



# MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact:

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## NASCAR DRIVER TO MEET FANS & CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF LIFE

NASCAR driver Joey Gase will visit the UT Southwestern Medical Center campus from 1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6 to meet with the hospital’s transplant center patients and share his personal experience as an organ, eye and tissue donor family member. Gase will also unveil the Donate Life Texas # 52 car he’ll be racing on April 8 at the Texas Motor Speedway as part of the O’Reilly Auto Parts Xfinity 300 Series race.

Following his mother’s sudden death in 2011, Gase was called upon to consent to donating her organs, eyes and tissues which ultimately touched the lives of 66 people in need of transplants. Since then, Gase has become as passionate about donation as he is about racing. In December 2015, he was awarded NASCAR’s inaugural Community Champion Award for his work supporting organ, eye and tissue donation.

As a special treat, guests will be invited to sign their names and make handprints using paint on Gase’s Donate Life Texas #52 car. These personal tributes to donor heroes, transplant recipients and healthcare professionals will adorn Joey’s car and accompany him on the racetrack as an inspiration to fans about the power of donation.

- WHERE:** UT Southwestern Medical Center, William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, John & Ginny Eulich Pavilion - 6201 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75390
- WHY:** To promote awareness of the growing need for organ, eye and tissue donation and highlight the importance of registering as a donor
- WHO:** Interviews are available with Joey Gase, NASCAR driver  
Dr. Jorge Marrero, Medical Director of UT Southwestern Liver Transplant Program  
Suzy Miller, Executive Director, Donate Life Texas  
Donor families, transplant patients, recipients and Donate Life advocates

**MORE**

## (NASCAR driver visit to transplant center continued)

### Additional Resources:

**Joey Gase:** Joey Gase Racing: <http://www.joeygaseracing.com/>

#### 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/>

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### About Donate Life Texas

The Donate Life Texas organ, eye and tissue donor registry started in 2006 and now has more than 8 million registrants, making it among the fastest growing registries in the country. The registry is supported by all three Texas organ procurement organizations: LifeGift, Southwest Transplant Alliance and Texas Organ Sharing Alliance, as well as the 10 eye and tissue banks serving the state.

Signing up is fast and easy at [DonateLifeTexas.org](http://DonateLifeTexas.org). The site 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 Southwest Transplant Alliance

Since 1974, Southwest Transplant Alliance (STA) has been saving lives by recovering donated organs for individuals awaiting a life-saving transplant. STA is among the largest of 58 federally designated, non-profit organ procurement organizations (OPOs) and is now ranked number three in the nation for the highest number of organs transplanted.

STA has facilitated more than 22,000 organs for recovery and enhanced the lives of more than 100,000 people. STA is a member of the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) and is accredited by the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO). The organization serves communities in North Texas, Beaumont, Bryan/College Station, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Galveston, Midland/Odessa, Temple, Tyler and Wichita Falls. For more information, go to [www.organ.org](http://www.organ.org).

### About UT Southwestern Medical Center

UT Southwestern, one of the premier academic medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. The institution's faculty includes many distinguished members, including six who have been awarded Nobel Prizes since 1985. The faculty of almost 2,800 is responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and is committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide medical care in about 80 specialties to more than 100,000 hospitalized patients and oversee approximately 2.2 million outpatient visits a year.