



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### DALLAS TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT TO RIDE DONATE LIFE ROSE BOWL PARADE FLOAT

*North Texas grandfather of eight to celebrate 27 years of post-transplant life during 2015 Rose Bowl Parade.*

**Dallas, TX (December 28, 2014)** – On January 1, 2015, Dr. Phil Berry will honor his liver donor as he represents all Texas organ, eye and tissue donors while riding the Donate Life America float in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. While in Pasadena, Berry and his wife will also place roses dedicated by Texans all over the state into the float's Dedication Garden.

The Donate Life float has become an annual tradition to celebrate donation and its unique power to save, heal and transform lives. The float is accompanied each year by donor families, living donors and transplant recipients. It is also decorated with floral portraits, called floragraphs, of donors who have given the ultimate lifesaving gift of organ, eye and tissue donations.

The 2015 Rose Parade theme – *Inspiring Stories* – is a perfect match for the Donate Life float and the stories donation makes possible. Dr. Berry's story began when he was a surgeon in the 1980s and contracted hepatitis B from a cut in the operating room. As his condition worsened, he needed a liver transplant to stay alive. On October 26, 1987, he received the liver of a 30-year-old South Texas woman who had died suddenly of an aneurysm.

He has also become a passionate advocate for donation, helping raise awareness during his term as president of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) and an active member of the medical community. He also co-founded the Southwest Transplant Foundation which raises funds to support those undergoing transplants in North Texas.

Berry has walked two of his three daughters down the aisle and is blessed with eight grandchildren. He has met his donor's family and they are in touch often. He remains one of the longest surviving liver transplant recipients in Texas.

But that is still only part of the story. Thanks to the selfless gift of donation, Dr. Berry was back in the operating room only two months after his transplant. For the past 27 years and to this day, he continues to perform life-changing surgeries, enhancing the stories of literally thousands of patients.

To Berry, the essence of donation is seeing something good come from tragedy. While many chapters of his life have been shaped by his transplant, the true legacy of his donor is still being written in the lives of the thousands of people touched by her extraordinary gift.

Media and members of the public are invited to join Donate Life Texas to a Send Off Celebration for Dr. Berry as he and his wife depart for Pasadena on December 28, 2014.

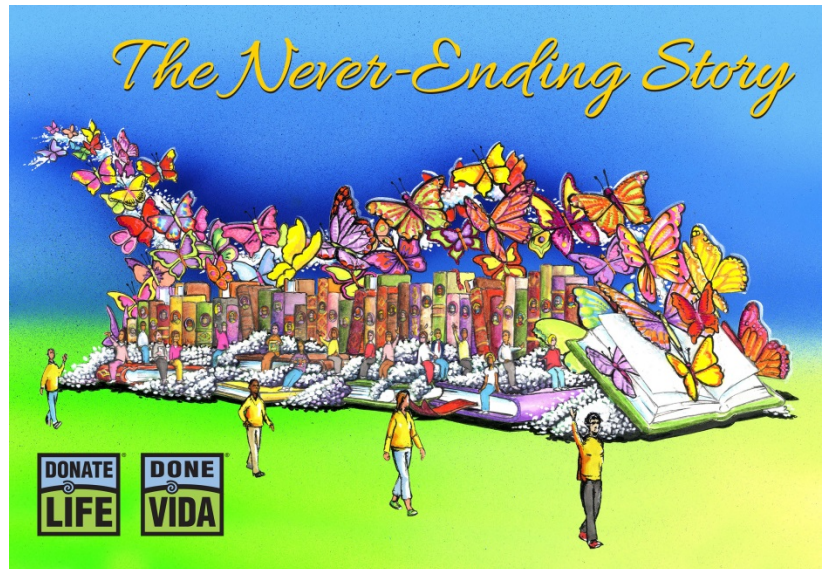
**WHAT:** Donate Life Texas Send Off Celebration for Dr. Berry  
**WHO:** Dr. Phil Berry, Liver Recipient and Dallas Orthopedic Surgeon  
**WHEN:** Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Dallas Love Field, 808 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, TX  
(If would like prior interview, it can be arranged)  
**RESOURCES:** Rose Parade graphics and more information available [here](http://www.donatelifefloat.org/prod/components/media_center/).  
[http://www.donatelifefloat.org/prod/components/media\\_center/](http://www.donatelifefloat.org/prod/components/media_center/)



### **About the Donate Life America Float**

Since its debut on New Year's Day 2004, the Donate Life Rose Parade float has become the world's most visible campaign to inspire people to become organ, eye, and tissue donors. Now in its twelfth year, Donate Life's Rose Parade float participation is celebrated at hundreds of events nationwide .

The 2015 Donate Life Rose Parade Float features 60 beautiful butterflies emerging from an open book, representing the number of lives transformed by a single deceased donor. The butterflies ascend above 72 volumes adorned with floragraph portraits of deceased donors whose legacies are nurtured by their loved ones. Walking alongside the float will be 12 living organ donors whose stories have become intertwined with those of their recipients. Seated among thousands of dedicated roses are 30 riders representing transplant recipients who celebrate the new chapters of their lives made possible only by the generosity of donors.



### **About Donate Life Texas**

The Donate Life Texas organ donor registry started in 2006 and celebrated its 6 millionth registration in early 2014, making it among the fastest growing registries in the country. The registry is supported by all three Texas organ procurement organizations, LifeGift, Southwest Transplant Alliance and Texas Organ Sharing Alliance.

Signing up is fast and easy at [DonateLifeTexas.org](http://DonateLifeTexas.org) and provides a way for individuals to make their decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor known. It also provides legal authorization for organs to be donated upon death, which removes the burden of decision-making from the family during an already difficult time.

*Donate Life Texas is pa*



*rt of the Donate Life America not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and local partners across the United States, serving as a national voice and inspiring all people to save and enhance lives through organ, eye and tissue donation.*

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