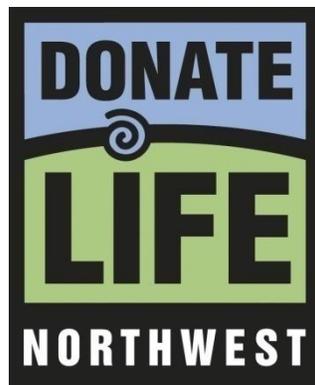


THREADS
OF
LIFE
QUILT SCRAPBOOK
(QUILT THIRTEEN)

APRIL 2011

PRESENTED BY:



Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Ernestine Collins (Kidney Recipient)



I do not know the name of my donor, only that he was a young man who had a motorcycle accident somewhere in Idaho.

I took a long time deciding what I wanted to do for a square. I wanted it to be colorful, to somehow show that it came from my heart. I also hope it shows my appreciation for this amazing gift and the generosity of the donor family.

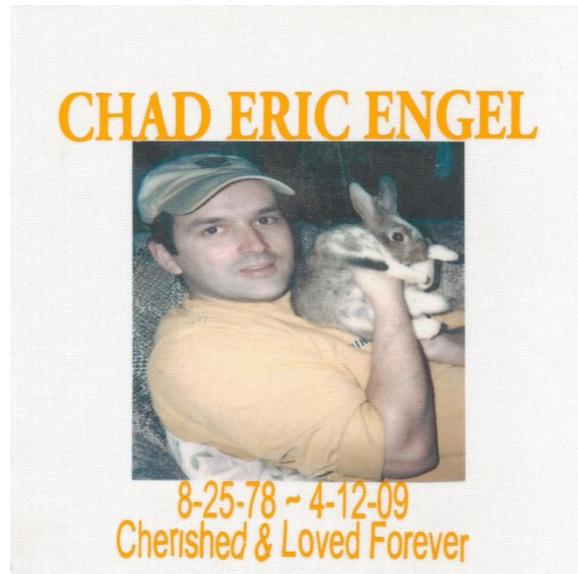
From deep in my heart for the kidney transplant, for all the wonderful people who do the work, and for the donor family for the life given to me, I thank you!!!

Quilt Square Submitted by Ernestine Collins, Kidney Recipient

Quilt 13 - Block C2

Threads of Life Quilt
Honoring

Chad Engel (Organ Donor)



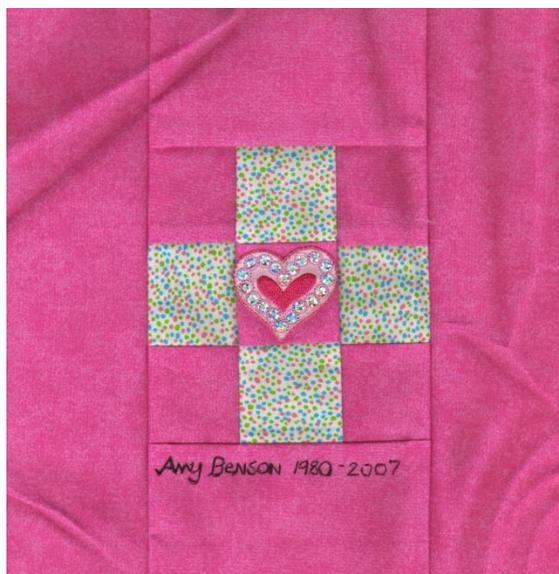
Chad's organs were donated on the 13th of April, and his ambulance was "13".
Thank you. You have made our loss a tiny bit easier.

Quilt Square Submitted by Ruth Engel

Quilt 13 - Block C6

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Amy Benson (Donor)
1980-2007



This square was made with love in honor of my little sister, Amy. I chose bright and happy colors because Amy brought so much joy to our lives. The moment she was born I recognized a special sparkle in her eyes. Her beautiful brown eyes could penetrate my heart from day one. The sparkles on the square represent her impact on my life. Even though she's gone, her eyes, her sparkle continue on.

Quilt Square Submitted by Jessica Rader, Sister

Quilt 13 - Block B5

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Dylon Johnson (Donor)



Enjoyed the opportunity to spend the day with my mother-in-law Sue McKay, Dylon's grandma, meeting new people and socializing. Dylon Johnson is my son.

