

OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float 2025 OneLegacy Ambassador Float Rider/Walker Application



OneLegacy is proud to award one Float Rider honoree position and one walker honoree position on the 2025 OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float to Ambassadors/Embajadores who embody the spirit and philosophy of the program and are role models to all Ambassadors/Embajadores. This year and moving forward, we are no longer the Donate Life Rose Parade® Float and are now the OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float to help highlight our local stories.

The OneLegacy Donate Life Float Campaign

The OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float campaign, a national program of the OneLegacy Foundation, is supported by sponsors, including organ and tissue recovery organizations, tissue and eye banks, hospitals, transplant centers and affiliated organizations. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the OneLegacy Donate Life float was seen by an estimated 700,000 parade spectators and more than 45 million U.S. television viewers. Millions more heard about the OneLegacy Donate Life mission in broadcast and print news stories about the float and its participants. The 2025 Rose Parade,® themed Celebrating “**Best Day Ever,**” will take place on Wednesday, January 1st, 2025 at 8:00am PST.*

Selection Criteria – Rider/Walker

To be eligible for consideration, the applicant must:

1. Be an organ, tissue graft, or cornea transplant recipient or candidate; or be a living donor
2. Reside in OneLegacy’s seven-county service area;
3. Meet the requirements outlined in the 2025 OLDLRP Float Participation Guidelines;
4. Adhere to the 2025 OLDLRP Float Participant Guidelines;
5. Be a trained, current OneLegacy Ambassador, have participated in at least one Key Program, and have participated in one or more self-initiated or OneLegacy-produced community events prior to January 1, 2025;
6. Be available to participate in panel interview if chosen as a semi-finalist;
7. Be willing and able to relate their personal transplant experience to the public and media.

Selection Process

1. Ambassadors apply to become the 2025 OneLegacy Ambassador Float Rider/Walker by completing the entire OneLegacy Ambassador Float Rider application.
 - a. In addition, Ambassadors must provide a digital, high-quality headshot (min. 4” x 6” at 300dpi) and provide a biography (400 words or less) of himself/herself, written in the third person, along with their application.

2. A committee of OneLegacy staff will impartially review the applications and make their selection of the honorees who exemplify the model OneLegacy Ambassador based and most compelling nominees.
3. Honorees will receive a seat/spot on/with the 2025 OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float, including a four-night stay at the Hilton Pasadena* for the rider and four complimentary tickets to OneLegacy Donate Life special events and Rose Parade® grandstands.

Applications must be received by Friday, July 12th, 2024, no later than 5pm via email, fax or mail to:

OneLegacy Ambassadors Program
1303 W Optical Dr.
Azusa, CA 90012
Fax: (213) 633-1538
ambassador@onelegacy.org

We would like to thank you personally for everything you do to educate and inspire the community on organ, eye and tissue donation. Please remember to complete the entire application and answer the questions to the best of your ability. Examples and details are a great way to get your message across to the interview panel. Make sure to include up to three (3) pages (single-sided) of supporting documentation. We are excited to have the opportunity to consider you for the 2025 OneLegacy Ambassador Float Rider position.

OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float

Past Rider & Walker Honoree Experiences

"I would highly recommend submitting an application to be a Float Rider! It was an honor to be selected as a Float Rider and you would not only be honoring your own selfless organ donor, you would be representing all grateful transplant recipients who are thankful for their own gifts of life. Meeting other transplant recipients, living donors, and donor families from across the country is a once-in-lifetime experience, and you will forge friendships with other wonderful individuals in our transplant community."

— Peggy Averitt, Transplant Recipient —

"It is truly an experience of a lifetime! The emotions, memories and long-lasting friends I made during the week are forever imprinted on my heart!"

— Kathy Vochoska, Living Donor —

"Walking beside the float and seeing and feeling the connection the crowd has for Donate Life, and the persons on and around the float, is like nothing else I have ever experienced. Seeing a million joyous people over a 5½ mile walk was a privilege and memory I will never forget."

— Steve Lang, Living Donor —

"I would encourage other recipient Ambassadors to apply because of our overwhelming appreciation for the second chance we've been given. As an honoree, you will bond with recipients and donor families from all over the country."

— Jolene Vargas, Transplant Recipient —

"The experience is a lifetime memory that you will forever hold in your heart. You enjoy all the steps that get you to that wonderful moment of riding on or walking beside the float. The joy and happiness that overcomes you as you ride the float, and you see all the people waving at you because of the message that you carry for OneLegacy. As you ride down Colorado boulevard, you share the message that they too can give a second chance at life. After they are gone, or as a living donor. It is an unforgettable moment of happiness!"

— Cathy Mora, Living Donor —

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2025 OneLegacy Ambassador Float Rider Application



Name _____

Preferred Phone _____ Home Work Cell

Secondary Phone _____ Home Work Cell

Preferred E-mail _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____

Language(s) Spoken _____

Ethnicity _____ Date of Birth: _____

If you are a transplant recipient or related to a recipient:

Who received the transplant?

The transplant was from a Deceased donor Living donor

Transplant date

Organ(s) transplanted

Transplant center

Are you in contact with the donor/family?

If you are a transplant candidate:

What organ(s) need to be transplanted?

When were you added to the waiting list?

