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Mission Hospital Dedicates a New Memorial to Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Families

Josh Jolly was the ideal organ donor. He was only 21, healthy and most of all, he had made the decision himself to donate his organs when he no longer needed them. It is because of Josh's decision that day that three lives were saved.

LifeShare Of The Carolinas, Mission Hospital's donor recovery partner, is pleased that Josh and other donors like him, will be permanently recognized at the hospital with a donor memorial dedicated in his honor. The memorial was created by Andy Brinkley, a Hickory artist. Funds for the tree were donated by Josh's family.

Mission Hospital, located at 509 Biltmore Avenue in Asheville is dedicating a new memorial to organ, eye and tissue donor families on Thursday, May 4 at 6 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Josh's Tree, a metallic sculpture, was commissioned by LifeShare to mark the occasion. It will contain leaves with the names of organ, eye and tissue donors who were recovered at Mission Hospital from 2014 to the present. Each year additional leaves will be added with the names of the newest donors.

The inaugural donor ceremony will feature presentations by members of Josh's family, hospital and LifeShare staff. One of the highlights will be a presentation by former Cincinnati Bengals and Tampa Bay Buccaneers Coach Sam Wyche, a heart transplant recipient and resident of South Carolina.

Josh's family describes him as the type of young man who would give you the shirt off his back so it came as no surprise to them that he had registered to be a donor in the hopes of helping others. Three individuals benefited from Josh's donation. His liver and kidneys were transplanted.

Sam Wyche received his new heart in September of last year. He doesn't know his donor but says he is eternally grateful that the person saved his life and gave him a chance to continue being a husband, father, and grandfather. Football is a bonus.

Currently, there are approximately 118,000 individuals on the national waiting list for an organ transplant. As of April 28, 2017, 2,893 of them live in North Carolina and 1,013 in South Carolina.

The families of 45 organ, eye and tissue donors who saw through their grief to help others have been invited by Mission to attend the ceremony. Members of the Mission administration, hospital staff and additional transplant recipients are also expected to be in attendance. This is the first of what will become an annual event.

How to Register as a Donor in North Carolina Signing-up to be a donor in North Carolina is easy. Interested individuals may register at the DMV when getting a driver's license or state issued ID card. North Carolina residents may also register online at www.donatelifenc.org/register.

About LifeShare Of The Carolinas LifeShare is the regional organ procurement organization designed by the federal government to serve over 52 hospitals in a 23-county area of southwestern North Carolina. In addition to facilitating organ transplants, LifeShare also operates an eye bank and recovers tissues for transplant. For additional information, visit www.lifesharecarolinas.org.

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Launches 'Preserve Your Life' Campaign

Last year 17 boaters lost their lives on North Carolina waters. None of them were wearing a life jacket. The seconds that it takes to put on a life preserver may well have been the difference between life and death. Wearing a life jacket is a simple safety precaution that can prevent tragedy from happening in the event of an accident. To increase boating safety awareness this season, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission introduces the new "Preserve Your Life" campaign.

As part of the Preserve Your Life campaign, wildlife enforcement officers will hand out coupons that can be redeemed for discounts on life jackets at selected retailers throughout the boating season. Also, as in years past, wildlife officers will conduct pre-launch safety checks at boating access areas across the state.

In an effort to promote life jacket usage, the Commission urges boaters to join in the "Ready, Set, Wear It!" event on May 20. The event aims to break last year's world record of 6,784 participants wearing a life jacket in one day. If you'd like to participate, visit www.readysetwearit.com.

Finally, boaters should be on the lookout for the "Life Jacket Zone" at boat ramps throughout the state. The Life Jacket Zone is a reminder to you and your passengers to put on a life jacket whenever you're on the water.

"It's important to put on your life jacket before heading out on the water," said Maj. Chris Huebner of the Wildlife Resources Commission. "Even the strongest of swimmers can be incapacitated during an accident. In dire situations, there often isn't time to grab a life vest and put it on properly. It can save your life and can help you assist others who may be in danger."

Life jackets have seen drastic design improvements over the years. Newer models are not the bulky, hot floatation devices that some boaters remember. In fact, many life jackets are designed for specific activities such as fishing, water sports and even hunting. These specialized floatation devices grant the user the freedom to enjoy their day on the water in comfort.

Both North Carolina and federal regulations state that a personal floatation device in good condition and of appropriate size should be accessible for each person on-board a recreational vehicle. North Carolina requires anyone younger than 13 to wear an appropriate life vest when on a recreational vessel. Anyone riding a personal

watercraft or being towed by one must also wear an appropriate life vest. There's no reason to not wear a life jacket. In the end, your life may literally depend on it.

For more information on safe recreational boating or to enroll in a free boating education course by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, go to ncwildlife.org/Boating or call 919-707-0030.

Cheraw High School Chamber Chorus Concert

The Cheraw High School Chamber Chorus will present a Spring Concert on Thursday, May 4. The 45 minute concert will be held at the Theatre on the Green in Cheraw, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

The evening of music will feature a selection of popular and classic songs that include an a cappella rendition of Stand by Me. The choral director of the group is Lauren Castellano who also directs the Chesterfield High School Chorus. Lauren is excited to be working with these two groups during her first year at the schools.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the Cheraw Community Center, located at 200 Power Street. Please contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843.537.8420 x 12 for additional information.



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