



1 tissue donor
can change
the lives of 50

Dianne Edgecomb & Kim Kastilahn

(family of organ donor Jared)

Their Story: Dianne and her daughter, Kim, have undergone the passing of three family members in the past four years. All were organ donors. The most recent, still fresh in their minds and heavy on their hearts, was 11-year-old grandson and nephew, Jared.

In September 2007, Jared lost his life in a fatal motorcycle accident. He loved the outdoors and was the ultimate "boy's boy." Jared's unexpected death and his family's decision to donate his organs have given his passing new meaning.

"This is something no one wants to think about, much less make a decision about," Dianne says.

Jared's memory will live on through the lives he has saved. Like the six-year-old girl who was born with urea cycle deficiency - a metabolic disorder that caused her body to not process protein properly. Protein became a toxin, poisoning her brain—until she received a liver transplant. Jared's liver allows her to freely eat foods that most children enjoy effortlessly. Her mother recently wrote to say her daughter finally got to eat her first hamburger because of Jared. "It's these moments that make us proud that Jared lives on," says Aunt Kim. "It's so tough, but we know we brought happiness to so many other people."