One Last Act of Kindness

Richard Ruble learned a lot about hard work from his father, who was a devoted coal miner. The son followed in his father’s footsteps, working in the mines for 25 years before an on-the-job injury left him permanently disabled.

The younger Ruble, a Jasper native, also learned about the benefits of sacrifice and giving to others, and he lived a life that showed it. When the April 27, 2011, tornadoes ripped through central Alabama, Ruble prepared food for those in need and coordinated disaster recovery for Walker County. Soon after, he was named the volunteer construction coordinator for the long-term recovery committee in Walker County, and he led the reconstruction of more than 200 homes — acts which led to Ruble’s receiving a commendation from Governor Robert Bentley in recognition of his efforts. When Ruble died suddenly of a brain aneurysm in January of 2013 at age 52, it was no surprise that his last act was one of sacrifice and giving hope — and life — to others. Ruble donated his kidneys at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital and saved the lives of two people.

Ruble was selected by the Alabama Organ Center (AOC) to represent Alabama on the Donate Life float in the 2014 Rose Parade on New Year’s Day. On Saturday, November 2nd, 2013 Ruble’s family, put the finishing touches on a floragraph of Ruble that adorned the float. The floragraph finishing event took place, after the first Ruble Run, with proceeds benefiting the educational efforts of the Alabama Organ Center (AOC) and the Salvation Army’s annual Red Kettle campaign.

“When asked in the hospital about the possibility of donating his organs, there was no hesitation,” said Brandon Ruble, Richard’s son. “He made it clear that, if he could help others in his passing, he undoubtedly wanted to do so.” This is the third year that the AOC has sponsored a floragraph on the Donate Life float. For the past 10 years, dozens of organizations nationwide, including the AOC, have collaborated to enter a Donate Life float in the Rose Parade. Originally envisioned by a lung recipient who wished to thank donors for their gifts of life, the Donate Life Rose Parade Float has grown into a national tradition featuring dozens of participants each year, including riders who have received transplants, walkers who are living donors and deceased donors memorialized in “floragraph” portraits integrated into the float’s design.

To learn more about becoming an organ and tissue donor, visit www.alabamaorgancenter.org.

"We find peace in knowing that, even though Dad is no longer here to help us or to cheer us on in the stands, we know his legacy lives on through us and in those to whom he gave a second chance at life," Brandon Ruble said.

More than 3,800 people in Alabama are awaiting a transplant, according to Ann Rayburn, Senior Manager of Professional Education at the AOC. The state has an average of 120 organ donors each year.

Rayburn said Ruble and his family were great representatives for Alabama in the Rose Parade. Richard had a generous spirit, which was evident in his volunteer efforts in the community and in his decision to donate his organs to help others. For us, Richard and the Ruble family represent the hundreds of donor families in Alabama who have graciously risen above their grief to help others. This year’s float was a beautiful visual representation of donation and transplantation,” Rayburn said.

Tyler Greer, The University of Alabama at Birmingham Media Relations.
National Donor Sabbath will be observed November 14 - 15 - 16 of this year. Though observations will vary by faith, it provides an opportunity to discuss sharing the greatest of gifts—the gift of LIFE.

Contact Becky Davis at rebeccadavis@alabamaorgancenter.org if you would like to participate.

WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO

The Mary G. Montgomery High School Leadership 1 and 2 classes presented information about organ and tissue donation to every class in the school. This resulted in 836 donor registrations to the Legacy Donor Registry, breaking the Alabama record for number of registrants from a single event. CONGRATULATIONS... AND THANK YOU!

David Miller, AOC Ambassador, and Stacey Pearce, AOC Hospital / Community Liaison are pictured left with the students and their teacher.

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SIGNING ROSE PARADE VIALS

In an effort to celebrate the Donate Life Rose Parade float “Light Up the World,” the Alabama Organ Center set a goal of having the Chief Executive Officer of every hospital in the State sign a rose vial that was part of the float. Below is a list of the hospitals that participated. Thank you for your support.

ATHENS LINDSEY HOSPITAL
BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER EAST
BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER SOUTH
BROOKWOOD MEDICAL CENTER
CHILDREN’S OF ALABAMA
CHOCTAW GENERAL
CITIZENS BAPTIST
CLAY COUNTY HOSPITAL
CRENSHAW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
CULLMAN REGIONAL
DCH HEALTH SYSTEM
DECATER MORGAN HOSPITAL
DEKALB REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
EAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER
FLOWERS HOSPITAL
GADSDEN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
HELEN KELLER HOSPITAL
HILL HOSPITAL OF SUMTER COUNTY
HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL
JACK HUGHSTON
JACKSON HOSPITAL
JACKSONVILLE RMC
LAKE MARTIN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
LAKELAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
LANIER HEALTH SERVICE
LAWRENCE MEDICAL CENTER
LV STABLER
MARSHALL MEDICAL CENTERS
MEDICAL CENTER BARBOUR
MEDICAL WEST
NOLAND HOSPITAL DOTHAN
NORTH ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER - COFFEE
NORTH ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER - SHOALS
PRATTVILLE BAPTIST
PRINCETON BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
RUSSELLVILLE HOSPITAL
SHELBY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER
ST. VINCENT’S BIRMINGHAM
ST. VINCENT’S EAST
ST. VINCENT’S HEALTH SYSTEM
TRINITY MEDICAL CENTER
UAB HOSPITAL
USA MEDICAL CENTER
VAUGHAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
WALKER BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

VISION STATEMENT:
The Alabama Organ Center will serve the people of Alabama actively, responsibly, and honorably. We will work hard to educate on the importance of organ and tissue donation. We are dedicated to providing the highest quality of care and compassion to our donors, donor families, recipients, and healthcare partners. We are committed to leading the donation community and exceeding the industry’s standard of excellence.

MISSION STATEMENT:
Instilling hope within the people of Alabama by providing them the education and the confidence to take action to become an organ and tissue donor.

SLOGAN:
Taking Action
Instilling Hope
Saving Lives

CORE VALUES:
Compassion:
Caring relationships matter
Listen with empathy
Support those in need

Integrity:
Work with principles
Be accountable
Do no harm

Hope:
Empowering positive outcomes
Optimism through possibilities

Dedication:
Live the mission
Play your role on the team

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The Alabama Organ Center will participate in the CEO rose vial project for the 2015 Donate Life float whose theme will be “The Never-Ending Journey.” The signed rose vials will be placed in the Dedication Garden on the float.
Would you like to help organ and tissue donation awareness? Make a donation to the AOC/UAB Education Fund. Mail your tax-deductible donation to the Alabama Organ Center, 500 22nd Street South, Suite 102, Birmingham, AL 35233.

Celebration of Life Picnic 2014

Recovery is published by the Alabama Organ Center (AOC), the designated organ procurement organization for the state of Alabama. Our purpose is to provide organs and tissue to all persons who are in need of transplantation while respecting those donor families who share. In partnership with state-wide hospitals, AOC serves as the link between those who donate and patients waiting for organ and tissue transplants.