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Mayor

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ORGAN DONATION BY JOE HERNANDEZ TO SAVE LIVES

In tragedy, a way found to help others

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH) patient Joe Hernandez Friday gave the ultimate gift of life by donating organs to people in need in Northern and Central California.

The Hernandez family's decision to donate Joe's organs was a courageous and compassionate way to turn one person's tragedy into a life-saving moment for others.

"Joe was very healthy and wanted to save lives even in his death. It was something that was important to him," his family said in a statement.



Hernandez, 30, was a fourth-year medical student at UCSF who had recently trained at SFGH. He was transported to San Francisco General Hospital on Sunday January 9 in critical condition. He did not survive, and his family donated his organs because he had told them that was his choice.

"We are grateful to the Hernandez family for extending themselves to help others during this time of tremendous grief," said Sue Currin, CEO of SFGH. "Here at San Francisco General we encourage families to consider organ donation as a way to celebrate the life of their lost loved one by extending the lives of others."

Last year, 10 SFGH patients donated a total of 48 organs, saving many lives. The need is great. Nearly 21,000 Californians are awaiting organ transplants, according to the California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN).

"One donor can save the lives of up to 8 people with organs, and improve the lives of more than 50 people with tissue donations," said Cathy Olmo, Manager of Community Development at CTDN. "Some people in need have been waiting for years; unfortunately some cannot survive a long wait. For each of them, donation means another chance at life."

To speak to an SFGH surgeon about organ donation, contact Rachael Kagan at 206-3170.

Join the 7 million Californians who have signed up to be an organ and tissue donor on-line at www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org or check “yes” at the DMV when renewing your license

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San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH)

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center is the sole provider of trauma and psychiatric emergency services for the City and County of San Francisco. A comprehensive medical center, SFGH serves some 100,000 patients per year and provides 20 percent of the city’s inpatient care. As San Francisco’s public hospital, SFGH’s mission is to provide quality health care and trauma services with compassion and respect to patients that include the city’s most vulnerable. General Hospital is also one of the nation’s top tertiary academic medical centers, partnering with the University of California, San Francisco on clinical training and research.

California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN)

The California Transplant Donor Network saves and improves lives by facilitating organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The California Transplant Donor 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. The California Transplant Donor Network is federally designated as the region’s organ recovery organization. For information, visit www.ctdn.org or call (888) 570-9400.