

ALL-IN WITH HEART

A little over 10 years ago, Quinton and Susannah Hooper were blessed with a blonde-haired, blue-eyed, healthy little boy.

Aidan had such a big heart and was a well-rounded child. He was the child all parents hope and pray for.

"Aidan was sweet, but he definitely had an ornery side as well," explains Susannah. "And no matter what he did, he went all-in." Whether it was sports, church, Oklahoma State football or being a big brother, Aidan was dedicated and committed.

All-In With Friends

Aidan loved all people. If you asked him, everyone was his best friend. He was a true friend and was happy for everyone's successes and victories.

During Aidan's first Catholic Mass at a family reunion, the priest announced it was time for "The Sign of Peace." Aidan went all-in, by trying to offer peace and hugs to everyone in the room. Aidan asked if he could take communion that day, but since he was not Catholic he was not able. Instead he was able to receive a blessing from the priest. So Aidan grabbed his grandmother and proudly went up to be blessed. He wanted to participate in every aspect of the Mass.

Dedicated Big Brother

When it came to his little sister



Addison, Aidan was a dedicated big brother. On their first day of school together, Susannah asked Aidan to walk his sister to her class to make sure she knew where she was going. From the first day on, Aidan was all-in. He walked Addison to class every morning. The teacher even thought about asking Aidan to stop walking Addison so she could gain some independence. But the teacher never did, so Aidan continued walking Addison throughout the school year.

Patriotic Kid

Aidan was also all-in when it came to his patriotism. Susannah described him as "the most patriotic person I have ever known, even as a kid."

"We raised him to love his country and be appreciative to service men and women. And he took it to heart." One time the family almost missed their flight because Aidan wanted to

individually thank every service person that was coming off another plane.

Committed to Taekwondo

Aidan also was very committed to Taekwondo. His father studied martial arts in Japan and it quickly became a special bond between the father and son. When Aidan achieved the rank of a camo belt, his family found it fitting for his love of the military and his outdoor nature.

All-In Once Again

Bringing together two of his favorite things, patriotism and Taekwondo, Aidan had the opportunity to ride on his Taekwondo school's float in the LibertyFest parade. The parade was a part of an Independence Day celebration in Edmond.

His school was like a second family for him, so it was going to be a fun morning for Aidan and his father. At the end of the parade a tragic accident occurred and Aidan was run over by the trailer of the float.

Quinton performed CPR on his son until the first responders arrived on the scene. The owner of the martial arts school called Susannah and informed her there had been an accident and she should meet them at the hospital and then Quinton called to tell her how serious it really was.

"It all happened really quickly," recalled Susannah.

When she arrived at the



To continue his kindhearted, all-in legacy, the Hooper family established The Aidan Hooper Legacy Fund. The fund provides support to various charities that would best honor his wonderful zeal for life and his love for helping others.

hospital, the doctor informed the family that Aidan did not survive the accident. Susannah immediately asked if there was anything they could do with his organs and tissue, so the hospital staff initiated a phone call to LifeShare.

Quinton asked Susannah how she had thought of donation and she responded, "I need to find good in this."

Aidan, in fact, was able to be a tissue donor. He donated his

heart valves to two little girls. He gave life to a two-year-old and a six-month-old.

So even at the end of his short precious life, Aidan was all-in once again; this time with his heart. Aidan was able to give the gift of life by being a donor. "It is very fitting for him to have given a piece of his heart to save someone's life," said Susannah. "There is nothing else he would have preferred."



Here Aidan is pictured with a tortoise, which is very fitting, since he would stop the car to walk turtles to safety. Now there is a bronze tortoise statue at the Oklahoma City Zoo in his honor.

BE AN ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONOR

Why The Donor Family Ceremony is My Greatest Volunteer Experience



Natalie, Lung Recipient and LifeShare Advocate

Last year, I volunteered at the Donor Family Ceremony to help hand out books and medallions to recently bereaved donor families. I was a puddle of tears most of the afternoon, but they were tears of empathy. I look forward to volunteering every year. Why?

