

Donate Life Globe



Kathy Schmelzle

To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.

My story began in Seneca, Kansas, where I was created by Kathy Schmelzle's parents, Pat and Patty Schmelzle, as a way to continue Kathy's advocacy and support of organ, eye and tissue donation. Kathy was a lovely, giving, 18 year old woman looking forward to becoming a teacher and was passionate about organ, eye and tissue donation and awareness. A terrible accident, on

April 19, 2005, not far from her home took her life. Because of her positive attitude towards donation Kathy became a donor. Instead of using her gifts as a teacher, she gave the gift of life so that others may continue living on with the life she donated.

After her death, Kathy's mother and father built me to continue her legacy and to be an advocate. As someone who finds comfort and healing in working with his hands, Pat used his skill to create me, a rotating Globe, and mounted me on a trailer. Focused on the theme "To the World you may be one person, but to one person you may be the World", Patty painted the globe to represent the world and on the base painted butterflies, a symbol of new life. This globe represented their love for her and Kathy's desire to share her life with others while living and now in her death. In the beginning, I was pulled by Pat and Patty in parades around Seneca, Kansas, accompanied by their local support group of organ recipients and donor families. The opportunity to tell my story was limited and for a while I sat in a barn. Then one day, the doors opened and I was placed in the care of heart recipient, Phil Duncan. Phil dedicates much of his time to telling our stories; his transplant and my purpose, a symbol of donation and to encourage others to "be that one person."

Since 2012, we have been promoting organ, eye and tissue donation awareness. We have been at school events, donor family services and to the Missouri State Capital for the proclamation dedication for organ, eye and tissue donation. Phil and I have also been to the Missouri State Fair, Arrowhead Stadium and Topeka, Kansas for health fairs.

I never tire of people and their questions. Some know what I'm about from experiences of family and friends or even their own experience. Phil and I continue to be advocates and speak not only of the second chance at life that recipients receive from organ, eye and tissue donation; we also honor and tell of the TRUE HEROES: the donors and their families.

Lives are enhanced or extended when you step up and say YES to being an organ, eye and tissue donor or saying YES when asked about organ, eye and tissue donation at the time that a loved one passes. Your YES brings hope to those who wait. My story and message is simply: ***"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."***



Phil Duncan

Be that one person; be someone's hero. Say YES!