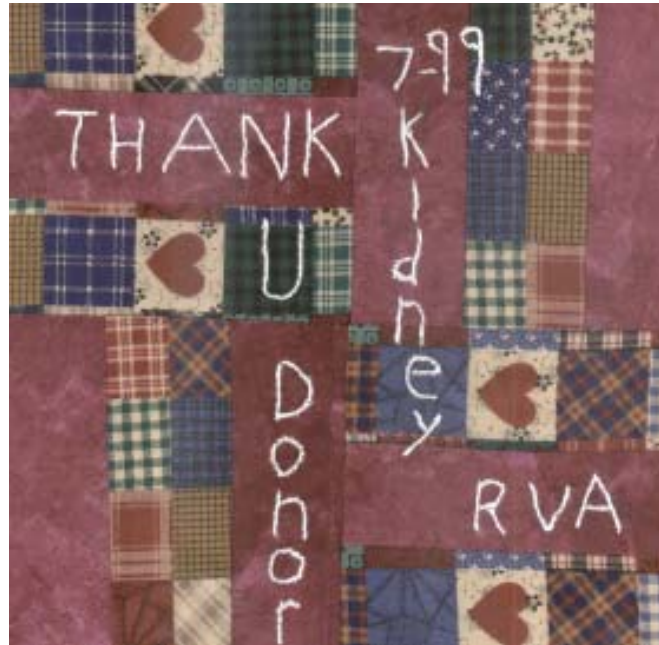


Threads of Life Honoring

Ruth Airth (Recipient)



The square was prepared by Shirley Worthen, a friend of mine, and then I did the embroidery of the information on the block. She also designed the square for me. The date of my kidney transplant was July 5, 1999 at OHSU. It has been a wonderful journey ever since my transplant. My wish is that everyone who needs a transplant will be able to get one. It really changes your life for the better.

Designed by Shirley Worthen and submitted by Ruth Airth.

Threads of Life
Honoring

Clayton Benham (Recipient)



Clayton's family is so grateful for his cornea and the hope we have for sight in that eye (his other eye is fine, thankfully.)

Submitted by Mrs. C.D. Hunt, grandmother.

Threads of Life
Honoring

Cecelia Benson (Recipient)



It has been seventeen years since I received a kidney transplant in July 1986, after being on dialysis for three years. I will be forever grateful to my donor. Life is worth living again.

Designed and submitted by Cecelia Benson.

Threads of Life Honoring

Tobi Sue Brodersen (Donor)



Our youngest daughter, Tobi Sue "Pickles" Brodersen, stepped into forever at the age of 4 1/2 on March 1, 2002, after 10 days on life support. The final blessing she gave was a donation of her corneas to restore sight to two separate individuals – a miracle considering she was borderline legally blind. She was a remarkable individual, who had overcome many physical problems in her short life. She was full of joy and laughter, and brought love and wonder to many she came into contact with. She couldn't communicate with her voice and was wheelchair-bound, but she was filled with life and love and silliness. She was our "wacka-wacka" girl. There was a lot of Tobi in Tobi. We miss her greatly.

The quilt square our family designed and created represents Tobi stepping out of this life and into forever with Jesus in heaven. She is singing, dancing and running; living in life and light and love, and waiting for her family and friends to catch up with her and share in her joy.



Tobi Sue "Pickles"
Brodersen

Submitted by Max and Debra, Michelle,
Hannah, and Van Brodersen.

Threads of Life Honoring

Mark Spitznogle (Living Donor)



The quilt block I've made is in honor of my donor, Mark Spitznogle, my son. We had surgery July 3, 2000. We are both doing well. He has lived in Bend, Oregon but will be moving to MaCall, Idaho. This transplant event has made a closeness between us that will last a lifetime. The doctors at Good Samaritan Hospital made the comment that my kidney was the healthiest thing about me. Compliments to the doctors and my son. I'll see the hospital staff once a year and Dr. Nearing in Salem the six months between. Keep up the good work and publicity, we appreciate you.

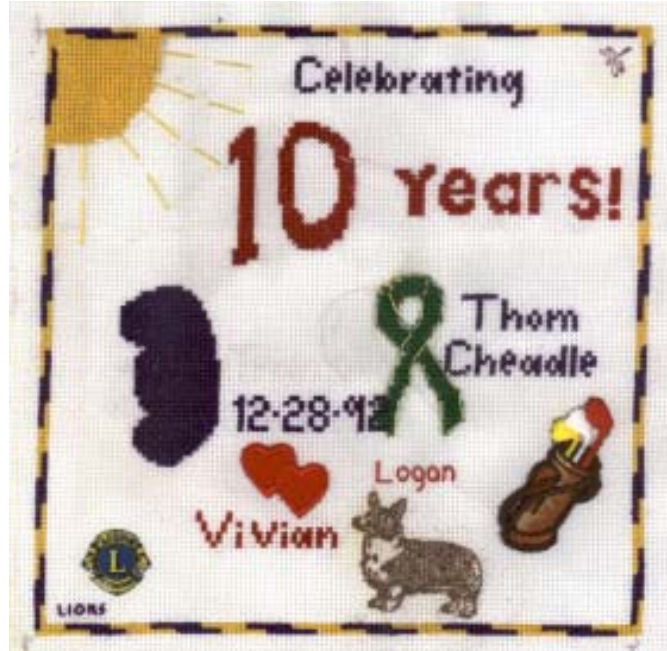
Submitted by Marceil Casselman,
mother and transplant recipient.