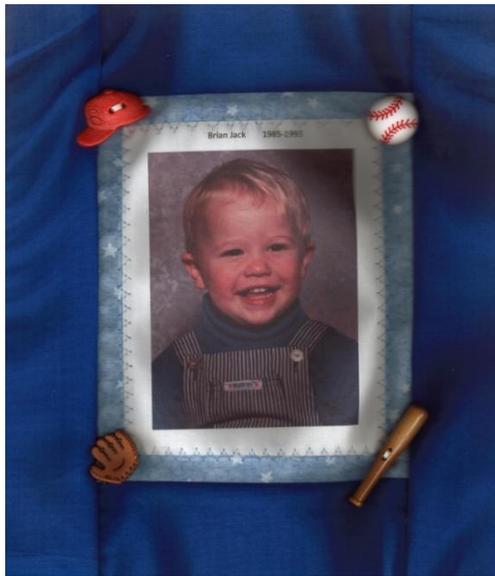
Dylon loved the weirdest colors - purple, yellow and blue. We designed this quilt square using his colors.

Quilt Square Submitted by Shannon McKay (Mother) and Sue McKay (Grandmother)

Quilt 13 - Block A4

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Brian Jack (Eye and Tissue Donor)



The quilt square was made in honor of my sweet son Brian Jack. Brian loved baseball and he loved life! Tragically he died in an accident at the age of seven. He was a cornea and tissue donor. I still love the game of baseball and celebrate Brian's memory every season.

Quilt Square Submitted by Leslie Coefield, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block E2

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Jennifer Schulze (Organ Donor)



This square is in memory of my daughter Jennifer Schulze. Jennifer was born on Valentine's Day, and she remains forever in my heart. Jennifer told us (her family) if anything ever happened to her we should donate her organs. We will always be grateful that Jennifer shared her decision with us which enabled us to give her her final wish.

Quilt Square Submitted by Jackie Schulze, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block C5

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Ceryne Joseph Alsteen (Organ and Eye Donor)



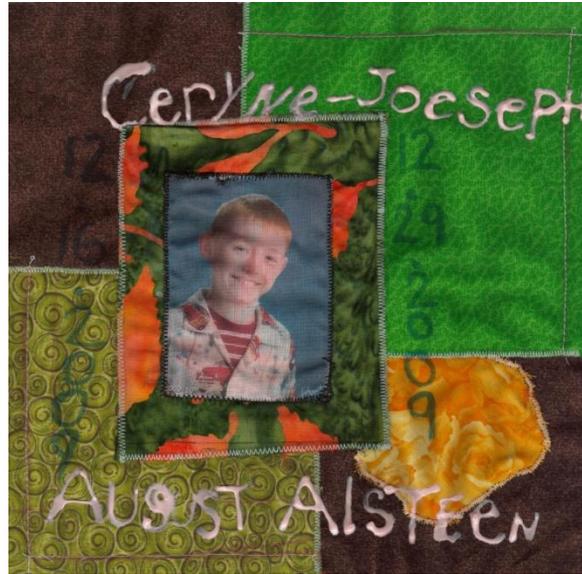
The quilt square is for my son Ceryne. I chose the color and fabric because they were his favorites. He was someone who was full of life always trying to make people laugh! He loved being outdoors and climbing trees! We know he is in heaven with the Lord, but he is missed every single day here on earth.

Quilt Square Submitted by Shanti Armstrong, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block C7

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Ceryne Joseph Alsteen (Organ and Eye Donor)
Heart, Pancreas, Kidneys and Corneas Donor



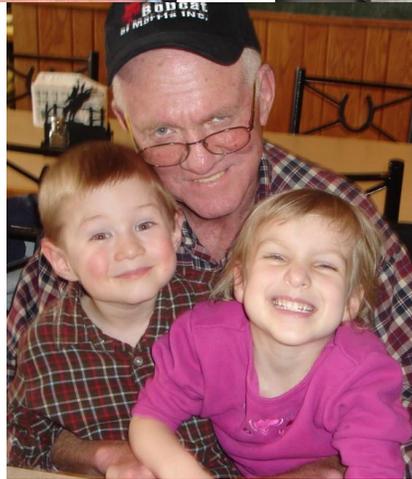
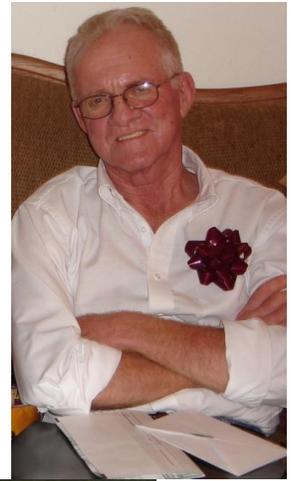
This square is for my eleven year old brother who died four days after Christmas. I chose the design because I wanted a non-obvious way to represent him - his favorite color, hair color and personality. He died of a medical reaction where his brain never awoke, and he was declared brain dead. He donated his heart, pancreas, kidneys and corneas. His heart was given to a seven year old in Utah who was near death. Now he lives and so does my brother in my heart.

