



MEDIA ADVISORY

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The faces of organ and tissue donation

April 9, 2014, Fort Worth — The family of a fatally injured motocross rider is travelling from Arizona to be united for the first time on Wednesday, April 15, with beneficiaries of his decision to be an organ donor, including a toddler from Burleson who received a lifesaving kidney transplant. The families will raise the Donate Life flag together, followed by release of 20 white doves (homing pigeons that will safely return to their owners.)

The LifeGift event, a memorial celebration to mark Donate Life Month, is set for 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Swati Gandhi Memorial Prayer Garden, south of the Patient Care Pavilion at 1575 S. Main St. in Fort Worth.

Doves will be released after the flag is raised at 10 am. Recipients and family members will be available for interviews thereafter.



Kenneth “Buddy” Wentworth II, 16, sustained a devastating head injury while riding in a North Texas motocross event and died on Oct. 3, 2014. His parents gave authorization for donation, leading to transplantation of his heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidneys, corneas and other tissue. Buddy Wentworth was a registered organ donor in his home state of Arizona.

Baby Eli, born the previous year, received one of Buddy’s kidneys. Eli’s own kidneys were destroyed by massive blood loss caused by placental abruption, a complication of pregnancy in which the placenta separates from the womb before birth. Eli’s transplant was performed at Cook Children’s Medical Center on October 5, and he is now living at home in Burleson with his father and mother (a nurse,) elder siblings and twin sister.



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Karla Sageth of Houston received Buddy Wentworth's lungs. She also is expected to attend Wednesday's event at JPS — like Eli, accompanied by a twin sibling.

The doves being released on Wednesday are trained homing pigeons. They will fly north, returning instinctively to the home of Ruth and Ken Kummer, owners of Doves 4 Yall in Haslet.

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