Mark Spitznogle,
kidney donor, and
Marceil Casselman,
kidney recipient.

Threads of Life Honoring

Thom Cheadle (Recipient)



Thom celebrated his ten years as a kidney recipient on December 28, 2002. His transplant, which happened at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas, was three days after Christmas.

The sun represents his unknown donor, because she is a special celestial body that looks down and smiles upon him everyday. The joined hearts symbolize the love of Thom's life, Vivian, who is his wife and best friend. Their Pembroke Welch Corgi, Logan, represents Thom's love for dogs, including the two basset hounds, Sydney and Gracie, who shared their life through his illness and transplant.

The green ribbon represents Thom's volunteer service to the Board of Directors for Oregon Donor Program, including serving as Chairman for 2002-2003, and as a member of the Speaker's Bureau and getting many opportunities to spread the word about organ and tissue donation.

The LIONS Club emblem represents Thom's active membership with Columbia Crest LIONS Club in Vancouver, Washington. Thom's other passion is golf, which he credits for his determination to walk again after the transplant. The dragonfly is symbolic of the happiness shared by Vivian and Thom for receiving this additional ten years of life together.

Oregon Donor Program saves lives everyday, and both Thom and Vivian talk about being a donor to everyone they meet.

Submitted and designed by Thom Cheadle.



Thom & Vivian
Cheadle

Threads of Life Honoring

Cassie Lynn Crocker (Donor)



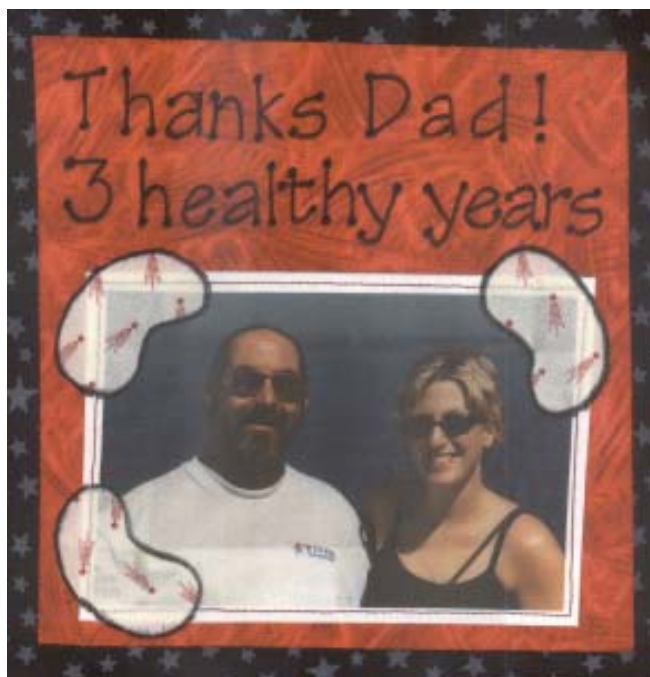
This quilt square is in loving memory of my beautiful, loving granddaughter Cassie Lynn Crocker. Cassie had expressed to her parents that if anything happened to her or that when it came her time to leave this life she hoped that her eyes could help a young child to see. She also was able to donate skin tissue for burn victims as well as her arteries. Even though her beautiful blue eyes were not given to a young child she would be very happy to know that she has helped two people regain their sight.

Cassie was looking forward to her high school graduation and going on to college, but unfortunately a car accident took her from us. Cassie was a loving and caring young woman, who loved life and lived it as if every day was her last, so we dedicate this square in loving memory to a very special young woman. Cassie Lynn Crocker 7/24/85 to 12/23/01.

Designed and submitted by Rita Crocker, grandmother.

Threads of Life Honoring

Howard Benyas (Living Donor)



This square is made in honor of Howard Benyas, my dad and the man who gave me life twice. I am forever grateful for the 3 amazing years I have had since the transplant. It's been 3 years of new travels, new friends, new adventures, and cherished and continued love. I will forever be in awe of this amazing miracle, and will continue taking the best care of "our kidney."

Designed and submitted by Laura Ellsworth,
daughter and kidney recipient.

Threads of Life Honoring

Ryan Fennimore (Donor)

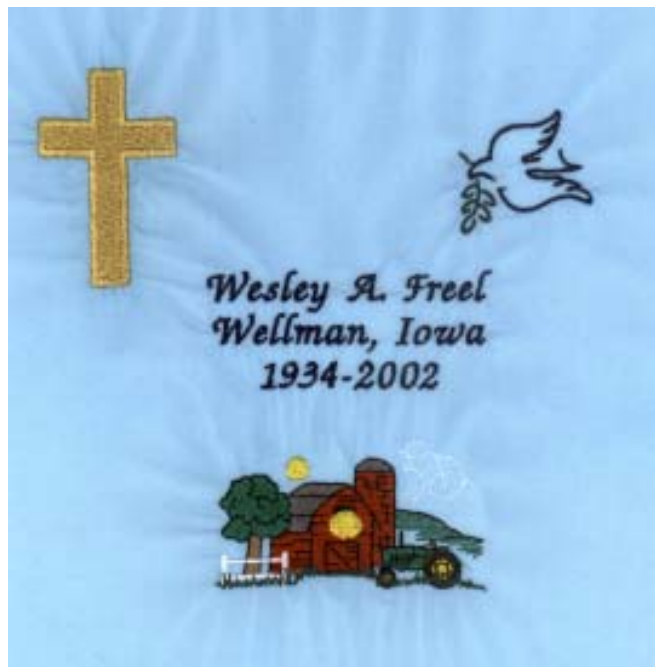


Ryan chose to be an organ donor at the age of 15. His special quotes are, "Just to see you smile," and "You can never have too much fun." He died hanging out with his two best friends laughing and having fun on February 16, 2002. He is with us, and those that this program helped, forever.