Quilt Square Submitted by Sierra Jaydli, Sister

Quilt 13 - Block D7

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Thomas Hein (Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor)
Eyes, Kidneys, Lungs, Skin Donor on June 13, 2006



Thomas Hein was a great father, husband, and grandfather. He was tragically taken from this earth due to a car/truck accident June 6, 2006. It was a clear, beautiful evening and at approximately 6 p.m. Tom was on a county road near Starbuck, MN when an oncoming SUV suddenly swerved into Tom's lane. Instead of hitting the SUV head on, Tom went into the ditch, rolling his semi-truck. This action saved the life of the 70-year-old SUV driver but cost Tom his own. Tom died Monday, June 12, 2006 having lived to the age of 53 years. He was an organ donor and saved countless lives through this selfless act.

Tom drove 1.8 million miles without an accident and was a very conscientious truck driver. He leaves behind a loving wife Patricia, son John, daughter Amanda and three beautiful grandchildren, Annika, Noah and Abram, who miss him dearly.

Quilt Square Designed and Submitted by Patricia Hein, Wife

Quilt 13 - Block A5

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Nicole Kizer (Organ Donor)



This picture was taken on Nicole's 21st birthday in Kauai. Her favorite number was #13, so it's fitting we honor her choice to be an organ donor on the 13th Threads of Life Quilt.

Nicole was a very talented, passionate artist and enjoyed painting and tattooing. She loved expressing her creativity and hanging out with her friends. Nicole was beautiful, kind, outgoing, articulate, courageous, stubborn, outspoken, funny, an amazing rainbow of colors like you have never seen before.

Nicole is loved and missed so much by her family and friends.

Quilt Square Designed and Submitted by Lori Kiser, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block E6

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Tandy Armitage (Organ Donor)
Organ Donor on February 10, 2010



Tandy was the oldest of 3 children. She was a waitress and a single mother of one son Zachary. Tandy was a giving, loving person. If someone needed something, she would gladly give it to them. She had a big heart. Tandy and Zachary moved to Oregon the weekend before Christmas 2009 from California where she had lived most of her life. Tandy passed away on her son Zachary's 18th birthday February 9, 2010. Tandy was loved by many and is greatly missed.

I Love You Tandy, Mom

Quilt Square Submitted by Shirley Christensen, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block A1

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

All Donors and Recipients



This square contains the Community Tissue Services (CTS) logo and means “Life from Life.” The color represents a new beginning.

CTS is the region’s only non-profit tissue recovery organization and is a quality, ethical provider of service to donor families, medical communities, transplant recipients and community partners through recovery, processing, and distribution of tissue grafts.

Quilt Square Submitted by Emily Wittekindt and Deni Wheeler

Quilt 13 - Block E1

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Robert Edward Duffy (Eye Donor)
Cornea Donor on September 8, 2010



This quilt square is made out of old cuffs from shirts worn by Robert. Robert donated two corneas on September 8, 2010 after enduring a lengthy battle with prostate cancer. Robert was a fun, loving, family man with a tremendous sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye. He is greatly missed by all who knew him.

Quilt Square Submitted by Melissa Duffy, Wife

Quilt 13 - Block D1

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Elwood Butcher (Donor)



Elwood, called Woody by friends and relatives, was an energetic, sensitive, and romantic man. He had a great sense of humor and kept the people around him laughing. He was often told he should have been a stand-up comedian.

Woody started cooking with his mom when he was young and fell in love with it. He worked most of his adult life as a chef. He loved cooking, grocery stores, and everything having to do with food. I often called him “The Man with the Pan.” Whether he was at work or at home, we usually could find Woody in the kitchen. Even with all that cooking, he remained skinny.

He was a bundle of energy and often outworked any of the crew which made him proud of himself. Our oldest grandson would often toddle directly to our kitchen table, crawl up on a chair and wait for grandpa to bring him something good to eat. All the family expected something good to eat at our house when Woody was home. He is very much missed.

Quilt Square Submitted by Kathleen Butcher

Quilt 13 - Block A2

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Ellen E. Elford (Donor)
1913 – September 16, 2010



This quilt square honors Mrs. W. Elford (Ellen Elizabeth Elford), an anatomical donor upon her death at age 97 on September 16, 2010. It commemorates four of her major attributes:

Tireless Volunteer, Artistic Vision, Philanthropist and Music Lover. This square was designed, created and presented to me by my neighbor, Beatrice Raye Huth. She thoughtfully made it using Ellen's favorite colors with lettering matching Ellen's writing.

