



## Organ donor is memorialized through Rose Parade float

Posted: Dec 05, 2013 4:01 PM EST Updated: Dec 05, 2013 6:39 PM EST  
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POINT PLEASANT, WV -

Kevin Boyles of Point Pleasant, WV died in April of 1997 of an undetected heart condition at the age of 22. His mother, Annette Boyles, explains, "He did not have a history of being ill. He was just there one minute and gone the next".

The donation of his tissue and corneas allows Kevin to live on. Misty Enos, Director of Professional Services and Community Outreach with the Center for Organ Recovery and Education, explains that being an organ donor is something positive that comes out of a terrible tragedy.

Today, Kevin's family finishes a floragraph portrait in his memory. Enos explains that a floragraph is a depiction of a loved one's photograph on a canvas made completely of natural materials like seeds and dried flowers.

Kevin's picture will be one of about 80 on the Donate Life's float in the Rose Parade this New Year commemorating organ donors and the gift of life. Annette Boyles says, "It's very inspiring to me to think that he's going to be seen by millions of viewers and it's my hope that somebody who is not designated as a donor will see his picture and think that's something I need to do".

A tribute like this helps the family carry on with the hope that they can touch the lives of others, while preserving the memory of their loved one. Enos says while Kevin has been gone nearly 17 years, you can see his legacy lives on through donation.

Annette Boyles says, "The grief will always be there. I have worked my way through the overwhelming grief so that we can celebrate the 22 years that we had him with us. Promoting organ donation is a way we can do that. Maybe some day it will help someone receive an organ that will allow someone's loved one to live on".

Across the nation, there are more than 120,000 people awaiting an organ transplant. Eighteen of those people will die each day without receiving one. Eight hundred people in WV are on that organ donation waiting list.

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