Designed and submitted by Ryan's mom.

Threads of Life Honoring

Wesley A. Freel (Donor)



On September 9, 2002 my husband, Wesley A. Freel of Wellman, Iowa, suddenly passed away from a heart attack while we were vacationing in Longview, Washington. I was devastated, being so far from home and all alone. I was aware of the need for organ donations since two of our neighbor men were awaiting heart transplants at the time. When asked if I wanted to donate his organs, immediately I said, "yes." I felt that if he could live on in someone else and save lives that would be very gratifying to my children and me. I was pleased that Malia of Community Tissue Services called my home and gave me a telephone number where I could keep in contact with her as to the amount and type of tissue they received and what had been distributed.

For the design of the quilt block, I chose the cross and dove to represent Wes' Christian life, and the farm scene represents his love of farming the land, which was his occupation. I am pleased to contribute my quilt block in honor of my husband who gave the gift of life.

Designed and submitted by Sharleen Freel.

Threads of Life Honoring

Terry Fugate (Donor)



This square is for my son, Terry Fugate. For 32 years Terry lived with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He became a Christian as a teenager and lived his life with joy, hope, and love. He was an inspiration to all who knew him, especially his family. Terry's decision to donate his corneas was so typical of his desire to live his life to the fullest extent of his physical ability. The star on the quilt block represents Terry, himself - the brightest and best star that still shines in our hearts.



Terry Fugate

Submitted and designed by Barbara Fugate, mother.

Threads of Life



I have sent in this square for my son who received two cornea transplants last year. He became blind in one eye when his right cornea ripped due to a genetic problem. When the right eye had healed for six months his other cornea, which was on the verge of ripping like the right, was replaced. His eyesight has gone from 20/400 to 20/35, without contacts or glasses. Needless to say this has been a life changing event.

Our family is extremely grateful to the families who made this possible.

Designed and submitted by Karen Hearne, mother.

Threads of Life Honoring

Carol Hittlet (Donor)



Carol was a loving wife and the mother of four beautiful children. She loved her work raising handfed exotic birds. Each bird was like a member of the family for the period of time they spent in our humble home. From a little egg to a needy hatchling, the birds were loved and cared for like our kids were.

The quilt square represents the love that Carol shared in her life for birds and her family. Two days after delivering Isaac, Carol passed away due to an acute coronary artery occlusion. She signed up to become a donor when she first got her license. Although Carol's death is painful, it was nice to receive the letter that stated that two people were able to see now because she generously made a decision long ago to become an organ donor.

Thank you for allowing us to share this quilt square and this little piece of her life.

Submitted by Tom Hittlet, husband.

Threads of Life Honoring

Gracie Kaye (Donor)



Gracie Margaret Kaye
May 3, 1988 – June 13, 2002

Gracie was indeed a gift in life. She was able to give the gift of sight upon her death. The sparkle that was always present in her eyes lives on. She died just after her 14th birthday from complications of surgery. She truly was Amazing Grace.



Gracie Margaret
Kaye

Designed and submitted by Dana Kay, mother
and Dorothy Amos, grandmother.

Threads of Life Honoring

Wilbert John Koivu (Donor)



He gave the gift of sight. He was born in 1918 and died May 22, 1999. He married Amelia A. Koivu on August 9, 1947. They had four daughters: Geraldine L. Squires, Judith Ann Waldal, Cynthia Sue Koivu, and Naomi Lorraine Holmgren.

Wilbert was a Christian member of Apostolic Lutheran Church. He was a carpenter. His hobby was restoration of Model A's. He was a coin collector. He did a lot of volunteer work for the church. He restored antique furniture. He built a beautiful grandmother clock. He built a china cabinet for our 50th anniversary in 1997. He loved his family.



Wilbert John Koivu

Designed and submitted by Amelia A. Koivu, wife.

Threads of Life Honoring

Jose "Joey" Luis Lasure (Donor)



Jose' Luis Lasure 4/2/84 - 5/10/02. Joey died a month and eight days after his 18th birthday. I can't remember how old Joey was when he started rubbing the satin finish on his baby blanket until he fell asleep. He called it his feelie and he wouldn't go to bed until we gave him his feelie. He wore out his original baby blanket so my sister gave him a satin pillowcase to use as his feelie. The material I used to make the quilt square for our Joey came from his satin pillowcase, his last feelie.

A friend of ours was ordained as a priest and asked me to make him a color stole, which Catholic priests wear to say mass. The border I used in Joey's square came from some of the material I had left over from our friend's stole. He is the priest that baptized Joey.

My husband once made a deal with Joey that if he stopped ditching school and made all A's and B's on his report card, he would buy Joey his much wished-for dirt bike. With such an incentive, Joey worked hard and met his goal. Oh, how he loved that bike! He liked going fast, real fast. As he would say, "He flew low." The day before Joey died, I happened to look outside in time to see Joey riding away on his bike. His jacket was bellowing behind him, and his hair was flying in the wind, and he had such a look of joy on his face. That is the way I always want to remember my son.