Ellen was one busy lady. She was an outstanding business woman in administrative positions locally. The Portland Women's Forum selected her as Woman of the Year in 1975-76. She also volunteered many thousands of hours for the Red Cross, Shriners Hospital for Children and Oral Hull Foundation for the Blind. Artistically, she designed pieces for a local jeweler, created many ceramic pieces in her home kiln, and enjoyed decorating for dinners and parties. She was an accomplished cook and seamstress and liked to entertain. She enjoyed her piano and organ and belonged to the Portland Organ Guild and Monday Musical group. Ellen was a life member of the Order of Eastern Star, serving as worthy matron, Oregon grand page and grand marsh. She was active in the Daughters of the Nile, Amaranth, Women of the Elks, Chin-Up Club and several others. Ellen is remembered as an independent spunky lady, frugal in her personal life but very generous in her lifetime service to others, leaving very substantial bequests to her favorite charities.

Quilt Square Designed by Beatrice Raye Huth, Neighbor
Quilt Square Submitted by Richard E. Coovert

Quilt 13 - Block D5

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Cory Dale Stonebrink (Donor)



Cory Dale Stonebrink was born May 17, 1965 in McMinnville Oregon to Don & Darlene Stonebrink. He graduated from Wallowa High school in 1983 and joined the Navy in 1984. He spent the next 20 years as Chief Operations Specialist serving in the Persian Gulf, Japan, Taiwan, Russia, South Africa and the Philippines. While in the Navy, he met and married April Li Tamondong in 2002 in Japan.

After retiring from the Navy, Corey was a chief analyst manager in San Diego and then returned home to Wallowa County to work on the family farm. He loved hunting, fishing, singing karaoke and helping others. He was a member of the Lostine Presbyterian Church.

Corey had a great sense of humor, was very witty, and loved to make people smile and laugh. But he was also a very intelligent man, loving, caring, and lived each day to the fullest.

Corey leaves behind his parents Don and Charlotte, wife April, sisters Kathy and Diana, brothers John and Melvin, stepbrother Larry, stepsister Bonnie and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother Darlene, brother Gary and sister Debbie.

He dearly loved every member of his family, and we know Corey would be deeply honored to know he was able to help others and bring joy to their families with his donation.

It is a great honor to have had him as a son, husband, father, brother, uncle and friend.

God Bless.

Quilt Square Submitted by Diana Harvey, Sister

Quilt 13 - Block C1

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Benjamin Rucker Hampton (Eye and Tissue Donor)
Eye and Tissue Donor on July 1, 2010



The quilt square is an outdoor scene framed in brown, green and gold. The center is an embroidered cabin. Ben's name is embroidered beneath the cabin.

Ben was born in St. Petersburg, Florida December, 11, 1941. He attended school first in St. Petersburg and then in Tampa, Florida. After one year of college, he served in the Navy for four years. He then worked as a lithographer the rest of his life.

Quilt Square Designed and Made Leslie M. Stapleton, Niece
Quilt Square Submitted by Emily Williams

Quilt 13 - Block D3

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Barbara Darby (Living Kidney Donor)
August 16, 2010



I created these two squares to honor my sister, who selflessly donated her kidney to me so I could live a full life, and to remind myself of the wonderful people who are willing to give the most wonderful gift. Both squares contain an emblem that is important to each of us - roses for Barbara, her favorite flower, and a beautiful fall leaf for myself. My sister, (my personal hero) who lives in another state, donated her kidney to me on August 16, 2010 in Portland, OR.

Quilt Square Submitted by Mary Hillebrand, Kidney Recipient

Quilt 13 - Block A3

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Mary Hillebrand (Living Kidney Donor Recipient)
August 16, 2010



I created these two squares to honor my sister, who selflessly donated her kidney to me so I could live a full life, and to remind myself of the wonderful people who are willing to give the most wonderful gift. Both squares contain an emblem that is important to each of us - roses for Barbara, her favorite flower, and a beautiful fall leaf for myself. My sister, (my personal hero) who lives in another state, donated her kidney to me on August 16, 2010 in Portland, OR.

Quilt Square Submitted by Mary Hillebrand, Kidney Recipient

Quilt 13 - Block B3

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Samantha Kayleigh Jones Leonard (Donor)



Samantha was a beautiful 23-year-old with her whole life ahead of her when a drunk driver hit the car she was traveling in. She died in the hospital six days later.

Following her husband who is in the United States Air Force, Samantha moved to the United States from England only 11 months before she died. Her dream was to become a veterinarian, and she was due to start college in 2011. Her dream was never to be. Samantha loved to write and draw. A sample of her Manga art can be seen on her quilt square. Samantha had a taste for adventure, she wanted to travel the world, she saw beauty in everything, and life was precious to her in every way.

Samantha expressed that she wanted to be a donor. She said “Mom, if anything happens to me, I want to give others the chance to live.” I agreed, never thinking she would go before me. So, here we are. I am so happy that we had discussed this. Our daughter lives on in a way, and for that we smile. Samantha gave the ultimate gift - the gift of life.

