



LIFECENTER
NORTHWEST

Saving Lives through Organ Donation

MARCH 13 MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF 12-YEAR-OLD'S PASSING & ORGAN DONATION

FAMILY AND FRIENDS GATHER TO RELEASE BALLOONS HONORING COLE BALDWIN AND HIS GIFTS OF LIFE

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

SEATTLE, WA. – (MARCH 11, 2008) – Cole Baldwin's favorite number was 13. It was always the number on his baseball jersey, and it also happened to be the day that he unexpectedly died—just weeks short of his 13th birthday. One year after his passing, his friends and family will gather on March 13 at 3:30pm at Bothell's Fernwood Elementary (3933 Jewell Rd.) to honor Cole, the gift of life he gave to five others, and to raise awareness of organ, eye, and tissue donation.

The morning of March 13, 2007, Cole was up early to finish his homework. Around 7am, his family found him seizing on the couch and unresponsive. Cole had suffered a brain aneurysm and never recovered. Deciding some good should come out of this tragedy, his family chose donation. In all, Cole donated his heart, liver, kidneys, lungs and corneas. He saved five lives.

"It really has helped us feel like Cole's life wasn't wasted and that he now lives on in the lives of many people," said his mom, Marta.

Cole was an avid drummer, enjoyed sports and his friends, skateboarding and laughing. He never gave up and always gave it his best shot. People loved to be around Cole, including his big sister Brianna and his twin sister Kayla. "Cole had a wonderful spirit and was a beautiful person inside and out. He wasn't afraid to really be himself and admired that in other people," said Marta.

Family, friends, classmates, and supporters will gather to honor Cole, his life and his selfless donation in death at Fernwood Elementary on Thursday, March 13. His classmates who moved on to Junior High this

year will come back to Fernwood to participate in the celebration including an open mic, stories and a release of balloons in Cole's honor.

LifeCenter Northwest and the Living Legacy Foundation will be on hand to answer questions about organ donation and raise awareness about donor registration and their upcoming Annual Giving Luncheon (at which Cole will be honored). Established by LifeCenter Northwest, a federally designated organ donation organization, Living Legacy Foundation serves as a bridge among donor families, recipients, living donors and the community. To learn more or to register online, please visit www.donatelifetoday.com.