Jose' (Joey) Luis
Lasure

Submitted by Carmen and Dan Lasure, parents.

Threads of Life Honoring

Sunny Lebsack (Donor)



Sunny Lebsack
12-29-75 to 8-18-93

The bright yellow background represents her name and how she brought sunshine to our lives. The blue star represents her as our shining star, once here on earth, but now a shining star in heaven. The red heart represents the love she exhibited to her family, her friends and to many people she didn't even know when she gave them the gift of life. It also represents our love for her. We miss her so!

Designed and submitted by Sandy Vick, mother.

Threads of Life
Honoring

Royce Waldo Lewis (Recipient)



Royce Waldo Lewis, liver recipient
June 18 1930 – December 19, 2002

We will carry you in our hearts forever!

Designed and submitted by Anita Lewis, wife.

Threads of Life Honoring

Carlton James Little (Donor)



Designing this square for my son has taken me ten years. Nothing I thought of seemed right until I found the flag that is on his square; then everything fell into place. Carlton (Carl) James Little was born on March 8, 1963 in Colchester, England and died April 6, 1993 in Portland, Oregon. He was a heart donor, also kidneys and pancreas. Now, you can see why that heart shaped English flag was the perfect emblem for his square.

Carl was a very caring person. Don't get me wrong, he had his moments of not being quite so caring (don't we all though). His father, sister and friends and I still miss him very much. When I have down days over the loss of my son, I think of the three people who have had ten years so far added to their lives, and I can smile again.

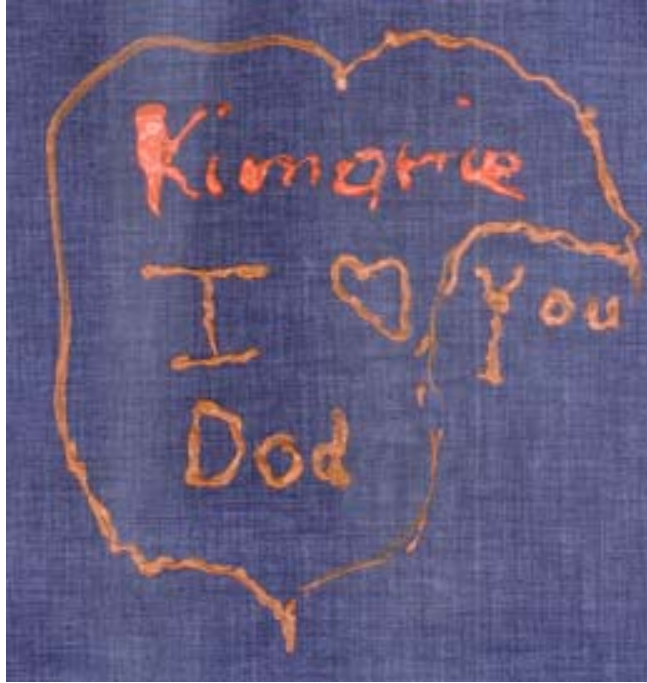


Carl James Little

Submitted and designed by Jennifer Little, mother.

Threads of Life Honoring

Craig Manes (Recipient)



This is my story about my dad, Craig Manes. He was the best horseman and cattleman in the world. He let me stay up and watch him deliver a baby calf. He spent most of his time reading his Bible. He taught me my favorite scriptures which include John 3:16, Genesis 1:1 and Psalm 23. Daddy also knew all the planets in the sky. It is amazing as to how the Lord reminds you of the good things that happened. Daddy was a good thing (person). Daddy taught me how to become a Christian and how God saved me from a life of sin. Mommy and I both miss Daddy very much.



Kimarie Manes,
wearing her
father's shirt.

Designed and submitted by Kimarie Manes, daughter.

Threads of Life Honoring

Craig Manes (Recipient)



Craig and I were married on December 27, 1982 and on February 14, 1983, Craig became deathly ill. He was diagnosed with meningitis, staph infection of the bloodstream and kidney failure. This was the beginning of 18 1/2 years of love, lots of illnesses, hospital visits, surgeries, kidney transplant in 1987, financial problems and many more "near deaths and revivals." At the first major hospital visit doctors told us he probably wouldn't make it through the night. God knew better what He had in store for him. They also told us that our chance of bearing children was next to nothing due to medications and treatments. A social worker once made the following statement: "Why on earth don't you leave your husband? He's probably going to kick the bucket anyway." I had given my vow to him and to God that I would stay married to him "till death do us part." Now was the time he needed me most. I had prepared myself, but the hurt still wasn't taken away when the Lord called him home on July 15, 2001.

The Lord saw fit to bless us with a bright and beautiful daughter. She is our miracle child. Kimarie and I both find it hard to be without him but we know that he is in heaven with Jesus, and we will see him again. Craig was a cattle/horse person. He enjoyed reading his Bible Study group, and he loved most of all spending time memorizing scripture and studying the Bible. The quilt square shows two of his favorite things: cows and horses. Craig and Kimarie are wearing matching outfits I made for them.



Arlene, Kimarie
and Craig
Manes

Designed and submitted by Arlene Manes, wife.

