



Donate Life Texas

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NASCAR Driver Races to Raise Awareness for Organ & Tissue Donation and Honor Texans

Donate Life Texas and Joey Gase team up for an organ, eye and tissue donor tribute honoring organ and tissue donor Jordan Santiago, living donor Lisa James, and two-time heart recipient Lemuel Bradshaw

Dallas-Fort Worth (October 14, 2021) – Donate Life Texas is proud to partner with NASCAR driver, donor son and Donate Life advocate, Joey Gase for the [Andy's Frozen Custard 335 NASCAR Xfinity Series race](#) on Saturday, October 16th.

At the age of 18, Gase tragically lost his mother, Mary, to a sudden brain aneurysm. Faced with a difficult decision, he and his family gave their consent to donate his mother's organs and tissue. Later, they learned that her gift helped to save and improve the lives of 66 people.

Gase developed a passion for educating others on the need for organ, eye and tissue donation and honoring all of those affected by donation and transplantation. His car regularly features the face of his mother, other donors, and organ and tissue recipients and those waiting, making his one of the most unique cars in NASCAR.

"I am excited to be teaming up again with our friends at Donate Life Texas. I'm thankful for their partnership this weekend so we can not only race to win, but more importantly raise awareness for organ, eye and tissue donation and honoring all of these amazing people," says Gase.

In what has become an annual tradition for what Gase calls "Handprints of Hope," organ, eye and tissue honorees, including family and friends, were invited to submit virtual handprints and messages of hope to be displayed on the Donate Life Texas #52 car. This year, organ and tissue donor Jordan Santiago, living donor Lisa James and double heart recipient Lemuel Bradshaw, along with 173 other Texans will be featured on Gase's car at the Texas Motor Speedway.

25-year-old Jordan Santiago was known to those who knew him as a cheerful giver with the heart of a servant. His life was marked by the excellence of achievement, community service and his gift to draw people and connect with others. His giving heart and passion to help others drove his family to support and say "yes" to donation. Jordan saved five lives through his gift of six organs and healed many others through tissue donation. His gifts to medical research and education will be of great benefit to countless others. His family finds joy in knowing that people are living because of Jordan as well as knowing that his life and legacy, continue.

Lisa James, a mom of 3 children, donated her kidney to 10-year-old LeeAnn Sweeny, in a coordinated donation between UT-Southwest and Children's Medical Center. In October 2020, she made the decision to start the donation evaluation process and less than one year later, she was matched with recipient LeeAnn. Upon

NASCAR Driver Races to Raise Awareness for Organ & Tissue Donation and Honor Texans (Cont.)

reflecting about her living donation, Lisa calls it “one of the sweetest blessings of her life.” She loves talking about the organ registry and living donation and routinely volunteers her time and energy to the cause.

Lemuel Bradshaw is honored as a two-time heart recipient and advocate for the DLT mission. He has advocated for donation since his first heart transplant which lasted more than 20 years. Lem regularly says: “Two heroic families made it possible for me to have two heart transplants, see my children grow up and give me nine grandchildren. I will forever be grateful to ALL involved!” Lem also states, “I live in honor and awe of donor heroes!”

For Gase, the Donate Life mission is personal. He has been a passionate advocate for Donate Life Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor Registries across the U.S. since his mother passed away and became a donor in 2011. Gase was awarded the COMCAST Community Champion of the Year in 2015 for his work supporting Donate Life.

- WHAT:** NASCAR driver, Joey Gase to honor Texas organ donors, organ recipients and 173 others impacted by donation and transplantation
- WHO:** Transplant recipients and their families, donor family members, healthcare professionals, donation advocates and the entire community are invited to watch the virtual reveal via [Facebook Live](#) of the #52 Donate Life Texas Joey Gase NASCAR *virtually*
- WHEN:** Saturday, October 16, 2021. Race at @ 2:00 p.m.; Virtual car unveiling Saturday morning with exact time TBD.
- WHERE:** Texas Motor Speedway – *Andy’s Frozen Custard 335*
- WHY:** Celebrating the gift of life and the Donor Heroes who make it all possible

There are currently more than 10,000 people in Texas waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. Register your decision to become an organ, eye, and tissue donor today at DonateLifeTexas.org/Gase.

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About Donate Life Texas

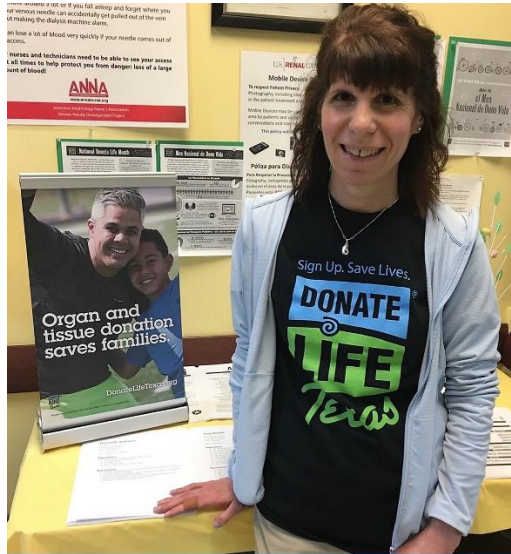
The Donate Life Texas organ donor registry started in 2005 and celebrated its thirteen millionth registration in 2021. The registry is supported by the Texas organ procurement organizations, LifeGift, Southwest Transplant Alliance and Texas Organ Sharing Alliance and the fourteen eye and tissue banks serving the state. Donate Life Texas is part of the [Donate Life America](#) not-for-profit alliance of national organizations and local partners across the United States.

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 to the right people at the right time, automatically. It also provides legal consent for donation after death, which removes the burden of decision-making from the family during an already difficult time.

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 **Jordan Santiago**
Organ Donor, 2021 



 **Lisa James**
Living Organ Donor, 2021 



 **Lemuel Bradshaw**
Heart Recipient, 2021 