When did you become a OneLegacy Ambassador? _____ (MM/YY)

Total amount of volunteer hours: _____

OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float

2025 OneLegacy Ambassador Float Rider Application (cont'd)

Which Key Programs are you actively participating in:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambassadors to Cities | <input type="checkbox"/> Ambassadors to High Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambassadors to DMV | <input type="checkbox"/> Ambassadors to Hospitals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambassadors to FSS formerly DFAC | |

Please check the OneLegacy/Donate Life Events that you have supported as an Ambassador:

- OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float
- OneLegacy Donate Life Run/Walk
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

2025 Float Logistics Question

1. Please indicate whether you are confident that you could complete the tasks below if selected.

- | | | |
|--|--------|--------------|
| a. Climb onto and off of the float | OLDLRP | __Yes __No |
| b. Walk 6 miles with no/minimal breaks | | __Yes __No |
| c. Stand for 4 hours without a rest | | __Yes __No |

Application Questions: Please answer each of the following questions. You may answer the questions in written form (no more than 750 words)

1. What are the highlights of your participation in the OneLegacy Ambassadors program?
2. Why did you become a OneLegacy Ambassador?
3. How has your volunteer service as a OneLegacy Ambassador changed or contributed to your life?
4. Within the OneLegacy Ambassadors program, what accomplishment or experience are you most proud of?

Supporting Documentation

Finally, you may include **up to three additional pages (single-sided)** of supporting documentation to show your participation and commitment to the OneLegacy Ambassadors Program. Examples: Letters or pictures from your Mayor, DMV Manager, OneLegacy DDC, high school teacher, etc.

Please note, if more than three additional pages (single-sided) of documentation is included within the application, **only the first three pages** will be utilized in the selection and review process. Letters of recommendation may not come from OneLegacy Public Education staff members.

OneLegacy Donate Life Rose Parade® Float

Example of a Rider Honoree Biography



A biography is required for every honoree. A sample is shown below for your reference. If selected, the full biography will be featured on each individual honoree's page. Additionally, an abbreviated "capsule" version will be utilized when featured with other honorees.

One day in 1970, as a young bride on a waterskiing trip, Stephanie McMackin turned yellow and began itching 24/7. That was the first day of her 20-year battle with liver disease.

Stephanie's jaundice was so severe that her skin and eyes were yellowish-green; she had oozing sores all over her arms and legs. In an attempt to keep her alive until transplant, three operations at UCLA left Stephanie with external irrigation tubes in her abdomen.

By January, 1990, Stephanie's health had deteriorated to the point that she was put on the transplant waiting list. Twelve weeks later, close to Mother's Day, she received "the call" that changed her life and the lives of her family forever: Stephanie's life-saving surgery was at midnight!

Stephanie remembers saying goodbye to her loved ones just before she was wheeled into the operating room. She prayed that she would survive the surgery and then marveled after waking up eight hours later, realizing not only that she had survived, but she was pink, not yellow! This was the first time ever that her teenage children saw her healthy, with white eyes and pink skin.

Stephanie's donor was a 15-year-old girl named Mary. "I could identify with my donor's mother because I had a 15-year-old at the time, and my heart ached when I considered the tremendous grief my donor family must have been experiencing. I knew at that moment that not only were they giving me the gift of life but also the gift of their child's life. I have done my best for the last 20+ years to live a healthy life as a tribute to my donor family."

Stephanie has since been blessed to celebrate 42 years of marriage, see her husband retire, watch her children graduate from high school and college, get married, and to be a part of the lives of her five grandchildren. Stephanie has been "paying it forward" as a OneLegacy Ambassador for many years.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of my donor family and how much I owe them. Every Mother's Day, I think of my donor's mother missing her child. If I could, I would tell them that I am taking very good care of their daughter and that I thank them from the bottom of my heart for blessing me with their most unselfish gift of life."

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Example of a Walker Honoree Biography



A biography is required for every honoree therefore we have included a sample below for your reference. If selected, the full biography will be featured on each individual honoree's page. Additionally, an abbreviated "capsule" version will be utilized when featured with other honorees.

In mid-August 2010, 20-year-old Chris Vochoska woke up with swollen ankles. Two days later, he was diagnosed with kidney failure due to Berger's disease, an autoimmune disorder that attacks the kidneys and for which there is no cure. Fourteen days later, Chris was on dialysis.

"Chris was amazing as he returned to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to continue his studies as a computer engineering major," said his mother, Kathy. "After a few months on dialysis, we were told that we needed to look into a living donor kidney transplant. We immediately contacted transplant centers at UCLA and UCSF and tested to see if any of our family or friends might be able to donate a kidney to Chris."

On March 30, 2011, at the age of 50, Kathy was able to donate a kidney to her son, and the transplant worked immediately. "With so many people waiting for a transplant, we know how blessed we are," Kathy said.

Because Kathy's surgery was done orthoscopically, she was in the hospital for less than 24 hours. "Living donation has not slowed me down at all," she affirmed. "I continue to participate in all the activities I was involved with prior to the transplant – hiking, running, cycling. I recently hiked the Grand Canyon rim to rim with my daughter and some friends and plan on running the LA Marathon in March in support of the OneLegacy Foundation.

"Although I hate that my son got sick, the silver lining of our journey is that I am now involved with the most compassionate and inspiring group of people I have ever met," said Kathy. "As a [OneLegacy] Ambassador, I am passionate about helping to educate and inspire people in my community to register as organ and tissue donors. Prior to my son's illness, I was completely unaware of the need for transplanted organs and the amazing gift that so many donor families have graciously and unselfishly given in order to save someone's life. My life has been forever changed. In a word, I am blessed."