

# HERO<sup>®</sup> Allograft

Net proceeds from the sale of Hero Allograft are donated to charities benefiting children with life-threatening medical conditions.

## Houston Make-A-Wish Kid, 10 Year-Old Patrick, Had Movie Star Wish Granted Because of Local Spine Surgeon

### Dr. Mike Leahy of the Woodlands Responsible for Over 400K Raised for National Make-A-Wish through Spinal Elements "Hero Allograft" Program

Houston, TX – August 12, 2015 -- Spinal Elements<sup>®</sup>, Inc., a California-based spine technology company, announced that local Houston spine surgeon Mike Leahy, M.D., a leading Orthopedic Spine Surgeon for multiple high school athletic programs in the community, celebrated a special wish that he just granted yesterday to 10-year-old Patrick DeClaire of Friendswood. This is the latest of many ongoing donations the local Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana chapter has received because of Dr. Leahy and his work with Spinal Elements "Hero Allograft" program. To date, Dr. Leahy has raised over \$400,000 nationally for Make-A-Wish and St. Jude Children's Research Hospitals, and over \$100,000 for the local MAW chapter, enabling them to make more wishes come true for Houston children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Patrick has been diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, but that doesn't stop him from reading comic books, studying history in school and following his love of acting! Patrick's wish was to be a movie star for a day, and last month his wish was granted when he landed a role in the upcoming feature film Joy Comes in the Morning. Patrick's passion lies in movies, and he has even written his own story line featuring his fictional alter-ego, Captain Courageous. Patrick and his family were honored by Spinal Elements, Dr. Leahy and Make-A-Wish in a special post-wish cupcake ceremony where Spinal Elements and Dr. Leahy presented him with his very own "Hero" cape. Dr. Leahy is the first surgeon in the country to pledge to use Hero

Allograft and begin driving donations to Make-A-Wish. Dr. Leahy is singlehandedly responsible for nearly half of the donations made by the "Hero Allograft" program to date.

**ABOUT SPINAL ELEMENTS' HERO ALLOGRAFT:** Spinal Elements offers surgeons and hospitals across the country the opportunity to pledge to use only allograft tissue from companies that do not profit from the transfer of that tissue whenever clinically feasible. Allograft is human tissue that is obtained by way of an authorized gift of a donor and/or their family, and can then be turned into scores of medical products. Every year, 1.5 million of these products are given to American patients.

Spinal Elements chose to name its first allograft tissue product "Hero<sup>®</sup>" to honor those whose donation made the tissue donation possible. Although many companies earn significant profits from the sale of allograft, Spinal Elements has chosen to donate net profits from the sale of its Hero allograft to charities benefiting children with life-threatening medical conditions, such as Make-A-Wish<sup>®</sup> and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Hero was launched in October, 2012 at the North American Spine Society (NASS) convention. Spinal Elements donated over \$300,000 from net proceeds of Hero in 2013, and estimates it will donate an additional \$300,000 in the second year of the Hero program for a total of \$600,000 since inception.

For more information, please visit

[www.spinalelements.com/hero](http://www.spinalelements.com/hero).

Honoring the Gift.  
Paying it Forward.



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L to R: Dr. Mike Leahy poses with Wish Kid Patrick with his "Hero Cape," Michele Wright with the Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana chapter, and Jeremy Andrews with Spinal Elements.

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