are required to be covered with flowers or other natural materials, such as leaves, seeds or bark. Since 2004, the Donate Life Rose Parade float each year features numerous florigraphs that replicate photographs but are made entirely of organic materials, remembering organ, eye and tissue donors like Hutson from around the country.

"I am overwhelmed with deep gratitude to be invited to this caregiver reunion and be able to personally thank everyone for being so kind and compassionate to us during a very painful time," says Carthesa Hutson. "My family is humbled that our beloved son and brother, Christopher Jr., is honored by the creation of his florigraph for the Rose Parade float. While Christopher's legacy will continue the more we speak about him, it also brings sadness that his life was lost due to senseless gun violence. And until people put their guns away, there will be yet another family in our shoes tomorrow. Gun violence is too prevalent, and it must stop."

Members of the hospital's ACS Verified Level 1 Trauma Center team provided support and comfort to Christopher Jr.'s family during their darkest days, helping them find hope in a tragic situation.

"We are thankful to be able to reunite the Hutson family with Christopher Jr.'s medical team who were there during their most vulnerable of moments," says Research Medical Center Chief Executive Officer Ashley McClellan, FACHE. "It is an unfathomable loss that Carthesa and Christopher Sr. and their two younger sons suffered, and the Research Medical Center family is humbled by Christopher Jr.'s generous gift. We are honored to recognize, with Midwest Transplant Network, the tremendous gift of life given by Christopher Jr. and other members of our community during this season of hope."

"Midwest Transplant Network is honored to celebrate Christopher Jr. and the entire Hutson family," says Midwest Transplant Network Manager, Public Affairs, Michala Stoker, BSN, RN. "His selflessness enabled him to save seven lives; we are truly grateful to him for deciding to add this name to the organ donor registry, to his family for their support and to Research Medical Center for their partnership in saving lives through donation."

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About Research Medical Center

Research Medical Center—part of HCA Midwest Health, Kansas City's leading healthcare provider—serves patients by providing quality healthcare services and access to advanced technology. The hospital, located at 2316 East Meyer Boulevard in Kansas City, Missouri, is one of the region's leading acute care hospitals. The 590-bed facility features a broad range of specialized, state-of-the-art services including a Level I Trauma Center and Level I Time Critical Diagnosis services for stroke, brain and spinal cord injury, heart attack and sepsis. Research is home to the region's first accredited stroke center. Other services include the TIA Clinic, Grossman Burn Center, Liver and Pancreas Institute, Sarah Cannon Cancer Institute, 24-hour Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospitalists and Emergency Room, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Transplant Institute, fertility specialists, Center for the Relief of Pain, orthopedics, sports medicine and much more. In addition, the 25-acre Research Brookside Campus, located at 6601 Rockhill Road in Kansas City, Mo., includes an outpatient surgery center, many specialty physicians and a comprehensive health and fitness center. Research Medical Center and the Brookside Campus provide 24-hour access to Emergency Services and have many primary care and walk-in care providers who offer preventive and wellness services. For more information about Research Medical Center, visit researchmedicalcenter.com and researchbrookside.com.

About HCA Midwest Health

As the Kansas City area's leading healthcare provider, HCA Midwest Health consists of seven hospitals and dozens of outpatient centers, clinics, physician practices, surgery centers and an array of other facilities and services to meet area residents' healthcare needs. HCA Midwest Health is one of the area's largest private-sector employers, with more than 10,000 employees, and the largest provider of charity and uncompensated care. Each year, we provide nearly \$1 million to local charities. Annually, HCA Midwest Health invests capital to enhance and expand patient services and last year paid more than \$115 million in taxes, which may go to the improvement of schools, roads, and infrastructure in the communities we serve. HCA Midwest Health facilities include Belton Regional Medical Center, Centerpoint Medical Center, Lafayette Regional Health Center, Lee's Summit Medical Center, Menorah Medical Center, Overland Park Regional Medical Center, Research Medical Center and Research Psychiatric Center. Midwest Physicians, which is part of HCA Midwest Health, is a network of experienced, multi-specialty physicians located throughout the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Currently Midwest Physicians represents 600+ providers. It includes 80+ specialties, providing care in 150+ locations to serve our community. The physicians, licensed professionals and support staff who comprise the HCA Midwest Health team are dedicated to improving healthcare in the Greater Kansas City and outlying areas to create healthier communities that lead to healthier tomorrows. For more information, visit hcamidwest.com.

About Midwest Transplant Network

Midwest Transplant Network has been connecting lives through organ donation since 1973. As the federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organization (OPO) for Kansas and the western two-thirds of Missouri, Midwest Transplant Network provides services including organ procurement; surgical tissue and eye recovery; laboratory testing and 24-hour rapid response for referrals from hospital partners. Midwest Transplant Network ranks in the top 10% in the country among OPOs, which reflects the organization's quality, professionalism and excellence in partnerships throughout the region. For more information, visit mwn.org.