

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN INVITES PATIENTS TO RACE TO ADVENTURE AT THE 2016 ROSE PARADE

Patients from Shriners Hospitals, Shriners Leadership, a NASCAR personality and Fezzy to be part of the 2016 Rose Parade

**TAMPA, Fla. (Aug. 19, 2015)** – Shriners Hospitals for Children<sup>®</sup> is proud to participate in the 127th Rose Parade<sup>®</sup> presented by Honda on Friday, Jan. 1, 2016, in Pasadena, Calif., for the sixth consecutive year.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is especially pleased to be part of America's New Year Celebration<sup>®</sup> in Pasadena, future home of the new Shriners for Children Medical Center. Located adjacent to its new partner, Huntington Memorial Hospital, the new entity will replace the Los Angeles hospital and allow Shriners Hospitals to better serve the children of Pasadena, the Greater San Gabriel Valley and the Southwest.

This year's float, entitled *Fezzy Races to Adventure,* is the third consecutive Rose Parade appearance for Fezzy, the popular mascot and honorary member of Shriners International.

This year's float will feature a gigantic fire truck driven by Fezzy, a 17-foot plush bear. This whimsical representation illustrates the commitment of Shriners Hospitals for Children to the overall health and well-being of their patients. The staff is committed to providing both hope and healing, helping patients to overcome challenges and become as confident and independent as possible. They encourage children them to dream big and "race to the adventures" that the future will bring.

Established in 1922, Shriners Hospitals for Children is a health care system with 22 locations that provide innovative, expert care for orthopaedic conditions, spinal cord injuries, burns and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the families' ability to pay. More than 1 million children and families have benefited from their unique, generous approach to pediatric health care. At Shriners Hospitals for Children, the ability to provide hope and healing in a compassionate, family-centered environment is based on a foundation of nearly 100 years of medical excellence.

"We are excited to be able to participate once again in the Rose Parade," said Jerry G. Gantt, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Shriners Hospitals for Children. "Our float, *Fezzy Races to Adventure,* is a great way to show the public our commitment to providing healing in a way that is fun and child-friendly. I believe the children riding on the float will enjoy it and so will the audience."



Riding on the *Fezzy Races to Adventure* float this year will be representatives from Shriners International, professional NASCAR driver and Shriner David Ragan, national patient ambassadors Clint Crain and Katharine Koonce, and Shriners Hospitals for Children – Los Angeles patients.

For information on Shriners Hospitals for Children, visit www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org

For additional information on the Rose Parade, visit www.tournamentofroses.com

## **About Shriners Hospitals for Children**

Shriners Hospitals for Children is changing lives every day through innovative pediatric specialty care, world-class research and outstanding medical education. Our 22 locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico provide advanced care for children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate.

Shriners Hospitals for Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on the generosity of donors. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## About the Tournament of Roses®

The Tournament of Roses is a volunteer organization that annually hosts the Rose Parade<sup>®</sup>, the Rose Bowl Game<sup>®</sup> and a variety of associated events. Nine hundred thirty-five volunteer members act as ambassadors of the organization and contribute upwards of 80,000 hours of manpower each year. The 127th Rose Parade presented by Honda and themed "Find Your Adventure," will take place Friday, January 1, 2016, followed by the 102nd Rose Bowl Game presented by Northwestern Mutual. Learn more at www.tournamentofroses.com and on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

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