Threads of Life Honoring

William Nelson (Donor)



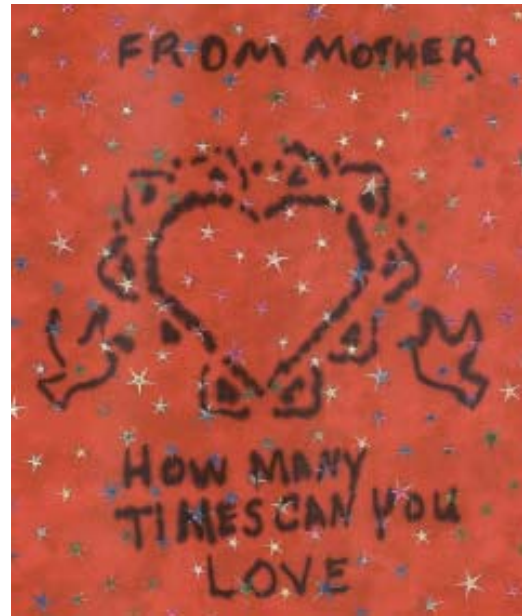
The quilt square designed by my daughter-in-law depicts all that was dear to my late husband, William Nelson, who passed away on Oct. 4, 2001. The Serenity Prayer became a family motto after he had gone through inpatient treatment for alcoholism. He never touched another drop of alcohol for the next 15 years before his death. His family, country, his little Nissan pickup and a good cup of strong, black coffee were his greatest joys. We all miss him.

It was a very comforting experience knowing my husband could help others after death as he did in life. I found the people of the donor program to be very kind and considerate especially when doing the phone interview. The memorial medallion and letter telling us how they were able to help others through the tissue donation meant so much. As our son-in-law had a liver transplant four years ago, we were aware of the importance of organ and tissue donations. Thank you for the empathetic way all was handled.

Submitted by Frances Nelson, wife.

Threads of Life Honoring

Bobby Lewis Olive (Donor)



In memory of my 5th child Bobby Lewis Olive. He shared his love with his fellow man. The best gift a man could give is his heart. Bobby's heart was given to Wesley Merrill on December 4, 1985 with all our love.

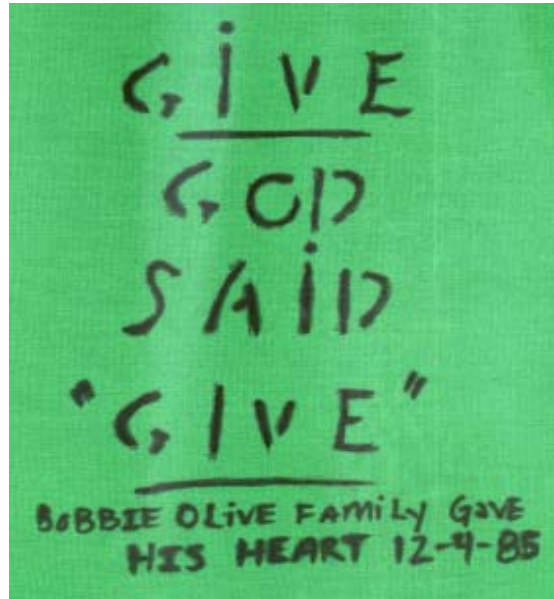
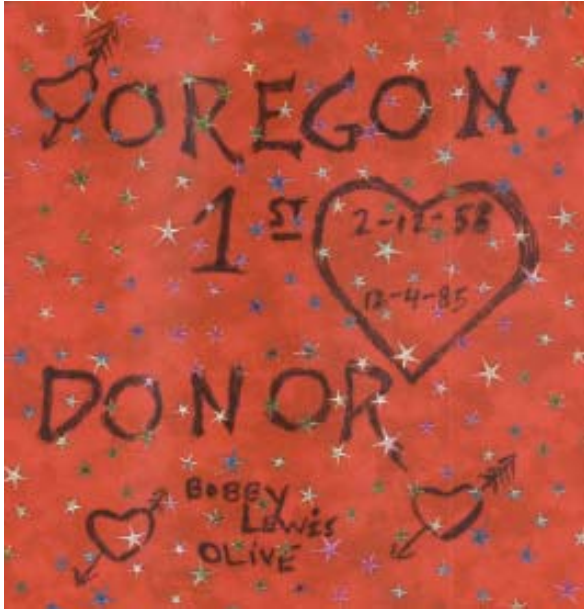


Bobby Lewis Olive

Submitted by Martha VanArsdale, mother.

Threads of Life Honoring

Bobby Lewis Olive (Donor)



Bobby Lewis Olive was Oregon's first heart donor. The unveiling of the 5th quilt is very significant. Bobby was the 5th child of 8. Our family has been blessed to be able to give to someone else in need of a heart. Bobby lives on.

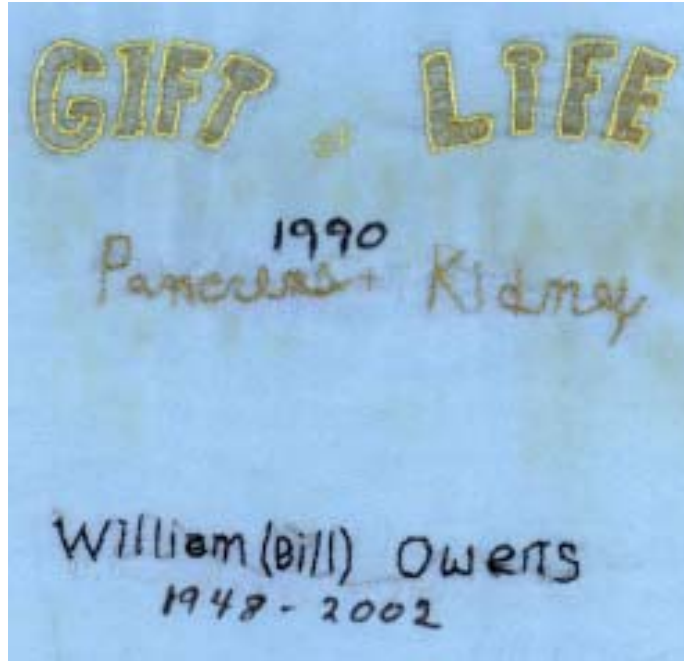


Bobby Lewis Olive

Designed and submitted by Balinda Olive-Beltran, sister.