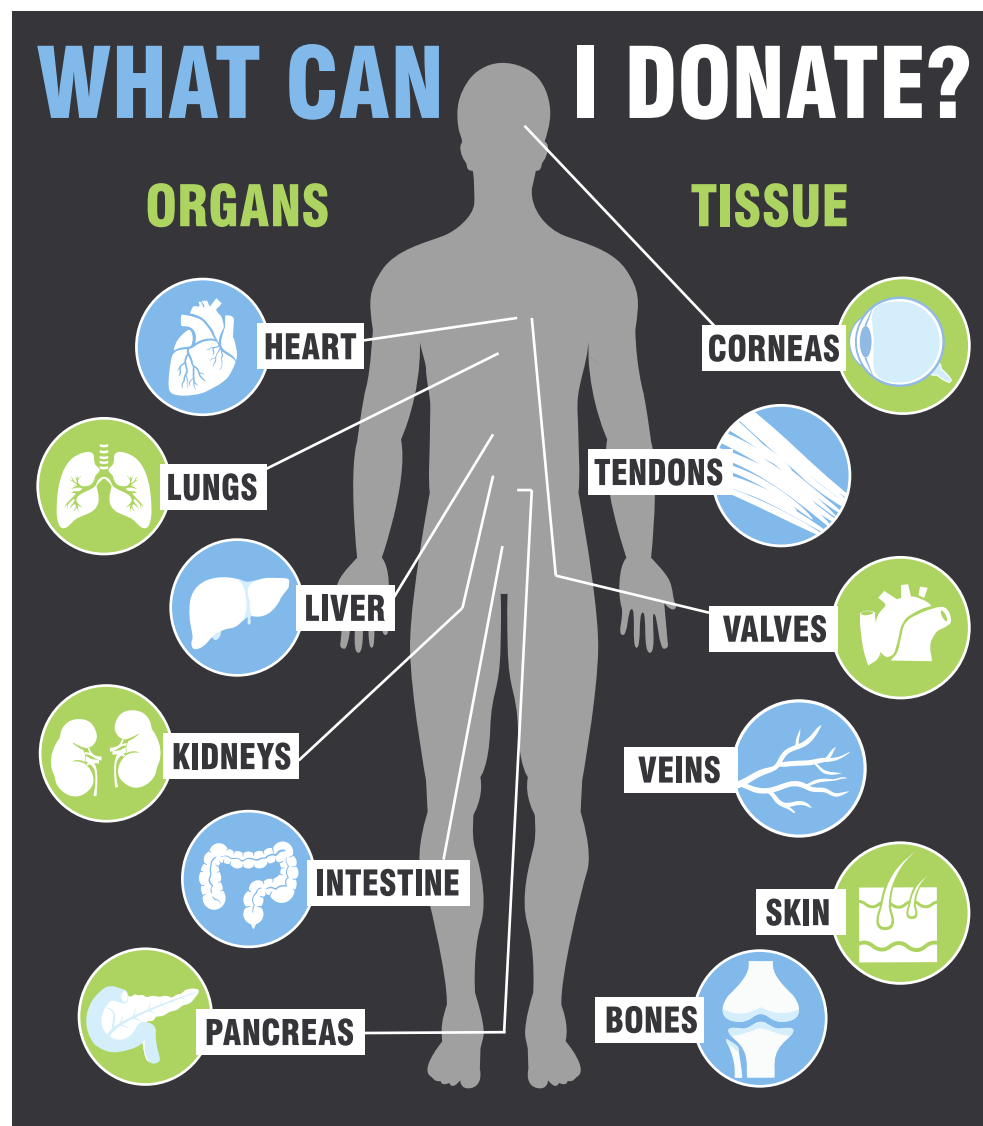
I saw my donor mom in everyone's face. My donor family lives far away, on the border of the U.S. and Canada in Michigan. I don't get to see them very often, and I hate that. For those of you who are recipients and who have not met your donor family, this is how you say thank you.

