

---

CITY MANAGER

## 6 Firefighters, 1 ER Doctor Being Honored With Lifesaving Awards By Patient's Mother, Heart Recipient

Feb. 21, 2018 - The City of Beloit Fire Department is honoring six firefighters and one emergency room doctor with a lifesaving award due to their efforts in caring for a patient in April 2015.

The patient, 19-year-old Brody Austin, passed away following a motorcycle accident, but the level of care provided to Austin allowed his family to donate his organs. Austin's mother, Megs Emmanuel, and the recipient of his heart, Paul Loper Jr., will be present to give the awards to the individuals involved in Austin's care.

The ceremony will be held at:

**1:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26, 2018**  
**Beloit Fire Department Headquarters (Station 1)**  
**1111 Church St., Beloit, WI**

The individuals being honored are:

- Dr. Christopher Wistrom, Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center
- Lt. David Kurth
- Acting Lt. Chad Eneix
- Retired Motor Pump Operator Ben Smith
- Relief Motor Pump Operator Scott Formankiewicz
- Relief Motor Pump Operator Matt Biddick
- Firefighter Seth Copeland

Austin, who grew up wanting to be Superman, was wearing his Superman cape as he was wheeled into the operating room on National Superhero Day, April 28, 2015. He truly became Superman that day, saving six lives through organ donation, including Loper's life. Additionally, Austin donated 155 different tissues. To date, 75 people in 32 states have received the healing gifts from Austin's legacy.

UW Organ and Tissue Donation, which is affiliated with University Hospital's transplant program in Madison, is the Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) who supported Emmanuel and her family at the hospital, managed the recovery of the organs and tissues and provided after care to Emmanuel and her family. Additionally, Wisconsin Tissue Bank handled the tissue recovery and Lions Eye Bank handled the cornea recovery.

On average, 22 people die every day without receiving a lifesaving gift of an organ. One organ donor can save eight lives and improve the lives of 75 others with the gift of tissue and corneal donation.

People can easily register to be an organ, tissue and eye donor online. It only takes 1 - 2 minutes and saves a trip to a Wisconsin DMV or Secretary of State facility in Illinois.

- In Wisconsin - [DonateLifeWisconsin.org](http://DonateLifeWisconsin.org) or in Spanish at [DoneVidaWisconsin.org](http://DoneVidaWisconsin.org) for anyone 15½ years of age or older
- In Illinois at [LifeGoesOn.com](http://LifeGoesOn.com) for anyone 16 years of age or older.

###