



MEDIA CONTACT: Carin Campbell Smith
772-359-6145 / carin.smith@tclsc.com

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Family of Local Organ Donor to Meet Transplant Recipient during “Tree of Life” Unveiling at SLC Tax Collector’s New Tradition Office

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (April 16, 2019) – St. Lucie County resident Hayleigh Shaw probably never planned on selflessly saving four lives before her 21st birthday. But on the night of January 22, 2018, the 20-year-old went out to look for her two dogs that got out, and she was struck and killed by a car. Because Hayleigh was an organ donor through Donate Life Florida, her tragic death saved four other people. Hayleigh is one of the inspirations behind the Donate Life Florida “Tree of Life” wall display at the new St. Lucie County tax collector’s office in Tradition (10264 Village Parkway, Port St. Lucie, 34987), which is being unveiled in a **public ceremony on Thursday, April 25 at 5:30 p.m.** Hayleigh’s family will be at the event, along with one of the people she saved through her organ donation.

“There are few things more powerful and emotional to witness than a transplant recipient getting to meet the family of their donor,” said Chris Craft, St. Lucie County Tax Collector. “Hayleigh gave the ultimate gift by helping four of the more than 100,000 people in our state awaiting transplants.”

This will be the second “Tree of Life” display for the St. Lucie County tax collector’s office. The original mural appears in the lobby of the Fort Pierce building and was inspired by local teen Christian Medina, the Lincoln Park Academy student and organ donor who died due to injuries suffered in a car accident on his way to school in 2013.

To encourage more people to be heroes like Christian and Hayleigh, Craft partners with Donate Life Florida to create these wall displays in his office. Since the first mural was installed in 2013, 50% of St. Lucie County drivers have become registered organ donors, making the county’s driver license organ donor designation rate one of the highest in the state.

The wall unveiling event will also include an official ribbon cutting for the new office by the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce at 5:15 p.m.

Located in western Port St. Lucie, where the vast majority of growth has occurred in recent years, the new facility is the third location for the St. Lucie County tax collector's office, and is within a ten-mile radius of more than 225,000 residents, which is 75% of the county's population.

For more information on the Tree of Life unveiling event or the St. Lucie County tax collector's office, visit www.tcslc.com or contact Carin Smith at carin.smith@tcslc.com.

About the St. Lucie County Tax Collector, Chris Craft

The St. Lucie County Tax Collector, Chris Craft, has two offices located in Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, Fla., open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The office handles property taxes, tax certificates, tourist development, motor vehicle registration, driver licenses, motorized vessel registration, mobile home registration, disabled parking, hunting and fishing licenses and local business taxes. For more information on the St. Lucie County Tax Collector, please visit tcslc.com, call 772-462-1650, or email taxcollector@tcslc.com. "Like" the St. Lucie County Tax Collector on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StLucieCountyTaxCollector> and follow on Twitter @SLCTaxCollector.

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