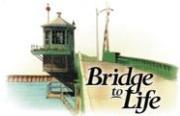


Midlands Teen To Be Honored In The 2019 Rose Parade® For Giving The *Gift of Life*



Charleston, S.C. –Nov. 5, 2018: A Camden, SC teen, Robert (Drew) E. David IV, will be honored in the 2019 Rose Parade® for giving the *Gift of Life* as an organ, eye and tissue donor when he lost his life in 2015 as a result of an automobile accident. **We Are Sharing Hope SC**, along with **Donate Life South Carolina**, will honor Drew by representing him with a “floragraph”, an artistic floral portrait, on the **2019 Donate Life Rose Parade® Float** that is themed “**Rhythm of the Heart.**” A **special ceremony** to allow friends and family of Drew’s to finish his floragraph will be held on **Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** in the auditorium of Camden High School in Camden, S.C. The opportunity to commemorate Drew’s gift of life is made possible by Bridge to Life, a biotechnology company based in Columbia and dedicated to advancing the science of organ procurement and preservation.

Drew was full of life and had enough love to share with each and every soul he touched. Drew was a starting wide receiver for the Camden High School Bulldog football team as well as a pitcher and third baseman for the Camden High School baseball team. At age 16, while at the SC DMV, Drew checked “yes” on the SC Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Registry. Thus, there was no question that his family wanted to honor his wishes when that decision had to be made. Through his generosity, Drew saved 7 lives and provided sight for another.

“In this season of giving thanks, we are deeply grateful for his selfless gift of life,” states Aaron Gilchrist, Global Sales Director at Bridge to Life Ltd. “It is a great privilege to pay this special tribute to Drew David’s life. He is truly a hero. We hope that by honoring Drew’s story in this unique way, his legacy will live on and others will be inspired to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.”

Drew will be honored along with 43 other donor heroes from across the country. The **Donate Life Rose Parade® Float** has become the world’s most visible and inspiring campaign for organ, eye, and tissue donation. Celebrating its 16th year, the **Donate Life Rose Parade® Float** continues its mission to save and heal lives by sharing the gift of life and delivering the message of organ, eye and tissue donation to the world. Families of deceased donors are honored to see their loved ones’ floragraph, or floral image, highlighted as part of the float. Living donors and recipients bring the float to life by riding or walking beside the float. This year’s parade theme, *The Melody of Life*, celebrates the power of music, the universal language, in bringing us together.

At the base of the float is the **Rose Dedication Garden** containing thousands of dedicated roses. This garden is an opportunity to honor donors, families, recipients and candidates waiting for transplant. Each dedicated rose is placed in a vial that carries a unique, personal message of love, hope and remembrance. In fact, numerous South Carolina hospital CEOs have dedicated rose vials in honor of those touched by donation at their hospitals.

“With nearly 115,000 people currently awaiting a lifesaving transplant, we are humbled to be a part of this year’s Donate Life float. We hope that when donor families share their loved one’s stories like Drew’s, it will inspire others to register to become organ, eye and tissue donors,” states David DeStefano, CEO and President of **We Are Sharing Hope SC**, the federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for organ recovery services in South Carolina. “We are deeply grateful to Drew and all of our donor heroes in our state and across the country.”

For more information about the **Donate Life Rose Parade® Float Floragraph Ceremony**, at Camden High, to arrange an interview with Drew’s family, or to learn more about organ/tissue donation, contact Mark Johnson, Media Relations Coordinator for **We Are Sharing Hope SC** at **1-800-462-0755** or **JohnsonM@SharingHopeSC.org**.

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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About Sharing Hope SC (SharingHopeSC.org)

Sharing Hope SC is the federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) for organ recovery services in South Carolina. Sharing Hope SC actively provides organ and tissue donor services to 68 hospitals throughout the state, while becoming the critical link between families who have lost a loved one and those who are awaiting a life-saving transplant.



About Donate Life South Carolina (DonateLifeSC.org)

Donate Life South Carolina is the statewide organization whose mission is to promote organ and tissue donation for transplantation and provide patient assistance for South Carolina transplant recipients. Donate Life South Carolina established and maintains the South Carolina Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.



About Bridge To Life (BridgeToLifeSolutions.com)

Bridge to Life, a biotechnology company based in South Carolina, is a supplier of organ preservation solutions and focused on the mission of improving transplantation. The company set up their commercial headquarters in Columbia, thanks in part to the collaborative efforts of the Department of Commerce and the SCLaunch program. Further, Bridge to Life is very active in Donate Life national awareness campaigns.

