



You have the power to donate life



A Donate Life organization

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MODESTO NUTS TO HONOR MATTHEW ZARAGOZA

Donor Dad to throw first pitch in Saturday night's game

MODESTO, CA – (Saturday, April 29, 2006) – In the ceremonial first pitch, the **Modesto Nuts** and the **California Transplant Donor Network** will honor Matthew Zaragoza who became an organ donor last year. Jose Zaragoza, Matthew's father, will pitch to liver transplant recipient, Jerry Davis to drive home this life-saving message to Modesto Nuts fans: You have the power to Donate Life!

Matthew, a student athlete at Manteca's East Union High School became a donor after suffering from injuries he sustained during a football game last year. "We each have the potential to save up to eight lives as an organ donor and improve as many as 50 more as a tissue donor," says Cathy Olmo from the Transplant Network. "The Zaragozas, in their time of profound grief and sadness found it within their hearts to give the gift of life," Olmo continues.

The Modesto Nuts will host the Stockton Ports at John Thurman Field located at 601 Neece Drive in Modesto. Game time is 5:05 PM. For media access, please contact Will Murphy, Public Relations Director for the Modesto Nuts at 209-572-4487.

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Tonight's game is the first of several this season during which the Modesto Nuts will partner with the California Transplant Donor Network to help raise public awareness about the need for organ and tissue donors. According to Cathy Olmo, "Our purpose is to help people get the facts, sign-up to be donors at www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org, and record their wishes to save lives."

Fast Facts

- More than 28,000 people received organ transplants last year; 3244 in California.
- More than 91,000 people in the United States are waiting for organ transplants to save their lives; 21% reside in California. More than 2,100 of those waiting are children under the age of 18.
- Each day, more than 18 people – one every 90 minutes – die in the United States because of a shortage of organ donors. In 2005, more than 6,000 individuals died on the U.S. organ-transplant waiting list because the organs they needed were not donated in time. About 13 people are added to the national organ transplant waiting list every day.
- One person can potentially save more than eight lives through organ donation, and touch more than 50 others with tissue donation. To become a donor, go to www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org. At this website you can both officially record your wishes to be a donor and notify your family.

California Transplant Donor Network

The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The Transplant Network helps 160 hospitals in 40 Northern and Central California and Northern Nevada counties offer the option of organ and tissue donation to families whose loved ones have died, coordinates deceased organ recovery and placement, and provides public education with the hope that every resident will become a donor. It is federally designated as this region's organ recovery organization. For more information, visit www.ctdn.org or call 1-888-570-9400.