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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Offering Hope in Celebration of National Donate Life Month

–LifeGift Texas hosts 7th Annual “Celebration of Life”–

WHAT: Transplant recipients, donor family members and those waiting for lifesaving transplants will share their personal testimonies and journeys with donation during the 7th annual Celebration of Life, “Snapshots of Hope.” Hosted by [LifeGift](#), the local organ and tissue recovery agency, the event is part of [National Donate Life Month](#).

WHO: **Keith Garvin**, emcee anchor for [KPRC Channel 2](#)
Russell Roberts, tissue program supervisor – LifeGift
Bill McKeon, Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy and Operating Officer for the [Texas Medical Center](#)
Maria Benavides, living donor (donated one of her kidneys to her brother)
Melissa Porter, donor mother
Reginald and Gloria King, siblings who have received heart transplants
Randy Creech, heart recipient, will celebrate his 25th transplant anniversary
Elsy Espinoza, mother of Caleb, 3-year-old liver recipient

WHEN: Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 11 a.m.

WHERE: John P. McGovern TMC Commons
6550 Bertner Avenue (at Moursund)
Houston, Texas 77030

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In the case of inclement weather, the event will take place in the lobby adjacent to the TMC Commons.

Media should call the Baylor College of Medicine Office of Communications at 713-798-4710 to reserve a parking spot.

WHY: The 7th annual TMC Celebration of Life, “Snapshots of Hope,” is part of [National Donate Life Month](#), a month-long observance that commemorates those who received or continue to wait for lifesaving transplants and those who have given the ultimate gift through donation.

SPECIFICS: Every day, 79 lives are saved through organ transplantation across the country. Countless others have their lives saved through tissue donation and many others have their sight restored through corneal transplantation.

Even so, 21 people die every day due to the lack of available transplantable organs, and every 10 minutes, someone receives the overwhelming news that his or her only hope for survival is a transplant.

Across the country, 129,000 men, women and children wait for a lifesaving transplant and thousands more await lifesaving tissue donations. In Houston alone, more than 3,000 residents wait for second chances.

Currently, 7.2 million donors are registered on the [Donate Life Texas Registry](#), the official database of Texans who designate themselves to be organ, eye and tissue donors.

When the registry was created in 2006, it generated only 72,000 registrants its first year.

Texans can register to be lifesaving donors in one of three ways:

1. Online at www.donatelifetexas.org or www.donevidatexas.org
2. At any [Department of Public Safety](#) (DPS) office throughout the state
3. Through the [Department of Motor Vehicles](#) (DMV) when renewing vehicle tags

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About LifeGift Founded in 1987, LifeGift is a nonprofit organization that offers hope to individuals needing transplants in 109 Texas counties in the Houston area, North Texas and West Texas. It is a founding member of [Donate Life Texas](#), the organization that runs the organ, eye and tissue donor registry. For more information, visit www.lifegift.org.

Editor's/Producer's note: Spanish-speaking representatives will be available for interviews on site.

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