

Dennis' Story



There are visible signs all over our hometown of things Dennis was involved in—volunteering and giving was his second nature.

He was a fireman and volunteered at playgrounds, the local ball park, the high school concession stand, and Joe's Pad, a remodeling job done by people that saw a need for one of our young athletes to have access to a new way of living.

For more than 20 years, Dennis would be seen in the spring and summer riding his moped to work or to some fundraiser. He was doing just that for the first time in May of 2007, when he was hit by a van and later died at the hospital.

I was aware of organ donation after attending an educational program where a man shared a beautiful testimonial. He spoke of his second chance at life through a generous donor family who donated their young son's heart. A traveling quilt was on display that contained a patch honoring a local family that had been victim of a fire Dennis responded to.

Our two boys and I have seen the full meaning of what organ donation can do. We now have two extended family members that live everyday with Dennis' kidneys. We also got to meet the man who shared his testimonial we had heard earlier, and he was so touched that he was a part of our decision to be a donor family.

There is now a traveling quilt panel that has photos of Dennis and me and our children along with a picture of his two recipients as our new extended family.

Dennis did in death what he did his whole life, a generous act of kindness for someone that needed him.

Written by Dennis's wife, Debra

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