



MEDIA RELEASE / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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NASCAR DRIVER TO HONOR ORGAN & TISSUE DONORS AT JOSHUA HIGH SCHOOL

Donate Life Texas hosts AAA Texas 500 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series driver Joey Gase for an organ and tissue donation tribute including late student, Aaron Singleton.

Dallas-Fort Worth, TX (October 30, 2017) – Joshua student and athlete Aaron Singleton was only 15 years old when he died after a seizure during a football game last season and became an organ and tissue donor. Just two days short of the one-year anniversary of Aaron’s passing, his family, classmates and community will celebrate the gift of life in a unique tribute event at Joshua High School hosted by the Donate Life Texas organ, eye and tissue donor registry and LifeGift, the organ donation organization that oversaw Aaron’s donation.

During the event, NASCAR driver Joey Gase will unveil the Donate Life Texas #7 car which will feature photographs of Aaron and 19 other donation and transplant honorees. In what has become a tradition for Gase called “Handprints of Hope,” each honoree, including Aaron’s family and friends, will be invited to make painted handprints on the Donate Life Texas #7 car.

These personal tributes to Donor Heroes and transplant recipients will ride with Gase on the track during his race as an inspiration to fans about the power of donation. Joshua High School students and other Donate Life supporters will also be able to make handprints on Gase’s pit row banner.

For Gase, the Donate Life mission is personal. He has been a passionate advocate for Donate Life organ, eye and tissue donor registries in multiple states since his mother passed away and became a donor in 2011. Gase was awarded NASCAR’s Inaugural Comcast Community Outreach Award in 2015 for his work supporting Donate Life.

For the upcoming AAA Texas 500 at Texas Motor Speedway, Gase will race the Donate Life Texas #7 car with the Premium Motorsports team in honor of his mother, Aaron and all those touched by the gift of life.

- WHAT:** Appearance by NASCAR driver Joey Gase to honor student & organ donor, Aaron Singleton
- WHERE:** Joshua High School, in front of Owl Stadium - 909 S Broadway St, Joshua, TX 76058
- WHEN:** Thursday, November 2
 - 10:30 am – interviews with Singleton family, Gase and other honorees available
 - 11:00 am – Program and car unveiling
 - 11:45 am – Handprints of Hope activity
- WHY:** Celebrate the gift of life and the Donor Heroes who make it possible

- MORE -

NASCAR DRIVER AT JOSHUA HIGH SCHOOL (Cont)

Additional Resources:

Joey Gase:

- Joey Gase Racing: <http://www.joeygaseracing.com/>
- Fox Sports 1 Mother's Day 2015 interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bttkl3aLfQE>
- Gase meets recipient of his mother's kidney: <https://youtu.be/ckm8cvD3b6M>

Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Registration

- Donate Life Texas state donor registry: <https://www.donatelifetexas.org>
- Process of donation: <https://www.donatelifetexas.org/learn-more/learn-the-facts-about/donation-process/>
- Donation and transplantation statistics: <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov>

About Donate Life Texas

The Donate Life Texas organ, eye and tissue donor registry started in 2006 and now has almost 10 million registrants, making it the country's second largest donor registry and among the fastest growing. The registry is supported by all three Texas organ procurement organizations, LifeGift, Southwest Transplant Alliance and Texas Organ Sharing Alliance as well as the 13 eye and tissue banks serving the state.

Signing up is fast and easy at DonateLifeTexas.org and provides a way for individuals to make their decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor known. It also provides legal consent for donation after death, which removes the burden of decision-making from the family during an already difficult time.

Donate Life Texas is part of the Donate Life America not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and local partners across the United States, serving as a national voice and inspiring all people to save and enhance lives through organ, eye and tissue donation.

About LifeGift

Established in 1987 and celebrating its 30th year, LifeGift is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization that offers hope to individuals needing transplants in Southeast, North and West Texas. A founding member of [Donate Life Texas](http://DonateLifeTexas.org), the organization that runs the organ, eye and tissue donor registry, LifeGift services 10 transplant centers and 200 donor hospitals. It is accredited by the [Association of Organ Procurement Organizations](http://AssociationofOrganProcurementOrganizations.org) (AOPO) and the [American Association of Tissue Banks](http://AmericanAssociationofTissueBanks.org) (AATB). For more information, visit www.lifegift.org.