



NEWS RELEASE

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NJ SHARING NETWORK ANNOUNCES HONOREES TO REPRESENT NJ ON THE DONATE LIFE FLOAT IN THE 2019 ROSE PARADE

NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ – NJ Sharing Network announces the New Jersey individuals who will be honored on the Donate Life Float during the Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA on New Year's Day 2019. Celebrating its 16th Anniversary, the Donate Life Float is part of a national initiative to help share the importance of organ and tissue donation with millions of people, who either visit Pasadena or tune in to watch the Rose Parade® on television on New Year's Day. Honorees are:

- Float Rider Honoree – Jim Rhatican, Liver Transplant Recipient
 - Sponsored by NJ Sharing Network
- Float Rider Honoree – Emma Rothman, Heart Transplant Recipient
 - Sponsored by Hearts for Emma
- Floragraph Honoree – Sean Clegg, Organ and Tissue Donor
 - Sponsored by NJ Sharing Network
- Floragraph Honoree – Dr. Randall Giles, Organ and Tissue Donor
 - Sponsored by Bridge to Life, Ltd
- Floragraph Honoree – Carrie Ellen Fisher, Organ and Tissue Donor
 - Sponsored by Bloomfield-Cooper Jewish Chapel, Dignity Memorial®

Each honoree has an inspiring and emotional story, beginning with Jim Rhatican, who will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the liver transplant he received at University Hospital. A retired teacher, he got involved with NJ Sharing Network's High School Program and has spoken to hundreds of students about the importance of organ and tissue donation. He has also told his story at health fairs and to doctors, nurses and other hospital staff throughout New Jersey. His 5K Celebration of Life team, The Rhat Pack, has participated in the annual event since 2012.

Jim says that he is continuously moved by students, teachers and parents who tell him their stories and thank him for his communications efforts.

In 2011, Emma Rothman received a heart transplant at just 11-years old, which saved her life. At the time, Emma's family had no knowledge of transplantation and organ donation, so in 2013, they created Hearts for Emma, an organization that provides assistance to families of children with heart disease and supports educational initiatives relating to heart transplantation and organ and tissue donation. In addition to providing bedside giving, such as helping patients decorate their room, giving patient families meal cards to area restaurants and providing toiletries and other personal care hygiene items to families, the organization educates students and spreads awareness about organ, tissue and cornea donation through educational materials. For example, Rothman created and starred in a video called "You Have the Power to Save Lives," which has been watched by more than 110,000 students through more than 300 school presentations spanning the state. She has also created brochures, stickers and information cards to support the importance of registering as a donor.

Sean Clegg's mother, Gail, had no hesitation when they made the decision for Sean to become an organ and tissue donor after he passed away at age 14. His wish was confirmed through his last social media post, written just before leaving the house that day, "We all die, the goal is to create something that will last forever." Sean did create something that would last forever through his donation that touched 100 people: six organs, two corneas and 92 tissue donations. Some of Sean's recipients have even become extended family to the Cleggs, like lung recipient, Craig; heart recipient, Stefania; and kidney recipients, Melissa and Mercedes. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Sean's passing.

In 2012, Trauma Surgeon Dr. Randall "Randy" Giles suddenly died at 43 due to an aneurysm. Giles, who lived in Queens, NY, practiced general surgery at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson before joining GC Surgical Associates in Wayne. Randy's father, Retired Superior Court Judge F. Michael Giles, had once discussed the need for minority organ donors with his son while he was in medical school – leading them both to register as organ and tissue donors. Four people received Giles' organs, including his kidneys and liver, and 76 people benefitted from the donation of his tissue, which included his corneas. Giles also donated his lungs to Providence, RI resident Mike Callahan who recently met the Giles family for the first time at the office of NJ Sharing Network.

During her life, Carrie Fisher was a loving wife and mother of two and was known for her kind heart. She was born and raised in New Jersey, married her teenage sweetheart, and earned degrees from the University of Chicago and Rutgers University. A sudden stroke at the age of 47 took her life, but she saved others as an organ and tissue donor. Her daughter, Erica, now works in the organ donation field.

The Donate Life Float can be seen on New Year's Day in the Rose Parade, which will be broadcast at 11am EST. To find out where to tune in to watch the Parade, visit www.DonateLifeFloat.org.

About NJ Sharing Network

NJ Sharing Network – selected by NJBIZ as one of the state’s “Best Places to Work” in 2018 - saves lives through organ and tissue donation. Located in New Providence, NJ, the organization recovers organs and tissue and belongs to a national network that helps the 115,000 people waiting for a transplant. New Jersey residents can help save lives by registering as organ and tissue donors at www.NJSharingNetwork.org, having a conversation with family and friends and joining NJ Sharing Network at its upcoming events.