You get to see who donors are. They are young and old, black and white, big and small. They are your neighbors and they are strangers. But they are all bound by their gift of life to someone or many. They are our heroes. By honoring their memories, you honor your donor's memory.

Most importantly, the donor family gets to see YOU, a survivor. They get to see what their loved one's gift actually does. They get to see the success that is organ donation. Some even see their loved one in you, just like you see your donor in them. It is a life affirming experience for everyone. It is essential to their grieving process and for growth in their resilience, and maybe yours, too.

Every year LifeShare hosts the Donor Family Ceremony, bringing together staff members and donor family members from the previous year, to celebrate the lives of all who gave the precious gift of life.

Volunteer with LifeShare, visit www.LifeShareOK.org.



HOW DO I REGISTER TO BE A DONOR?



ON YOUR LICENSE: Register when you go to your tag agency to get, or to renew, your driver's license or state ID card.



ONLINE: Go to www.LifeShareRegistry.org and click on "Register Now."



ON THE PHONE: Call 1-800-826-LIFE (5433) and request that a registration card be mailed to you.

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The Brightest Star

My name is Agnes Bullion, my nickname is Ike. I was born and raised in Boley, Oklahoma. After graduating from high school I moved to Omaha, Nebraska where I met and married my husband, Otis, and together we have two daughters and three grandchildren. I have forty years of experience working in the public and non-public schools educating children ages five to eighteen years.

To Go or Not to Go

In 2006, my sisters and I made travel plans to take our mother to New York. My leave request was approved, bags were packed, and I was looking forward to a little rest and relaxation, due to me not feeling well for several weeks. While in a staff meeting, I received a phone call from my doctor's nurse. "Mrs. Bullion, the doctor has scheduled an appointment for you on Tuesday," I explained, "I did not call for an appointment and I am leaving on vacation next week. I will have to reschedule." The nurse asked where I was going and I told her New York. She said, "Mrs. Bullion, are you aware you have renal failure?" That knocked my socks off! Sadly to say, I had to stay behind while my mother and sisters went on vacation. At my doctor's appointment she informed me that I only had one kidney functioning and it was only at ten percent. My doctor referred me to a Nephrologist who discussed different options for treatment.

My Treatment Began in California

In November of 2006, I started dialysis. I was on dialysis for two years; three hours a day, three

days a week. My kidney function remained the same; I had good and bad days. I was placed on disability by my doctors because I was so sick and exhausted after my dialysis treatment. I went on the transplant list in 2007.

My Nephrologist suggested that I go on peritoneal dialysis. This was a treatment I would do at home. I opposed his suggestion several times, but in 2007, I started it and I totally enjoyed managing my own care under my doctor's orders. I was able to travel again.

On the Move

Otis transferred to Las Vegas and all was going well until I fell and broke my ankle. Lab work before surgery showed I had a serious infection. The infection was in the lining of my peritoneal tubing. I underwent surgery and the tubing was removed and my ankle mended with five screws. The infection could have wiped me out. I went back on dialysis. My caregivers were determined to get me up and going again.

In 2009, Otis and I decided we needed family and friends around to assist with me. Alaska Airlines, where Otis worked, had a position open and we were transferred to Oklahoma City. I called INTEGRIS Baptist Hospital and spoke with a wonderful lady. I told her my story and of our moving to Oklahoma City. Several phone conversations later, I was told my medical records from California and Las Vegas were being transferred to her attention. What a blessing! My dialysis treatments were scheduled as well as an appointment with the kidney transplant center. She told

me, "You will get a kidney in Oklahoma."