Samantha, you loved deeply, your smile could light up any room. You are so loved. Thank goodness we always told you. We miss you, darling, and we are so proud of you, so blessed to have you as our daughter.

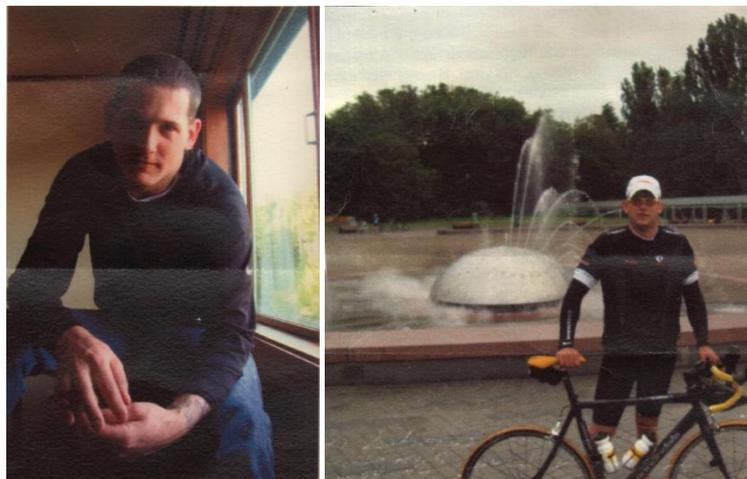
Love Mom & Dad, Sister Lisa, Brother Carl

Quilt Square Submitted by Kelly Penney, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block E4

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Jeffrey Kieffer (Eye and Tissue Donor)
November 4, 2010



This quilt square is to honor my son who took his own life on November 4, 2010. Jeff took part in at least five NW Lance Armstrong challenges. He was always trying to help people. Jeff was the awesome father of three girls - McKenzie (9), Marissa (7) and Peyton to be born 2-1-11. McKenzie and Marissa worked together with Grandma Kathy on the quilt square. Here's to Jeff!

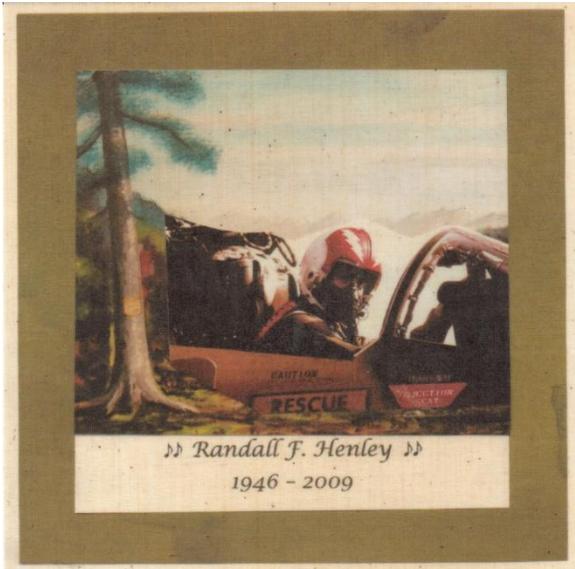
Love, Jeff's Mom Kathy

Quilt Square Submitted by Kathy Kieffer, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block E3

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Randall Henley (Eye and Tissue Donor)
Organ, Eye and Tissue Donor



Born on a snowy Thanksgiving in 1946 to Clayton and Jean and joined later by sister Robin, Randall Henley grew up in the tiny town of Troy, Montana. Also living near his grandparents, Hi and Mabel Hand, Randy remembered these years fondly. He loved nature, school, dogs, sports, fast cars, reading and college!

In 1969, the “Summer of Love,” Randy and I were married. Following his dad’s passion and skilled “pilot hands”, he learned to fly vintage airplanes at the Clayton Aerodrome. In the USAF he flew F-4 E’s, later R F-4’s and F-4 G’s in the Idaho National Guard, and retired from Alaska Airlines.

From his mom, Randy inherited a wonderful musical ear. He played the sax and sang in choirs, his favorite being the Boise Master Choral. He loved all music and could entertain everyone with fighter pilot” songs or musicals.

Above all loves in his life were our children, Craig (1973), Scott (1976) and Aimee (1979). To them, he gave his gifts and guidance. Childhood years were filled with dogs, games, camping, hiking, skiing, sports and traveling. In the final chapter, Randy enjoyed grandsons, Ethan and Eli, and “knew” his unborn granddaughter, Scarlett.

Randy was an amazing person – a true individual with a wonderful sense of humor and a roaring laugh I still hear today. He was admired by all who knew him, and dearly beloved by his family. By his grace, we - and his transplant recipients - are his legacy.

