



Testimonials

"If I had a couple of minutes with Brandon now, I could smile and say, 'You have saved and enhanced the lives of over 50 people. I'm very proud of that.' – donor Mom, Shirley Harney-Taylor (Brandon Harney, age 16)

"I celebrate my rebirth, that day and every day since," said Anette Lusher, double lung recipient, of her transplant day. "Every breath for me is a gift."

There is no question in my mind that if there were other people laughing and living today that held our son,s organs and tissues in their bodies, I would have warm and happy thoughts. I would want to know them and watch them and their families grow. I would see my son in them."

-Pat McVicker, whose son Kevin died and was unable to be a donor

"So much of what I talk to people about is the hope that I have because of donation. It gives us something positive to do. Kell is still "out there". It is a thrill that people continue to get to know him. People will never forget him, he will live on in all these people." – Nancy Roberts, donor mom (Kellen Roberts, age 21)

"I received my new heart on May 25, 2004. That day was bittersweet - I was thrilled to be alive, but intensely aware of the tragedy that made this day possible. I hoped they knew, in their sadness, how grateful I was for her decision. I am now active and healthy, thankful each day for my second chance."—Randy Small, heart transplant recipient

"As I have passed my second birthday after being gifted with life, I find myself in awe of how different life has become. No more are the drastic mood swings or the hours of waiting for blood sugars to arrive at healthier levels. Fear of finding myself on the floor, knowing what is wrong, but not being able to do anything is gone. No more is the fear of not waking. No more is the pain from needles on a daily basis."

- Teresa Leese, kidney/pancreas recipient

My friends lovingly reminded me that Johnathan was all about leaving a legacy - that he would have wanted nothing more than to give life to others even in his

last days...And now two years later, I wonder how we got to this point..We hum softly to the beat of the four organ recipients' hearts, praying that they are healthy and living with a renewed sense of purpose. We sing because we know Johnathan is dancing in heaven and he delights in our accompanying songs.”— Kelly Sim, donor wife

“If we were to lose him, perhaps he could still live on by giving his body up for total donation. His gentle heart went to a 63-year-old man and his liver to a 33-year-old man, both from Washington. His right kidney went to a 57-year-old man from West Virginia and the left one to a 5-year-old boy in Alabama. His corneas went to two others, while his lungs went to a 23-year-old college student to whom we have already been fortunate enough to be in contact with. We hope to watch this young man grow stronger with renewed life and become part of our family, as we will with his.” – donor Mom Linda Hjelm, who lost son Matthew at age 17

“Now I look forward to every day, hour and minute. I shared the sorrow, joy and comfort of meeting with my donor's family. With great appreciation and sincere gratitude I willingly accepted their love, understanding and support as they found great solace in knowing their loved one's heart went to an individual that treasures life and takes true pleasure in volunteering to help others. I think of them and of my donor each day as I give thanks for the blessings of life, good health, a wonderful family, great friends and supporters.” – Terry Heuer, heart recipient

“Of course we were in a state of shock, but for us it was really easy to make the decision. There was no question, the donation was going to happen.... Asked what they think Travis would say about being a tissue and cornea donor who helped so many people, his parents pause for a moment. Then Tom smiles, puffs up his barrel chest in a mock show of teenage bravado, and says, “Damn, I’m good, aren’t I?” “

-- Tom Olesen, father of 16 year old donor, Travis Olesen