Threads of Life Honoring

Bill Owens (Recipient)



Bill was diagnosed with diabetes when he was 19 years old. He graduated from the University of Idaho, married his school sweetheart and took a job as a designer with Boise Cascade Container Corp. He worked with them for 30 years until his death. He leaves a wife, Laura, and a son, Jonathan.

He struggled with diabetes and its health effects until 1990 when his kidneys failed. He got a transplant at Oregon Health and Science University. The first kidney, with the pancreas, filled with blood and had to be removed. It was 2 years on dialysis before he got another kidney. No more diabetes! The pancreas always worked.

Bill worked almost all the time at his job. He helped with Boy Scouts, mentoring at a grade school, making extra community projects from cardboard. He painted excellent watercolors. When Salem started the Carousel, he helped carve the horses and decorations. In fact, he enjoyed carving and, as a hobby, did many birds, ducks, a swan, and other things.

The last two years he had a lot of trouble with skin cancers that had to be removed. Then it spread to his lungs. He died December 27, 2002. Bill said the transplants gave him better than 12 years of good life he wouldn't have had without them. He was able to touch a lot of lives in a positive way. Instead of flowers, he wanted donations given to the donation program to help someone else.

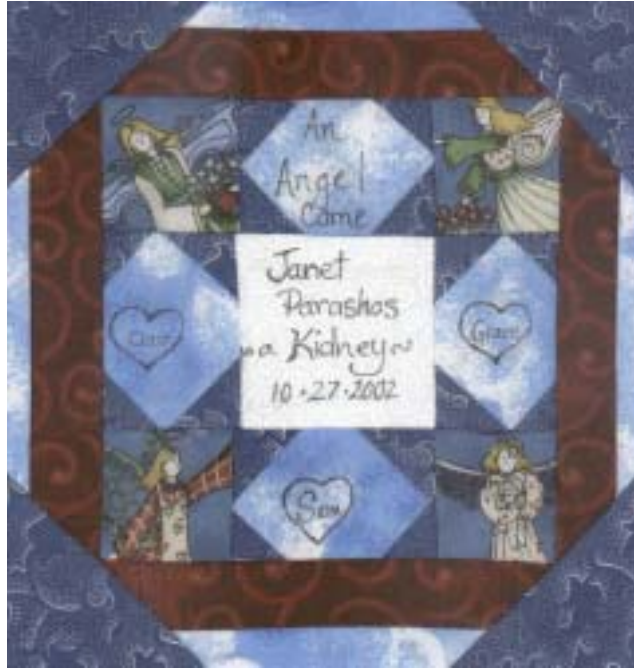


Bill Owens

Submitted by Vivian Owens, mother.

Threads of Life Honoring

Janet L. Parashos (Recipient)

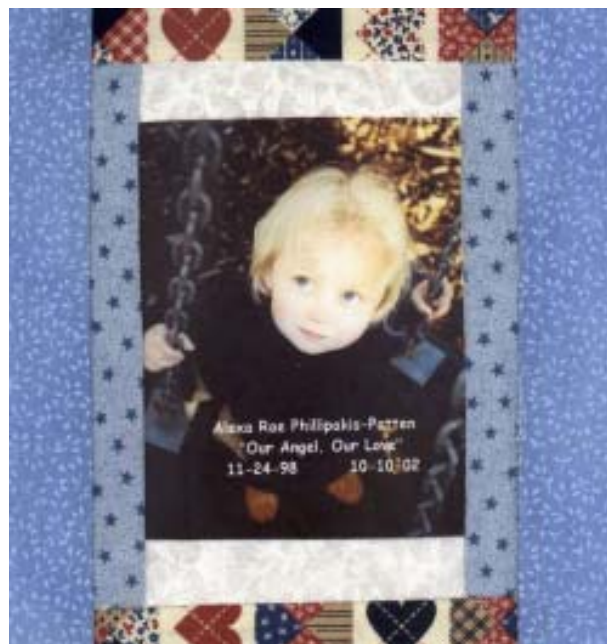


I was Legacy Transplant Services 184th transplant recipient. On October 27, 2002, I received a kidney from a cadaveric donor from Denver, Colorado. I thank Good Samaritan Hospital, Dr. William Bennett, Dr. Viken Douzdjian, and Dr. Kevin McEvoy for excellent care. My hope is for another 20 years to enjoy my grandchildren in good health.

Designed and submitted by Janet L. Parashos.

