



For IMMEDIATE Release
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**MOTHER AWARDS STUDENT ARTIST WHOSE CARD DESIGN
PROMOTES THE IMPORTANCE OF ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION**

Daughter saved lives as a 4-organ donor

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A mother whose daughter graduated from San Mateo High School and later became an organ and tissue donor returned to the school on Friday to recognize a current student for supporting donation.

Carelle Karimianesh surprised 15-year-old Lucille Dai-He in art class to give her a second place prize in the California Transplant Donor Network's "Art of Giving" holiday card art contest.

In 2007, Naiyareh "Nai" Karimimanesh, a 1997 San Mateo High graduate, died in a Georgia auto accident and became an organ and tissue donor. Nai was active at the school and her mother and her mother's sisters both attended San Mateo High. At the time of her death, Nai was working as a lawyer in Georgia.

"What's important about this award is that it represents the essence of what Nai was all about. She had the forethought to register as a teen and come home and talk to us about it. If we can connect with people about donating through art that just perpetuates her decision."

Dai-He of Foster City created a design of silhouetted human figures holding hands amid a field of grass and a sky of multi-colored hearts. "Join hands and Save a life" was its message. The theme of the contest was to create art to support the theme of "The Art of Gifting."

The contest was open to high school students throughout Northern California and Northern Nevada. CTDN, the link between organ and tissue donors from that region and recipients, received more 80 entries. Dai-He was among five winners chosen. Other winners were from Lodi and Tracy. All the student work will be on display at CTDN offices in Oakland, Fresno and San Leandro.

"We appealed to these students to come up with a compelling design that celebrates the season of life and giving with a call to action to sign up as potential organ and tissue donors," said CTDN Community Development Liaison Ayanna Anderson, who chaired the contest.

Dai-He's art will also be reproduced on CTDN note cards while the first place winner will be used on CTDN's holiday cards. For a complete list of winners, go to ctdn.org Friday afternoon.

The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The Transplant Network helps 175 hospitals in 41 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.

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