

**Nurses' Float to Honor Rose Parade President Sally Bixby, RN and all
Nurses at 2013 Rose Parade**

***"A Healing Place" theme celebrates the unique qualities and skills of
nurses***

PASADENA, Calif. (May 21, 2012) – 2013 will be the first time that a nurse will be president of the Tournament of Roses, and only the second time that a woman was named to top role. Five registered nurses in California formed a non-profit organization, "Bare Root," to raise money and build a float to honor Sally Bixby and nursing professionals worldwide for their tireless efforts.

In 2007 this tenacious and passionate group of five registered nurses with skills that reflect the diversity of roles in nursing - management, marketing, education, and clinical expertise - began raising money in a truly grassroots fashion, sometimes \$1 and \$5 at a time, with help from peers in their industry.

"When we decided to build a float to honor Sally, we realized that we also wanted to honor nurses everywhere. Nurses are really the unsung heroes of healthcare and healing," said Monica Weisbrich, RN, president of Bare Root.

The image of the float serves as a metaphor for the healing environments nurses create through the use of their qualities and skills. "A Healing Place" is created anywhere there is a nurse and a patient – from the hospital to the battlefield; from a school to a home; from a clinic to a specialty care center. The words that surround and support the float explain those qualities.

To date, Bare Root has raised more than \$300,000. One hundred percent of funds raised supported the development of the Nurses' Float, with continued fundraising efforts being used for scholarships and grants to qualifying organizations.

There will be up to twelve float riders honored for their contributions to the project. Current float riders include Providence Little Company of Mary in Torrance, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Sharp Healthcare of San Diego, St. Joseph of Orange, Huntington Hospital of Pasadena and Nurse.com.

The Nurses' Float will bring unprecedented exposure to the often-overlooked profession. The event reaches 70 million viewers in 200 countries and is the 3rd most watched television event in the U.S.

For more information about the Nurses' float, visit www.flowers4thefloat.org or the Nurses' Float Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NursesFloat>

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