



MEDIA ADVISORY

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LifeGift/JPS event update

March 26, 2014, Fort Worth — Along with the Indiana farmer who received Ian Heidemann's right hand in a rare transplant, Ian's heart recipient and his lung recipient will be together with his parents at JPS on April 1. Reginald King (heart) and Paul Boudwin (lungs) both live in Houston, where Boudwin's son is Houston Rockets mascot Clutch (who is coming if the Rockets' schedule allows.)

Hand transplant recipient Ronnie Thurman, of Marion, Ind., and donor parents Rob and Janis Heidemann, of Keller, will share their stories during a panel program, along with Dr. Tae Chong, a surgeon starting hand transplants in D/FW. Hand transplant pioneer Dr. W. P. Andrew Lee of Johns Hopkins plans to attend and will be accessible. Mayor Betsy Price will open the program.

Thurman and the Heidemanns will raise the Donate Life Flag in a ceremony at 1 p.m., in honor of Ian and other donors. Mrs. Heidemann has created an event on Facebook and invited friends of her son's.

The flag holds deep significance for many donor families and clinicians involved in organ and tissue donation. It flies continuously in April for National Donate Life Month, but the rest of the year, a flag is raised at JPS only when donation is in progress and flies for 24 hours in the donor's honor. It is then delivered to the family. JPS had 48 donors in 2013, rising to fourth among all U.S. hospitals.

Members of the news media who have already responded will have parking reserved. Anyone else who would like parking reserved, please let us know by Friday, March 29.

April 1 events

11:30 a.m. Donation/transplant Panel Program 11:30 a.m.

Outpatient Building Auditorium, 1500 S. Main St. (west side of Main Street)

1 p.m. Flag Raising 1 p.m.

Swati Gandhi Memorial Prayer Garden (across the street)