



UT Southwestern
Medical Center

UT Southwestern
Transplant Services Center



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TRANSPLANT ALLIANCE

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

NASCAR DRIVER TO MEET FANS & CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Donate Life Texas, Southwest Transplant Alliance and UT Southwestern Medical Center host Xfinity Series driver Joey Gase to honor organ, eye & tissue donors.

Dallas-Fort Worth, TX (April 6, 2016) – Texas Motor Speedway will soon fill its 130,000 permanent seats with motorsport fans. Meanwhile, almost the same number of men, women and children across the county are waiting for the gift of life in the form of an organ transplant.

Following his mother's sudden death four years ago, NASCAR driver Joey Gase was called upon to consent to donating her organs and tissues which ultimately touched the lives of 66 people in need of transplants. Since then, Gase has become as passionate about donation as he is about racing. In December 2015, he was awarded NASCAR's inaugural Community Champion Award for his work supporting organ, eye and tissue donation.

For the upcoming O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 at TMS, Gase will race the Donate Life Texas #52 car in honor of his mother and others touched by donation and transplantation.

On Wednesday, April 6, Gase will visit the UT Southwestern Medical Center campus to share his personal experience as a donor family member and greet the hospital's transplant center patients as a professional athlete and donation advocate. The Donate Life Texas car will also be unveiled as part of the presentation.

As a special treat, guests will be invited to sign and make handprints on Gase's Donate Life Texas #52 car. These personal tributes to Donor Heroes, transplant recipients and healthcare professionals will ride with Gase on the track during his race as an inspiration to fans about the power of donation.

- WHAT:** Special appearance by NASCAR driver Joey Gase and Donate Life Texas #52 car
- WHERE:** UT Southwestern Medical Center, Clements University Hospital, John & Ginny Eulich Pavilion
- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 6, 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm
- WHY:** Meet and greet with NASCAR driver and Donate Life advocate, Joey Gase
Unveil Donate Life Texas #52 car
- WHO:** Interviews available with Joey Gase, NASCAR driver and Community Champion Award winner, Dr. Jorge Marreno Medical Director of UT Southwestern Liver Transplant Program
Suzy Miller, Donate Life Texas Executive Director,
Donor families, transplant patients, recipients and Donate Life advocates

Additional Resources:

Joey Gase:

- Joey Gase Racing: <http://www.joeygaseracing.com/>
- Fox Sports 1 Mother's Day 2015 interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bttkl3aLfQE>
- Joey meets recipient of his mother's kidney: <https://youtu.be/ckm8cvD3b6M>

Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Registration

- Donate Life Texas state donor registry: <https://www.donatelifetexas.org/>
- Process of donation: <https://www.donatelifetexas.org/learn-more/learn-the-facts-about/donation-process/>
- Donation and transplantation statistics: <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>

About Southwest Transplant Alliance

For more than 40 years, STA has been saving lives by recovering donated organs for individuals awaiting a life-saving transplant. STA is among the largest of 58 federally designated, non-profit organ procurement organizations (OPO) and is now ranked number three in the nation for the highest number of organs transplanted.

Founded in 1974, STA has facilitated more than 22,000 organs for recovery and enhanced the lives of more than 100,000 people. STA is a member of the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) and is accredited by the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO). The organization serves communities in North Texas, Beaumont, Bryan/College Station, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Galveston, Midland/Odessa, Temple and Tyler. For more information, go to www.organ.org.

About Donate Life Texas

The Donate Life Texas organ, eye and tissue donor registry started in 2006 and now has more than 7.5 million registrants, 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 as well as the 10 eye and tissue banks serving the state.

Signing up is fast and easy at 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 consent for donation after death, which removes the burden of decision-making from the family during an already difficult time.

Donate Life Texas is part 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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