The Call

While I was in Nebraska to help my daughter after she had a hip replacement surgery, Otis answered a call from the transplant center stating that they needed to reach me. They had a potential kidney for me. Otis called with the news and was looking for a flight to get me home as soon as possible. INTEGRIS called back and asked if I could get to the hospital in a number of hours. There were no flights available. After back and forth conversations with the hospital and Otis, I decided it would be impossible for me to meet the timeline and the kidney should be donated to someone else. Thinking back I knew my day would come again!

In May 2011, we were going to pick the grandchildren up for the summer. The day before leaving I told Otis, "I need to stay at home; I don't want to miss my call!" On Sunday, May 11 around 7 a.m., the phone rang. It was INTEGRIS! I said, "That's my kidney!" I called Otis and told him I was on my way to the hospital, that they had a kidney for me.

I was admitted and testing began for matching. Dr. Samara told my family and I he would have the results that afternoon. Later he came into my hospital room and told me the best news ever. "Your surgery is scheduled for tomorrow morning."

The Gift of Life

I was in the hospital for seven days, healthy and blessed with a second chance of life after five years of dialysis. I was grieving for my donor family's loss of a

loved one. Thanking God for my donor's unselfish act of becoming an organ donor was not enough for me.

I felt as though I needed to meet the family. My grieving was causing me to feel depressed. I requested to speak with a social worker. She suggested that I write to my donor's family and gave me the guidelines that I had to follow. I took my letter to my social worker and it was delivered to my donor family.

I was so excited when I received a handwritten letter from my donor's mother, Colleen. Included in the letter was a picture of a beautiful young woman named Holly. Her mother wrote how she was a wonderful daughter, sister, mother, friend and how often she took notes of her pastor's sermon. You know it; tears began to flow like a river.

Colleen and I agreed we would like to have LifeShare schedule a



Since her transplant, Ike is an active advocate for LifeShare.

meeting for us. Consent forms were signed and the "fellowship day" finally happened.

Mixed Emotions and Feelings

When we walked into LifeShare's office many of Holly's family and

friends greeted us. Colleen and I embraced each other with continual hugs. She rubbed my face and said, "How beautiful, how beautiful." Before Colleen could introduce me to Holly's son, Johnny, he ran and leaped into my arms and hugged my neck tightly. No introduction was needed, we were strangers no more! We love our extended family.

That night, I looked into the heavens for the brightest star and named it Holly the Brightest Star. In honor of "OUR ANGEL HOLLY" I dedicated my life to be an advocate for LifeShare and to give back to my community.

Ike's connection to organ donation and transplantation continues as her daughter is now on the waiting list for a new heart. We wish her the very best!



Ike, on the right, pictured with her donor's mom, Colleen.

