

This information was created and used at the UW OPO dedication ceremony in 2012:

Introductions for the Five Rose Dedication Honorees:

If you've never watched the Tournament of Roses Parade, you're missing one of the highlights of the Donate Life America collaborative - the Donate Life Float. Since 2004, the Donate Life Float has served as a memorial to organ and tissue donors and a platform for donor families, living donors and transplant recipients to inspire the world to save and heal those in need through the gift of life. The float features donor "floragraphs" which are photos of donors made of bits of flowers and seeds, and transplant recipients from across the country are seated on the float.

For 2013, the float is titled "Journeys of the Heart." The float has a collection of hearts to represent the new life made possible by transplantation, and is grounded by a reverent dedication garden filled with roses bearing personal messages honoring those who make the gift of life possible. Today we are here to dedicate five roses that represent five very special groups of people: donor's and their families, transplant recipients, people who are waiting for their gift of life, living organ donors and professionals caring for donor and recipient patients. The rose vials and dedications we are sharing today will be shipped to Pasadena and placed on the parade float. It is our hope that when they see the float glide by in the parade on January 1, everyone in Wisconsin will have a broader understanding of the courage and commitment represented by the people who are here today. They are the faces of thousands more people, and I am honored to introduce them to you now.

We'll begin by introducing two amazing donor families who are representing all donor families served by _____ hospital. Their rose dedication reads:

For our donors and donor families: With gratitude for your generous gift of life, we honor all _____ hospital organ donors and their families. Your gifts created a legacy and brought beauty to this world. Thank you for sharing the gift of life.

This morning, Jeff and Lisa Rath shared the story of their daughter Hailey on WISC-TV. Hailey passed away in 2005 at the age of 13, following a car accident. Her organ and tissue donations saved more than 75 people and her heart beats in a 21 year old woman in Michigan. As this morning's TV segment highlighted, the Raths (Jeff and Lisa, and their son Schuyler) are tireless advocates for the mission of organ, tissue and eye donation. They have shared Hailey's story literally from coast to coast, and traveled to Pasadena to place Hailey's floragraph on the Donate Life Float last year. Every summer they honor Hailey while raising funds for organ, tissue and eye donation education and awareness by holding the Hailey Rath 5k run/walk and music festival in Beloit. They have been a comfort to other donor families, and are true messengers of the mission. Thank you Jeff and Lisa.

David Duranceau was diagnosed with diabetes at age 11. By the time he was in his early 30's he was listed for a kidney and pancreas transplant. On April 21, 2003, David received his gift of life and a few months later he was back to his favorite activity, swinging a golf club. On July 10, David suffered an intracranial hemorrhage not related to his transplant, and his family donated his organs. David is one of just a few recipients who were able to donate their transplanted organ. To honor David, his family created the David Duranceau Foundation. Together with the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, they hold the David Duranceau Memorial Golf Classic each summer. Funds raised support ongoing education for transplant and donor programs and to support families of organ recipients. In honor of David, and all you do to promote the mission, we thank you.

And now, let's honor all transplant recipients. Their dedication reads:

For our recipients and their families: In recognition of your courage, we dedicate this rose in honor of the organ, tissue and eye transplant recipients who placed their trust in us. With appreciation and encouragement, we ask you to continue to share your gratitude and experience so more people can receive their gift of life. Thank you for being good stewards of the gifts you've received.

After battling emphysema for years, Ted Gerbig was listed for lung transplant. In July, 2003, Ted received his gift of life from a young man named David Duranceau. Since that day, Ted has fought many battles, but David's gift has meant the world to Ted, his lovely wife, Shelby and their children and grandchildren (many of whom Ted would not have met without his lung transplant.) Together with other recipients and donor family members, Ted and Shelby formed North Central Wisconsin Donate Life, a group of dedicated people who are taking the message and the mission forward. Every year they organize The Race for Life, a scavenger hunt/Amazing Race type event that brings the mission to the public. The Gerbigs are a force to be reckoned with, and earlier this year on the anniversary of Ted's transplant Shelby said these words, so fitting again today: "Today is a day of remembering, a day of honoring, a day filled with gratefulness. It also is a day of joyousness. David himself was an organ recipient, so he knows there is joy in giving and in receiving." For being great stewards to the gift of life, we thank you Ted and Shelby.

