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Elves Deliver Holiday Cheer to Allegheny General Hospital Patients

Heart transplant recipients deliver holiday care packages to heart failure clinic staff & patients.

WHO: [Center for Organ Recovery & Education](#) and [Allegheny Health Network](#)

WHAT: The holiday season can be a challenging time for patients who are waiting for a life-saving heart transplant or dealing with related health issues. To bring holiday cheer to these patients, a merry band of volunteers from the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE), who also happen to be AGH heart transplant recipients themselves, will deliver care packages to AGH heart failure clinic medical staff and their patients. Care packages made possible by donations to CORE on Giving Tuesday 2022.

WHERE: Allegheny General Hospital
320 East North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES (B-ROLL, STILLS, COPY): www.bitly.com/COREHolidayCheer

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE:

Melvin Protzman, *Heart and Kidney Transplant Recipient*

Domonic DePaoli, *Heart Transplant Recipient*

Victor Wilson, *Heart Transplant Recipient*

Becky Joy, BSN, RN, CCTC, and Kari Mohny, BSN, RN, CCTC, *AGH Heart Transplant Coordinators*

Colleen Sullivan, *CORE Director of Public Affairs and Donor Family Services*

Editor's Note: Media should plan to arrive at 10 a.m. Parking will be available at the Emergency Department lot off Sandusky Avenue. Upon arrival, please contact Katelynn, Ebony or Stephanie to be escorted to the event.

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About CORE

The Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) is one of 57 federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) in the United States. CORE works closely with donor families and designated healthcare professionals to deliver the gift of hope by coordinating the surgical recovery of organs, tissues and corneas for transplantation. CORE also facilitates the computerized matching of donated organs, tissues and corneas. With headquarters in Pittsburgh and an office in Charleston, West Virginia, CORE oversees a region that encompasses 150 hospitals and more than 5 million people throughout western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Chemung County, New York. For more information, visit www.core.org or call 1-800-DONORS-7.

About Allegheny Health Network

Allegheny Health Network, a Highmark Health Company, is a western Pennsylvania-based integrated healthcare system that serves patients from across a five state region that includes western Pennsylvania and the adjacent regions of Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and New York. The Network's Cancer Institute employs more than 200 physicians and 500 oncology professionals who provide a complete spectrum of oncology care at more than 20 affiliated oncology clinics, including access to state-of-the-art technologies and new therapies being explored in clinical cancer trials. The Cancer Institute has the only cancer program in the Pittsburgh region with Integrated Network Cancer Program accreditation by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, and its radiation oncology program is the largest in the country accredited by the American College of Radiology. AHN Cancer Institute is a Quality Oncology Practice Initiative certified practice, and is accredited by the Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapy and National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. AHN also has a formal affiliation with the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, one of the nation's 41 comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute, for research, medical education and clinical services. To schedule an appointment with an AHN oncologist, please call 412.DOCTORS or visit www.ahn.org/find-a-doctor.