

# Seize the Day!



## Minneapolis Police Officer Honors Daughter's Life during the Rose Bowl Parade

A Minneapolis Police Department officer honored the life of her daughter and thousands of others who gave the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. She was one of 28 people who rode a special float in the 2011 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. on January 1.

Officer Catherine Casey, mother of tissue donor Deanna Casey, rode the Donate Life float in recognition of tissue donors worldwide. Catherine's trip to Pasadena was sponsored by RTI Donor Services, one of more than 60 associations across the nation—including organ and tissue recovery organizations, industry partners, transplant centers and transplant recipient groups—supporting the float project.

Catherine lost her daughter Deanna at the age of 16 in a car accident as a result of an impaired driver. According to Catherine, at the time Deanna received her driver's license a fateful mother-daughter conversation took place where they talked about donation. They both agreed that donation was the right thing to do. When Catherine received the heart wrenching call feared by every parent, she immediately thought of donation. As an MPD officer, Catherine had a familiar understanding of the tragic situation, having witnessed such events first-hand. Upon learning that tissue donation was still an opportunity, the Casey family said yes.

At the hearing of the impaired driver involved with



Deanna's accident, it was presented to the court that the defendant was a veteran and hero. When it was their turn, Catherine holding a Certificate of Recognition presented by the Governor, stated to the court that her daughter was a tissue donor and that she, too, was a hero.

Organ and tissue donation is an incredible gift that saves and heals. "Deanna's spirit continues to touch many lives, just as her smile did, and that lives on forever in our hearts," Catherine said. She believes that "donations make good things happen out of unimaginable tragedies." Deanna's family is forever grateful that they could and did donate Deanna's tissues. Catherine is committed

to working to educate the young and old about organ and tissue donation.

She feels honored to ride in this year's parade and takes heart in the fact that Deanna, "one little girl," has touched the lives of so many.

The Donate Life float recognizes the thousands of people who give the gift of life through organ and tissue donation each year. The float, one of 90 parade floats and units in the 2010 "Building Dreams, Friendships and Memories" themed parade, presented "Seize the Day" as its colorful kites represented donor families, living donors and transplant recipients making new memories through a precious moment.

Brought to you by RTI Donor Services – [www.rtidonorservices.org](http://www.rtidonorservices.org)

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