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Astellas and The Chris Klug Foundation Recognize Extraordinary Transplant Recipients with Bounce Back, Give Back Awards

Awards will be presented in December at "Summit For Life" in Aspen, CO

NORTHBROOK, IL. and ASPEN, CO., July 31, 2018 – Astellas, in collaboration with the Chris Klug Foundation (CKF), recently announced this year's winners of the annual Bounce Back, Give Back Awards. The awards recognize two transplant recipients who exhibit an exceptional post-transplant quality of life, whether it is a career accomplishment, participation in a sport or hobby, or simply leading a fulfilling life with family and loved ones.

"The Bounce Back, Give Back Award is about celebrating active and healthy lives post-transplant, as well as educating and encouraging all transplant recipients in their post-transplant journey," said Lauren Pierce, Executive Director, Chris Klug Foundation. "For more than 20 years, Astellas has supported the transplant community through programs like the Bounce Back, Give Back Award, and the Patient Ambassador Program — a program where the Chris Klug Foundation visits with patients and staff at transplant centers offering inspiration to those touched by transplantation."

More than 65 nominations representing individuals from 23 states (and one international submission) were received for this year's awards. A team of CKF reviewers selected the two award winners. The two honorees and one guest each will enjoy an all-expense-paid trip to Aspen for the award ceremony. Awards will be presented during the Chris Klug Foundation's "Summit for Life" weekend and will include attendance at a nighttime, up-hill race up Aspen Mountain that traditionally draws more than 500 participants. Proceeds from the event will benefit CKF. The Bounce Back, Give Back Awards will be presented during the Party for Life, at the top of Aspen Mountain at the conclusion of the race.

This year's first award winner, Brian Hinsley, has demonstrated resilience and strength after being diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis and receiving a new liver. He became the first firefighter/paramedic to receive an organ transplant and return to duty. A film crew documented Brian's battle with his illness, including his successful transplant. Today, Brian and his wife, Kim, show their film, called "No Greater Love", all over the country. The film won an Emmy and premiered in Washington, D.C., where Brian was asked to speak in front of Congress. Brian and Kim are ambassadors for OneLegacy and Brian consistently speaks at high schools, universities, hospitals and flag raisings. In addition, he is a speaker for the Donor Remembrance ceremonies and is on the steering committee for JJ's Legacy with his wife.

Brian was part a group of people who rode ATVs across the country as a means of promoting organ and tissue transplantation. Both Brian and his wife are members of the Order of Saint Lazarus, of which organ and tissue transplantation is a flagship program. In the Order, Brian and Kim are co-chairs of the Organ Donation Awareness Committee. In addition to "No Greater Love", Brian was in another film focused on organ donation, called "Keep Hope Alive", which is shown to many fire departments for continuing education credit.