This quilt square for Randy depicts him in his F-4 fighter jet in Ramstein, Germany, which is “nestled” in a picture his dad painted of the mountains in Northern Idaho. The square was designed and made by Randy’s wife Sheryl and her quilting friend Jacquie Fisher.

Quilt Square Submitted by Sheryl Henley, Wife

Quilt 13 - Block D4

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Merle Simmons (Eye Donor)
Eye Donor May, 2010



This pine cone and deer themed quilt block honors my dad, Merle A. Simmons. When the paper mill went on strike for several months during the mid-70s, I remember going to the woods to help pick pine cones so my dad could sell the seeds. The anchor button represents his time served in the Navy.

Merle A. Simmons was born in Minnesota in 1941 where he lived on a farm with his parents, two brothers and a sister. After high school he met my mom, Karen. Their courtship continued through love letters while he was serving in the Navy. They married in 1961, moved to Washington, and raised three children. My dad loved to archery hunt, do wood-working and tend his garden. His blueberries attracted the grandkids from miles away. He was a very dedicated and hard-working man, quiet in nature but always willing to lend a helpful hand. After my mom passed away, he married again, and became “dad” to two more children.

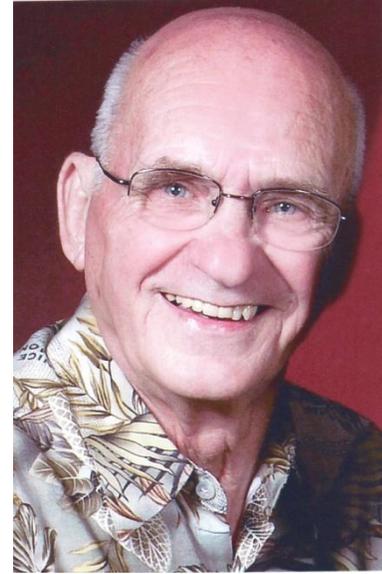
We honored his wishes to be a donor, so he was able to give two people the gift of sight. He is survived by his brothers, sister, three sons, two daughters and 12 “wonderful grandchildren” (and one more on the way).

Quilt Square Submitted by Kelly Satterfield, Daughter

Quilt 13 - Block B6

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Bill Burke (Eye and Tissue Donor)
Eye and Tissue Donor on August 9, 2010



Bill was a husband, father of three and “Pop” to seven grandchildren, his absolute favorite title. Bill’s life was personified by his love for children, whether they were yours or his! Every baby was the most beautiful baby he’d ever seen and every baby received a kiss from him.

Bill served in the US Navy in Hawaii during his early twenties, and thus began his love of Hawaiian shirts. The quilt block material is cut from 4 of his favorite shirts.

I saw a picture of a square called “Little Buggies” in *The Quilter*, May 2010 magazine and thought it would be great to duplicate for the Threads of Life Quilt.

I trust this square and others making up this quilt will encourage many others to become organ, eye and tissue donors, thus bringing light and life to others.

Quilt Square Submitted by Elizabeth Burke

Quilt 13 - Block A7

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Patrice Hudson (Living Kidney Donor)
And
Roberta Morris (Living Kidney Donor Recipient)
July 29, 1008



From Nadine Morris:

Early in 2008 Roberta's former transplanted kidney was failing, and she was facing a future of dialysis several days a week. Her sister, Patrice, bravely decided it was time to step forward and donate a kidney in hopes she could alleviate Roberta's further suffering. After a battery of tests, she was accepted as a good match. In July the surgery at OHSU was a success and both women recovered fully after a few weeks.

From Roberta:

I had climbed the same hill several times before. I found myself making the trip again, but I wasn't alone.

My sister, Patrice Hudson, had been instrumental in my struggle to get two previous pancreas transplants and two previous kidney transplants. She had organized fund raisers, driven me to doctors'

appointments, picked me up from work when I just couldn't make it through the day. She helped with housework and yard work and sent out press releases to get my story in the media to promote organ donation. She flew to Chicago to visit me after my first transplant surgery and made me laugh until I thought I would pop the staples on my incision.

Patrice was a single mom of three, working full-time while earning her master's degree and was always so incredibly busy. I couldn't believe it when she surprised me with the news that she was being evaluated to become my next kidney donor. She hadn't wanted to get my hopes up needlessly. But, I was wrestling with the decision to have access placed for hemo-dialysis, and she thought I should know, so I could factor it into my decision.

I decided to gamble on timing and wait to see if she was, indeed, a suitable donor. It seemed like a safe bet - my big sister had always come through for me before.

