

Daily Sentinel (Pomeroy, OH)

PVH honors organ donors with Rose Parade float

by By Beth Sergent bsergent@civitasmedia.com

December 3, 2013

13 days 17 hours ago | 88 Views | 0 Comments |  



POINT PLEASANT — The road to the Rose Parade has as many stories as it does rose petals.

On Thursday, Dec. 5, Pleasant Valley Hospital (PVH) will prepare to participate in the historic parade by honoring organ and tissue donors with dedicated roses to be placed on the Donate Life Float in the 2014 Rose Parade.

PVH, in collaboration with the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE), will host a florigraph decorating event at 10 a.m., Dec. 5 at the hospital. The family of the late Kevin Ellis Boyles, a 22-year old tissue and cornea donor from Point Pleasant, will create a likeness of his face out of flowers. The resulting florigraph will adorn CORE's float to commemorate Boyles' life-saving gifts.

The event on Dec. 5 will include remarks from Susan Stuart, president and CEO of CORE, Larry Unroe, CEO of PVH, Annette Boyles, mother of Kevin Boyles. Kevin Boyles' florigraph will also be on display.

Recently, PVH, in collaboration with CORE, honored organ and tissue donors and their families at a Donate Life Rose Ceremony held at the hospital. One of the trademarks of the annual Donate Life float design is a "Dedication Garden" filled with thousands of roses, each placed in a vial carrying a unique, personal message from an individual, family or organization. PVH CEO, Larry Unroe, joined CEOs across the country by writing a dedication on a rose vile. The PVH rose vile will be one of thousands of rose dedications from hospital CEOs across the country to be placed in the Donate Life float's Dedication Garden for the world to see.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for Pleasant Valley Hospital to be a meaningful part of one of the world's greatest traditions: the Rose Parade. We are deeply grateful to donors and their families for their generous decision to help others in need," Unroe said. "It is our privilege to present our rose and also participate in the upcoming florigraph ceremony on Dec. 5 here at Pleasant Valley Hospital."

Again, the dedicated roses will be featured on Donate Life's 2014 Rose Parade float entry, "Light Up the World," which features a festival of lanterns illuminating 30 riders – all grateful organ and tissue transplant recipients – and 12 living organ donors walking alongside to demonstrate their ongoing vitality. Five enormous lamps are adorned with 72 memorial florigraph portraits of deceased donors whose legacies of life shine brightly. The riders are seated throughout a dedication garden filled with thousands of roses bearing personal messages of love, hope and remembrance.

Watched by 40 million U.S. television viewers, 800,000 parade spectators, and viewers in 150 countries, the Rose Parade is "America's New Year Celebration" – and an ideal venue to showcase how hospitals across the country make possible the life-saving and healing benefits of organ, eye and tissue donation.

CORE is one of 58 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the United States. CORE works closely with donor families and designated health care professionals to coordinate the surgical recovery

of organs, tissues and corneas for transplantation. CORE also facilitates the computerized matching of donated organs and placement of corneas. With headquarters in Pittsburgh and an office in Charleston, CORE oversees a region that encompasses 155 hospitals and almost six million people throughout western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Chemung County, NY.

http://www.mydailysentinel.com/news/home_top/2815104/PVH-honors-organ-donors-with-Rose-Parade-float