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**Saratoga Donor Mother to Ride Donate Life Float
In the 2007 Rose Parade®**

ALBANY, N.Y.,— Saratoga county resident Tammy Mitchell, a donor mother who made the decision to donate her son's organs after his death, was selected by the Center for Donation & Transplant (CDT) to ride the Donate Life float in this year's Tournament of Roses® Parade. She will join 22 other riders from across the country and Canada to inspire people to save lives as organ, tissue, and blood donors by appearing on the Donate Life's float, themed *Giving From the Heart*.

The 2007 Donate Life Rose Parade float will mark the fourth appearance of the donation and transplant community in the parade, but will be the first time CDT has sponsored someone from the Capital Region to ride the float in honor of CDT's donor families. This is also the first year that every rider on the Donate Life float will be a donor family member or living donor, with the float reflecting the 2007 Rose Parade theme *Our Good Nature* by bringing to life the good nature of all organ, tissue and blood donors.

On June 30, 2003, twenty-one year-old Thomas (Tommy) Michael Gailor Jr. died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. When the Center for Donation & Transplant approached his mother Tammy Mitchell about the option of donating Tommy's organs, she said "yes," allowing Tommy to give the gift of life to five organ transplant recipients. Several months later, she received a letter of gratitude from a 14 year-old girl that received part of Tommy's liver after suffering from a liver disease all of her life. That letter helped Mitchell realize that she made the right decision and motivated her to become a strong advocate for organ donation. "I am honored that CDT asked me to ride on the float to represent of all their organ and tissue donor families," said Mitchell. "Donating Tommy's organs not only saved the lives of five people, but gave hope and comfort to my family, knowing that a part of Tommy lives on in others."

The Center for Donation and Transplant coordinates the retrieval of donor organs and tissues at more than 46 hospitals throughout central and northeastern New York state and western Vermont.

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The 118th Rose Parade will take place on Monday, January 1, 2007 at 8:00 am PST featuring spirited marching bands from throughout the world, majestic floral floats and high-stepping equestrian units.

There will be numerous opportunities for interviews and photographs prior to the parade. Photographs and footage of Ms. Mitchell decorating the Donate Life float and participating in the parade will also be available. For more information about the Donate Life float, visit the official float website at www.donatelifefloat.org.

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