Threads of Life Honoring

Alexa Rae Phillipakis-Patten (Donor)



Alexa died at age 3 years 11 months. She was beloved and cherished by her family and she will always remain "Our Angel, Our Love." She lived a full and happy life, but much too short. She loved to ride her bike, take wagon rides with Pop Pop (grandpa Marty), visit the neighbor's horse, Bo, and play with her best friends, Christian and Dylan. She loved to visit her great-grandmother Betty and great-grandfather Bob. She loved playing with her Uncle Mikey, and visiting her Auntie Sia at college. She went to the zoo and Chucky Cheeses with her "beautiful mommy," Malina. She loved her Yia Yia (grandmother Karen) very much and loved to help her make cakes for daddy (Constantine). She once said, "Pop Pop you're an ugly driver, Yia Yia is the best driver." We will never forget how funny that was. She loved Jewell Kids Care Center and her pre-school teachers Miss Sandi and Miss Lana.

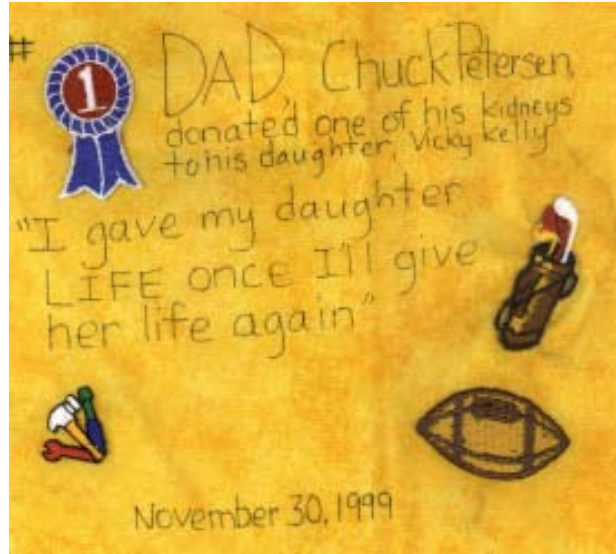
She was a remarkable skier. She would ride the lift with her daddy and ski all the way down the mountain between his knees. Alexa loved animals especially "Magik" (Maverick), her grandparents, Rusty and Rhonda's, dog. Alexa was born with Reoccurring Respiratory Papillomatosis, which caused her to have 17 surgeries in her short life.

We will always love her and miss her very much. We are pleased Alexa was able to give the gift of sight.

Designed and submitted by Karen Phillipakis, grandmother.

Threads of Life Honoring

Chuck Petersen (Living Donor)



#1 Dad, Chuck Petersen

This quilt square is in honor of my father, who donated his kidney to me, his daughter, Vicky Kelly. At age 38, this was the beginning of a new life for me. After struggling for years with Lupus and then kidney disease, this was a true miracle. For a person who just 10 years earlier had been close to death, this brought a much needed new lease on life for both me and my wonderful husband and daughters, who were 9 months and 2-1/2 years.

God has truly blessed me with an amazing, selfless father, who chose to give the gift of life. The quilt signifies his humbleness and his strength. As a retiree he enjoys golf. He was a teacher, wonderful athlete, coach and an All-American football player. He has always been an extremely hard worker. He is truly my hero! I love you, dad!

Designed and submitted by Vicky Kelly, daughter and kidney recipient.

Threads of Life Honoring

Laura Peterson (Recipient)



Laura Peterson has always been an up-beat person. She seems to have a gift for looking on the bright side of things. Her kidney failure was no different. She stayed strong and optimistic throughout the whole ordeal. What a blessing it was for such a nice person to be able to receive a transplant, not once, but twice! We are very fortunate to have her with us. Her kidney transplants have somehow even made her heart get bigger. She seems to have a great family. Thank you for making it possible for Laura to be alive and continuing to have an impact in our lives. She is a great friend to all who know her.

Designed and submitted by Renae and Scott Brown.

Threads of Life Honoring

Terry Edward Rykhus (Donor)



This quilt square was made in memory of Terry Edward Rykhus. It represents his zest for and love of life. Terry often saw life as through the eyes of a child. Some people see the mountains, rivers and oceans as just three wonders of nature. With his considerate nature and wonderful smile, there are those of us who see Terry as a 6' 2" blue-eyed wonder.



Terry Edward Rykhus

Submitted by Marilyn Scott, mother.

Threads of Life Honoring

Lael Seitz (Recipient)



I was brought up with the belief everyone is put on this earth for a reason. In 1998 fate brought me to Lael Seitz. The Seitz family has a vacation rental home in Pacific City. I clean the homes for the company that rents the Seitz home. I loved the feeling of family I got while cleaning the home. I knew the owners must be wonderful people.

I learned Lael Seitz was in need of a kidney. She was on dialysis. I also learned she had a husband that loved her and three young boys. One summer day I left a note for Lael at their rental. She called me, and I told her to sit down I had something to tell her. Then, after her shock, we met. After a lot of help from my doctor and her staff and the great help from those at OHSU, Lael and I got to fulfill our dream.

On February 23, 1999 we shared a kidney and a room. Since then I have gotten to know Lael and her family. They are so wonderful. Now she and her family come to their home here in Pacific City all the time. I am truly blessed. I wasn't put here for one reason, but for a family of five.

Submitted by Jeanie L. Dowless, kidney donor.

Threads of Life Honoring

Robert C. Semple (Donor)



The cross stitch quilt square is designed with my husband's name, date of birth, death and so few of the many words that only begin to describe the tremendous person he was. All lettering is done in bright colors to reflect that happy shining person. The square was designed and stitched by Marion, his wife of 37 years. It is but a small tribute to Robert C. Semple who passed away and donated his kidneys, tissues, and eyes on August 21, 2002.

