



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Media Invited to Event Recognizing 2024 Rose Parade Honoree

Portrait on Rose Parade float will honor area organ, eye and tissue donor during nationally televised New Year's celebration

WESTWOOD, Kan. (Nov. 17, 2023) — On Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 5:30 p.m., Midwest Transplant Network will host a finishing ceremony for a portrait called a “floragraph” honoring a local organ, eye and tissue donor. The floragraph will be part of the 2024 Rose Parade®. Midwest Transplant Network invites media personnel to attend the floragraph finishing event.

All Rose Parade floats must be covered with flowers or other natural materials, such as leaves, seeds or bark. The OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® float each year features numerous floragraphs, which are portraits made entirely of organic materials, remembering donors from around the country. Midwest Transplant Network's contribution to the float will honor Jayme Sue Louque of Olathe, Kansas, who passed away in 2021 and donated her organs, eyes and tissues to save and enhance others' lives.

Louque's parents, Wendy and Bryan Louque, as well as one of Louque's kidney recipients, Malkia White, will attend the finishing event and are prepared to speak with the media. Representatives from Children's Mercy Kansas City, the hospital where Louque received care and donated her organs, will also attend the event.

“Children's Mercy is honored to be a part of helping families be organ donor heroes and our organ donor council, as well as the PICU Donation and Transplant Advocacy Team, work hard to help all staff and families have opportunities to be a part of these life changing experiences,” said Children's Mercy Kansas City Nursing Department Assistant PICU Director, Mandi Turner.

“Serving selfless families like Jayme Sue's is an incredible honor, and we look forward to recognizing them through this event and the Rose Parade,” said Midwest Transplant Network Chief Stakeholder Engagement Officer Sarah Oland, LMSW. “Donor heroes like Jayme Sue save and enhance lives every day, and her story is a testament to the powerful impact that organ, eye and tissue donation can have.”

The Rose Parade will air the morning of Jan. 1, 2024, on ABC, NBC and Univision. For additional information and resources, visit mwtn.org/rose-parade.

ABOUT MIDWEST TRANSPLANT NETWORK

Midwest Transplant Network has been connecting lives in Kansas and western Missouri for more than 50 years. More than 7,500 organ donors from Midwest Transplant Network's donor service area have contributed to over 28,000 lifesaving transplants since Midwest Transplant Network's inception in 1972. Additionally, more than 24,000 tissue donors have given gifts in this timeframe, enabling more than 2 million life-enhancing tissue transplants for burn victims, cancer survivors, individuals with sports-related injuries and more.

Organ donor heroes from Midwest Transplant Network's service area saved the lives of 13 people with organ transplants in 1972. In 2022, that number was 972, illustrating the thoughtfulness of people in Kansas and western Missouri; the strong support from Midwest Transplant Network's hospital and community partners; and Midwest Transplant Network's commitment to continual improvement and saving more lives. For more information, visit mwtn.org.

ABOUT CHILDREN'S MERCY KANSAS CITY

Founded in 1897, Children's Mercy is a leading independent children's health organization dedicated to holistic care, translational research, educating caregivers and breakthrough innovation to create a world of well-being for all children. With not-for-profit hospitals in Missouri and Kansas, and numerous specialty clinics in both states, Children's Mercy provides the highest level of care for children from birth through the age of 21. U.S. News & World Report has repeatedly ranked Children's Mercy as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." For the fifth consecutive time in a row, Children's Mercy has achieved Magnet nursing designation, awarded to only about 8% of all hospitals nationally, for excellence in quality care. More than 850 pediatric subspecialists, researchers and faculty across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research and education of the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. Thanks to generous philanthropic and volunteer support, Children's Mercy provides hope, comfort and the prospect of brighter tomorrows to every child who passes through its doors. Visit Children's Mercy and the Children's Mercy Research Institute to learn more, and follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube for the latest news and videos.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Nez Savala, APR, Director, Community Engagement and Public Relations, Midwest Transplant Network
nsavala@mwtn.org
913-574-7955

Becky Storm, Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator, Midwest Transplant Network
bstorm@mwtn.org
913-277-8651

Bradford Warner, Marketing Strategist, Rhycom
bwarnier@rhycom.com
913-638-6030

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