



**For Immediate Release**  
**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**MIKEY'S MEALS WILL FEED THE HUNGRY AND GIVE TOYS  
AWAY THIS CHRISTMAS IN MEMORY OF ORGAN DONOR JOHNNY HERNANDEZ**

*'Mikey', a liver transplant recipient, has been feeding the less fortunate in honor of his donor family for two years; this New Year's Day he will be honored for "paying his gift of life forward" as a Donate Life float rider in the 122<sup>nd</sup> Rose Parade.*

**Sat., Dec. 25, 2010, Fitzgerald Park, West Oakland, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**What:**

When **Michael "Mikey" Carraway, Jr.** of Oakland, Calif. was 11, he suddenly became very ill and was admitted to the hospital. Days later, Mikey's family was told that he would need a liver transplant to survive. After receiving a liver, on Nov. 1, 2008 from Johnny Hernandez, 18, Mikey, now 13, and his family launched "Mikey's Meals" to feed the homeless and pay his gift of life forward. Since 2008, Mikey's Meals has fed 3,500 people. On Saturday, Mikey and his family will feed and give away toys to more than 100 less fortunate people in celebration of his organ donor. Mikey's Meals is able to feed and provide toys to the community this Christmas because of the Oakland Firefighters Random Acts, McClymonds High School Alumni, Oasis Pamper Bar and CTDN along with contributions from community members and local grocery stores

The **California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN)** has selected **Mikey to be a float rider New Year's Day on the 2011 Donate Life Rose Parade Float, *Seize the Day!***, because of his commitment and dedication to paying his gift of life forward. Representing 15 states, the riders aboard Donate Life's eighth Rose Parade float entry offer special stories of hope and courage as organ, tissue, cornea and bone marrow recipients, donor family members, living donors and candidates for transplant. Each rider will remind us all to 'Seize the Day!' and enjoy the precious moments life has to offer.

**Who:**

- **Michael "Mikey" Carraway, Jr.** (Oakland), 13, who received a liver in 2008, is the co-founder of "Mikey's Meals". Mikey was chosen to represent the California Transplant Donor Network as a float rider on the 2011 Donate Life Rose Parade Float, *Seize the Day*.
- **Shaheda Wright** (Oakland), 36, is the mother of Mikey and co-founder of "Mikey's Meals".
- **Charles Wright II**, uncle of Mikey and Berkeley High School football coach
- **Fremont High School Basketball Team**
- **Kathy Clark**, 51, Volunteer Coordinator, California Transplant Donor Network, received a liver transplant in 2005,
- **Ayanna Anderson**, 38, Community Development Coordinator, California Transplant Donor Network

**When:** Sat., December 25 – 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (or until food and toys run out)

**Where:** Fitzgerald Park, corner of 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Peralta Street, West Oakland

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**Details:** The **California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN)** saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. CTDN 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](http://www.ctdn.org) or call 1-888-570-9400.

The **Donate Life Rose Parade Float, Seize the Day!** is supported by nearly 120 official partners from across the nation, including organ and tissue recovery organizations, for-profit contributors, transplant centers, and transplant recipient organizations. Donate Life salutes the importance of the Hispanic community's contribution to organ, tissue and blood donation by also presenting the float's logo in Spanish, "Done Vida." The 122<sup>nd</sup> Rose Parade presented by Honda, themed *Building Dreams, Friendships & Memories*, will take place on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011, at 8:00 am PST, featuring majestic floral floats and spirited marching bands. For more information about the Donate Life Rose Parade Float, visit [www.donatelifefloat.org](http://www.donatelifefloat.org).

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