Bob was a very focused and outgoing man. A terrific son, husband, father and grandfather. Born and raised in New York, he joined the U.S. Army, in which he spent 8 years and served hardship tours to both Korea and Vietnam. Bob joined the U.S. Postal Service in 1970 attaining supervisor and station manager before he retired in 1999. He raised three beautiful and successful children and was an extremely proud father and greatly enjoyed spending time with his grandson.

Bob was a perfectionist in all he undertook; a stamp collector and historian. He enjoyed befriending and helping people in all walks of life and never knew a stranger. He was a terrific provider. Did any and all jobs and tasks, nothing was above him. He passed suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage. He was a very giving person to all. Donation of his organs is yet another true example of the wonderful caring man he was.

Submitted and designed by Marion Semple, wife.

Threads of Life Honoring

James E. Sura (Donor)



My quilt block is in memory of my late husband, James E. Sura, whose tissue was donated last year. I think it is a very worthwhile program, and I am happy to participate in it. The square is a take-off on the Sura Family Coat-of-Arms. It originated in Poland and was the design of the crest for a bishop, by the name of Sura, (Szurra, in Poland). The family took it over when he died.

The pattern is a red crest with a white cross on it, with a three-branched willow tree in the center. The original crest had a peacock in the upper-right corner, but I took artistic-license and placed a peacock feather below the tree. The initials J.E.S. are those of James Edward Sura, my late husband. The date on the left is the year of his birth, and the one on the right is the year of his death.

I thank you for keeping in touch; it seems like we are all a part of a very lovely family.

Designed and submitted by Maurine R. Sura, wife.

Threads of Life Honoring

Donald E. Swift (Donor)



The family of Donald E. Swift would like to thank you for the many forms of support your organization has given to our family. As long as we can remember, our father and husband made a point of carrying a donor card. For that reason, our whole family carries donor cards. We were very happy to hear, even though our loved one was in his seventies, you were able to use some of his tissue. It makes us feel that a part of him is still alive. The medal that was sent to us came at a good time for us. Donald would have been very proud to have received the medal. We are displaying it in a shadow box as a daily reminder of him. The request for a quilt square came at a good time. The process was very cathartic. Donald was raised in the country and loved the woods. His square represents the life he loved.

Submitted by Claudia Scattergood.

Threads of Life Honoring

Tavia Rae Thomas (Donor)



Tavia died at age 26 as a result of a tragic automobile accident in Hillsboro, Oregon on July 11, 2002. Tavia was born on January 26, 1976 in Helena, Montana. She attended Helena schools and graduated from high school in 1994. Her college years were spent at Washington State University at Pullman where she graduated in 1998 with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration and was voted outstanding senior student of her class. After graduation she worked for Marriott Hotels in California and Oregon. At the time of her death, she was a program manager for Intel Corporation in Hillsboro.

Tavia liked music, cameras, movies, and being with her friends. She loved volleyball. She played on varsity teams in high school and several Portland area adult volleyball teams. Known as a great organizer, she used her skills to organize many gatherings for friends and family and for several local events like the Portland Olympics Torch Relay, the Portland WSU Alumni Group and the Portland American Marketing Association. Tavia's smile and enthusiasm were contagious. Her joy, spirit and love touched many lives. Tavia was our only child and our shining light. We miss her more than words can ever say.

Designed and submitted by Pam and Glen Thomas, parents.

Threads of Life Honoring

Robert J. Tolle (Donor)



This quilt square is in memory of Robert J. Tolle. The name of the pattern is called "Bright Hopes." It was picked since that is what my Dad gave several people when he was alive and now with his donation.

Submitted and designed by Kelly Rowlands.

Threads of Life Honoring

Jeremy Tomes (Recipient)



This quilt square represents the gift of sight and freedom. For my husband, Jeremy, they have come hand in hand. When Jeremy was 14 years old, he was first diagnosed with the eye disease, Keratoconus. Since the time of his diagnosis to now, he has had progressive problems with his vision. On July 7, 2002, Jeremy developed blisters on his cornea. We had no idea how horrible life was going to become. Jeremy was in horrendous pain. There were many sleepless nights and countless extremely long days of sheer misery. We knew that his only salvation would be a cornea transplant.

On September 18th he went in for surgery. After the surgery he was again in pain, until the doctor discovered he was allergic to the 42 stitches that were holding his new cornea in place. Stitches had to come out early. The wonderful thing is that the cornea healed so well that he only has two stitches left and is doing awesome!

He is back to working full time and is feeling better than ever. His vision is about 20/50 now, but it should be 20/20 when all is healed. We both want to thank the Lions Eye Bank, and especially the donor's family for giving Jeremy the opportunity to see again. It is a wonderful gift. No words could ever describe our thanks for this gift. We hope that our story and the many others can ease the family's loss, knowing that other lives have benefited so greatly! For the first time in nearly six months Jeremy is smiling and has both eyes open!



Jeremy and Shannon
Tomes

Designed and submitted by Shannon Tomes, wife.

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Billy Lee Tomlinson (Donor)



Our family still mourns for Billy Lee, but a memory such as this helps the sorrow. Billy Lee was a free spirit and touched a lot of people with his quick wit and loving ways. He loved sports and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was very patriotic; the reason for the red, white and blue block, plus September 11th. We knew he would want the stars and stripes. We are a large family so when one of us is gone it's a terrible hurt. We have an uplifting feeling about his donation.

Designed and submitted by Mona Schooner, sister.