At OHSU on July 29, 2008 Patrice gave me a healthy kidney, saving me from enduring another round of dialysis and keeping me alive and healthy. Just like I figured, she had come through for me...again.

Thank you to our mother, Nadine Morris, for creating this beautiful and adorably clever quilt square in our honor. You taught all five of us to care for others, mom. Great job!

Roberta Morris, grateful recipient of:

Simultaneous pancreas/kidney, August 1, 2002

Pancreas, April 20, 2004

Living donor kidney, November 25, 2005

Living donor kidney, July 29, 2008

Quilt Square Submitted by Nadine Morris, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block E7

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Gary Buzzard (Donor)



When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom filled room:
Why cry for a soul set free

Miss me – but not too long
And not with your head bowed low:
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss me – but let me go!

For this journey we all must take
And each must go alone:
It's all part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows doing good deeds
Miss me - but let me go!

-author unknown

Husband, security guard, volunteer firefighter, father, truck driver, carpenter, excavator, cement mixer operator, brother, power company lineman, son, mechanic, plumber, artist, welder, grandpa, electrician, engineer, rancher, surfer, landscaper, master furniture refinisher, friend, traveler, gardener, father-in-law, auto detailer, motorcyclist, instructor doctor, cousin, shepherd, painter, handyman, boater, veterinarian, son-in-law, cabinetmaker, water skier, child of God!

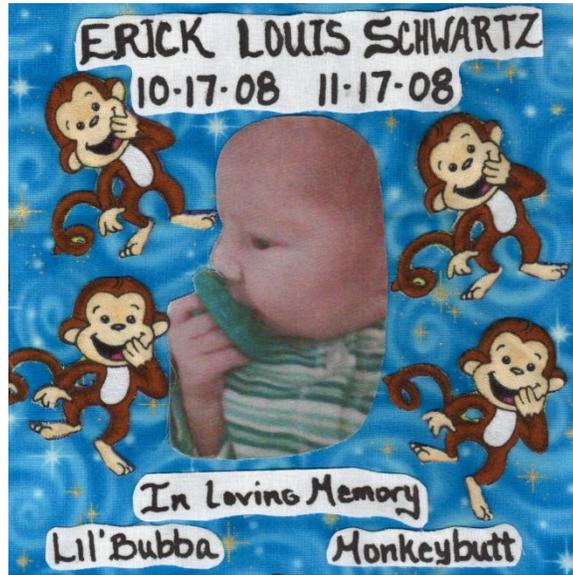
Jack of all trades; Master of many!

Quilt Square Submitted by Joan

Quilt 13 - Block B4

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Erick Louis Schwartz (Donor)



We will never forget his deliciously sweet baby scent and the way he'd cross his eyes when his daddy would blow zerbets on his lips. The time we had with this beautiful angel was brief, but incredible. On June 13, 2008 while I was pregnant, our son Erick was diagnosed by ultrasound at our 20 week appointment with a severe congenital heart defect. We had to give him a fighting chance although the odds were stacked against this brave little fighter.

Erick Louis Schwartz was born October 17th 2008. He was 7lbs 1 oz, 21 inches long and had a broken heart that could only be mended by the wonderfully skilled surgeons for a mere blink in time. He had the strength of a lion and the face of an angel, but sadly, his little body couldn't survive all that was asked of it

This amazing little man, who touched so many lives in his short stay here, passed away November 17, 2008. He had had such a difficult time the day of his surgery, that most of his organs were badly damaged. The only healthy part of this precious boy was his eyes.

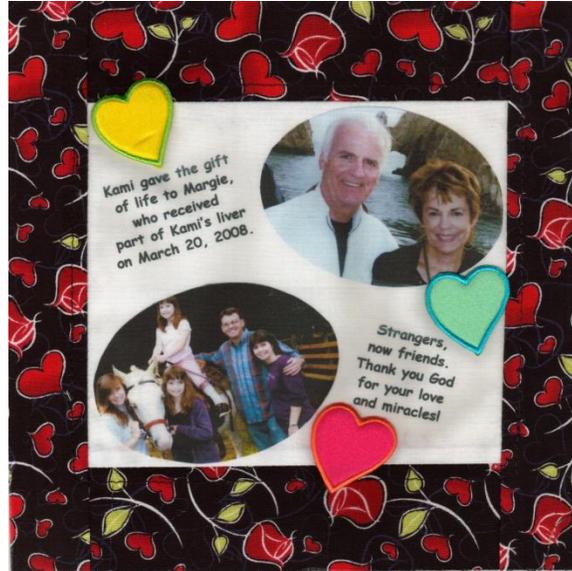
Lions Eye Bank of Oregon contacted us the night of Erick's passing. What other way to keep his spirit alive than to help another child? Even though he's no longer with us, we couldn't be more proud.

