

Charlene's gift



My wife Charlene, also known around the community as 'Grandma Charlene', was one of most giving, caring and greatest individuals to ever walk the face of this earth. We unexpectedly lost her too early in life.

When death came knocking at the door that dreadful day, I was not thinking very clearly as everything was so sudden. I knew she had the orange dot on her driver's license but that was far from my mind. Jeff, one of our sons' said, "Didn't mom want to be a donor?"

I had no idea of the magnitude of my wife's gift. In her case, along with her kidneys and liver, she helped more than 30 other people with tissue donations

People from all over the United States were given a second chance because of Charlene's gifts. It is my opinion that we all have a mission here on earth but we really don't know what it is. Was this Charlene's mission?

What we did know is that helping others through organ donation was something that she wanted. Knowing that she was helping others live, or improve the quality of someone's life, put some sense of reason to her untimely death. That was the one glimmer of hope that our family was able to hold onto during that tragic time.

Written by Al, Charlene's husband

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