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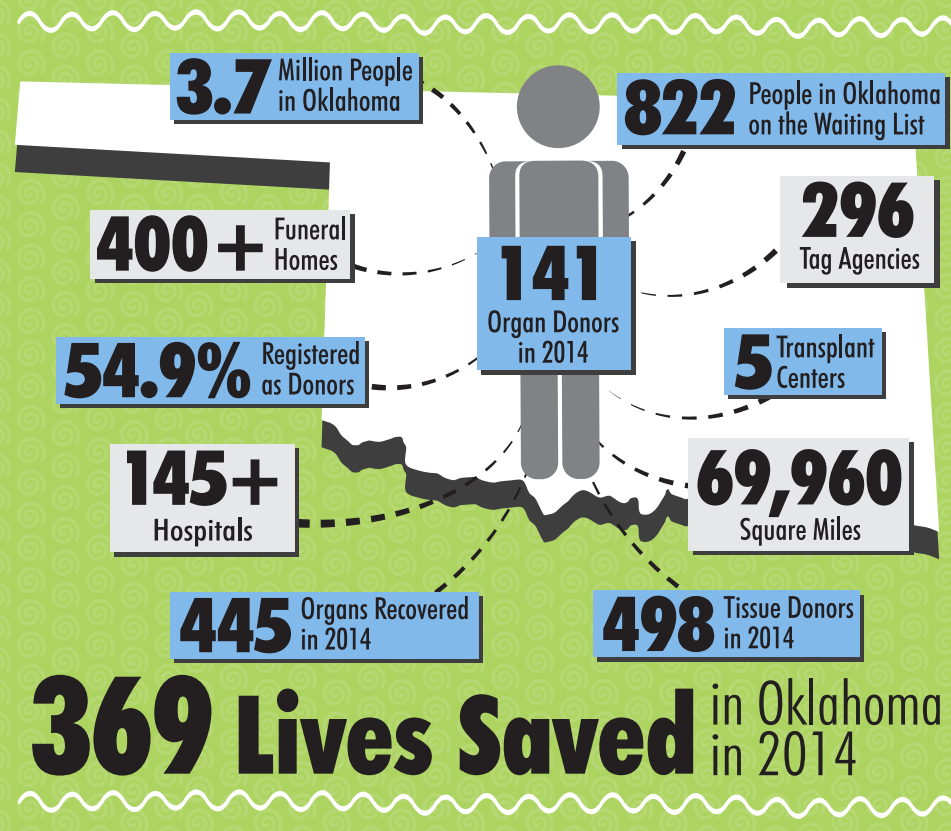
Little Red Heart



In an effort to raise awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation, LifeShare has launched a statewide campaign called **#LittleRedHeart**. With the little red heart on your driver's license signifying your decision to register as a donor, it only makes sense that we ask, "Do you have the little red heart?" Look for people, such as Coach Bob Stoops, to show you their little red heart. And be prepared to answer the question, "Do you?" By making the decision to register as an organ donor, you could have the potential to save the lives of up to eight people. So put the little red heart on your license today; there's no telling whose life you could save.

Oklahoma's Need Is Great!

The act of organ, eye and tissue donation involves numerous organizations, healthcare facilities and people across the state. Below you will find a breakdown by numbers of recent donation activity in Oklahoma.



Commonly Asked Questions About Donation

- Q. If emergency room doctors know you're an organ donor, will they still work as hard to save you?**
A. If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ donation can only be considered after brain death has been declared by a physician.
- Q. Does a certain history of medical illness mean your organs or tissues are unfit for donation?**
A. At the time of death, the appropriate medical professionals will review your medical and social history to determine whether you will be a candidate for donation. Each potential donor is evaluated on a case by case basis. With recent advances in transplantation, more people have the opportunity to become donors.
- Q. When do you become too old to be a donor?**
A. People of all ages and medical histories will be considered as

- potential donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine which organs and tissue can be donated, not your age.
- Q. Does my family have to pay for organ and tissue donation?**
A. No. LifeShare pays for all procedures, tests or evaluations needed for donation. Funeral costs remain the responsibility of the family.
- Q. Does organ and tissue donation disfigure the body or change the way it looks for an open casket funeral?**
A. Donation does not change the appearance of the body for the funeral.
- Q. Do celebrities and people with money get transplanted more quickly than those without?**
A. No. The placement of organs is done from a national list starting with our state. The order in which the list is kept is based upon severity of the recipient's illness, time spent waiting, blood type and other important medical information.

- Q. Do some religions prohibit donation?**
A. All major organized religions approve of organ and tissue donation and consider it an act of charity.
- Q. Can your family override your wish to be a donor?**
A. Because of our state's First Person Consent law, it is not necessary to get permission from the family if a person has expressed his or her desire to be a donor in a "document of gift", such as a driver's license, state ID card or enrollment in Oklahoma's on-line donor registry. LifeShare always talks to the family about the donation before it takes place. Oklahomans are urged to share their decision to be a donor with their families. If you are under 18 years of age, you may declare your intent to be a donor in any document of gift, however, permission from a parent or guardian must be obtained before donation can take place.