Living donors are the living heroes among us and today we honor all [living donors](#). Their dedication reads: **[Our living donors and their families: With respect and admiration for your selfless gift, we present this rose in honor of all living donors. Heroes come in many forms, and we thank you for being a shining example to the world.](#)**

With more than 90,000 people in the U.S. waiting for a kidney transplant, living donation has become a vital key to solve the organ donation shortage. In 2008, after he learned that his brother-in-law needed a transplant, Jim Shurts stepped up to donate his kidney. Although Jim and his brother-in-law were not a great match, Jim's brother went through the desensitization process and successfully received Jim's kidney. He was only the second patient at UWHC to go through this process and receive a transplant. To improve awareness about organ donation, (both living and deceased), Jim shares his donation experience and also serves as the living donation representative for Donate Life Wisconsin. He also serves on several other boards, and to prove that living donation works, enjoys a healthy, active lifestyle. Jim, thank you for being a great representative of all living donors.

And now, let's honor the more than 2,000 people who are anxiously [awaiting their gift of life](#) here in Wisconsin. Their dedication reads: **[For those on our waiting list: To recognize that our work must not waver and that we must push on with passion and conviction, we present this rose in recognition of the thousands of people who are still waiting for their gift of life. May they stay strong while we work to give them a second chance at life.](#)**

Kevin Zahn needs a lung transplant. Like so many other patients listed for transplant at UW Hospital and Clinics, Kevin is currently living at a hotel in Middleton, waiting for the phone call of a lifetime. A resident of Evansville, Indiana, Kevin suffers from pulmonary fibrosis. He moved here four months ago when he was listed for a transplant. A Navy veteran, Kevin worked as a lab tech prior to becoming ill. He credits his great care team, and his outgoing sense of humor as the best ways to stay healthy enough to receive his transplant. Kevin is blood type B-, which means his wait may be even longer than the average. He reminds us that all of the work being done by all of the people in this room MUST continue on. Kevin, thank you for so enthusiastically representing all of the people who are waiting for their gift of life. Days like today remind us all to stay strong in our work, so you can get that phone call.

[And now, let's honor all of the dedicated medical professionals caring for donors, donor families and transplant recipients.](#) Their dedication reads: **[For medical professionals: With pride and respect, we dedicate this rose to all medical professionals who make the gift of life happen. For your unwavering commitment to serving organ donors and their families, for your passion to educating the world about organ, tissue and eye donation, for the years you have spent honing your skills, and for your commitment to working together so others may live on through organ donation and transplantation, we thank you.](#)**

Tracy Hunter is a critical care nurse. In fact, Tracy worked at St. Vincent Hospital in Green Bay and is the nurse that cared for David Duranceau when he suffered his brain hemorrhage in July, 2003. Tracy stayed on an extra shift to continue to care for David and his family, and when it was determined that nothing further could be done to save David's life, Tracy helped to preserve the gift of donation for David's family and ultimately, the recipients of David's organs. A dedicated, compassionate nurse, and a strong advocate for the gift of organ, tissue and eye donation, Tracy is the perfect person to represent the unwavering commitment to this mission that is honored every day in hospitals and communities across the state. For all the work to save lives that is yet to be done, thank you Tracy, for representing all donation and transplant professionals.

*This concludes our rose dedication ceremony. We'll ask the rose recipients to stay for a few extra minutes to pose for photos. With an eye to continuing our work to educate more people about our mission, we're going to send their photos to their local media. Also, a reminder that **the 124th Rose Parade will take place Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013 beginning at 10 a.m. our time.** Thank you.*