



ANNIE'S SONG

BY KRISTIE NIELSON CORNING, DONOR MOM

She was 21 years young. She lived life to its fullest. On August 16, 2003 she suffered a massive bleed to the left side of her brain. The cause—Arteriovenous Malformation, a congenital condition that presents no symptoms until, most often, it is too late. For her, it was too late. She was pronounced brain dead three days later. She is Annie ... she is my daughter. Not a day goes by where I don't think about Annie and the future I had hoped for her. In death, the "gift of life" was given to four people. You see, Annie was an organ donor. That had been her choice. That is now her legacy.

"And now I must sing Annie's song, as surely as I live, changing lives, selfless acts, giving to each whatever they lack."

— from a poem written by donor recipient Mike Greiner

Mike Greiner, now 38, a husband and father of two young children, had suffered from Type-1 juvenile diabetes, since age 5. He was dependent on insulin and continually worried about the complications of diabetes: blindness, nerve damage, loss of limbs and kidney failure. Mike's kidney function was declining quickly and he was placed on the kidney/pancreas waiting list at the UW Hospital. Mike got the call August 19, 2003. The organs were a match and the transplant was a success. Tests showed that his blood-sugar levels normalized immediately during the surgery, and the pancreas and kidney worked perfectly. Medical staff commented that they had never seen such positive results so quickly. This all happened less than twenty-four hours after my daughter died. My Annie, my daughter who was taken so tragically, had given light to a man and his family who had been facing total darkness.

If you choose to become a donor:

- Answer "yes" to the organ donor question on your driver's license renewal application.
- Sign your license or ID card.
- **Tell your family** about your decision, to help ensure your wishes are honored.

For more information on organ donation, visit uwhcopo.org.



UWHealth

University of Wisconsin
Organ Procurement Organization
uwhcopo.org