Quilt Square Submitted by Kristen Schwartz, Mother

Quilt 13 - Block D2

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Kami Stilwell (Living Liver Donor)
March 20, 2008



This quilt square honors Kami Stilwell, who gave me part of her liver on March 20, 2008. When she heard I needed a liver, she called me to say she was willing to go through the testing required to determine if she was a match. I did not know her at the time. When I asked her why she would do such a thing (as in risk her life), she answered back, "Why wouldn't I? I am healthy and if I can help somebody else, I am willing to do that." What an incredible gift to me. I know God used Kami to give me the gift of life. Every day I am filled with blessings and joy... just to be alive and healthy. Kami and her family are now part of our family. We have become friends and her children regard my husband Gary and me as third grandparents! That is another of God's blessings.

Quilt Square Submitted by Margie Waite, Liver Recipient

Quilt 13 - Block A6

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Claude Guitschula (Eye Donor)
November 21, 2010



On November 21, 2010 my father died and I donated his eyes for research due to the extensive eye disease he was dealing with the last 25 years of his life.

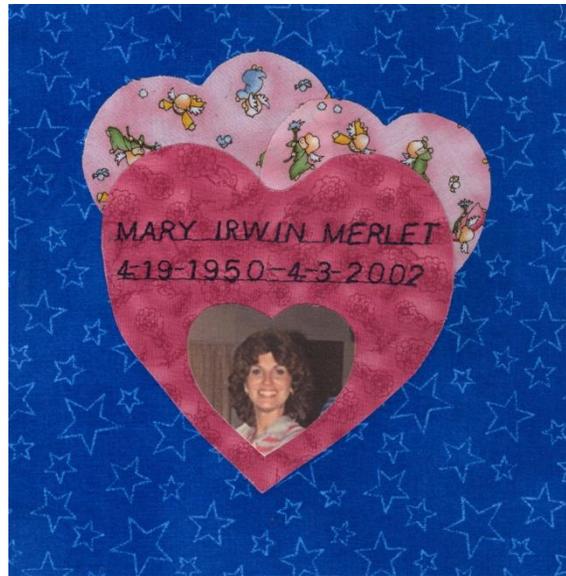
My dad was born in Paris, France and remained a French citizen until he died. He worked as a machinist his whole career and was an avid photographer and audiophile. He bicycled in San Francisco whenever he could and loved the outdoors, especially Yosemite National Park, where he spent a lot of time photographing the area and swimming in the river. He loved old ghost towns and his ashes will be taken to Bodie Ghost Town in California, where he visited many times. He was a very kind and gentle soul, always trying to help others when he could. He rarely raised his voice to anyone, and he respected other people's opinions. He passed through this life too quickly and we can hope for more people like him to come into our lives.

Quilt Square Submitted by Laurie Tusso

Quilt 13 - Block B7

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Mary Irwin Merlet (Donor)
April 19, 1950 – April 3, 2002



This square honors my heart donor, Mary Irwin Merlet. I have framed her photo in a pink heart and attached angel wings. They are framed with a blue starry material representing Heaven. The pink heart represents the rosy cheeks transplant recipients get after their transplants and the wings made of angels is obvious.

Mary Irwin Merlet was born and raised near Orlando, Florida. She was the second of four children. She was a wonderful Christian lady and lived her life to the fullest. She loved animals and she never met a person she didn't like. Mary was married to Andre Merlet and they moved to Hailey, Idaho.

Mary was 51 when she suffered a severe brain injury and was transported to a hospital in Boise, Idaho. Sadly, she never regained consciousness. Her brother and sister were at her bedside and knew she was an organ donor and insisted that her wishes be granted.

Seven years after my transplant, Mary's younger sister, Debbie, sent us a beautiful letter acknowledging that Mary was our donor. Our family was able to meet Debbie in California shortly after, and we family pictures and heard such special stories! We learned at this time that Mary was able to donate her eyes and several other organs. Thank you for sharing Mary's life with us.

We will always be saddened by Mary's untimely death; always be grateful for her loving life enough to help others at the time of her death, and always be thankful for her family's determination to honor her wishes to "donate life".

As we celebrate the 9th year of my transplant, we are thankful for the extra years our family has had together.

I've become a Grandmother and got to live to meet my precious Grandson in August 2002. Now I have three Grandsons! We spread the word about organ and tissue donation through Donate Life Northwest and American Red Cross blood drives. I needed six pints of blood during transplant.

Quilt Square Submitted by Carol McLaughlin

Quilt 13 - Block E5

Threads of Life Quilt Honoring

Sara Bongartz (Organ Donor)



The "One Heart Shared by Two" Threads of Life quilt square was designed by Lisa McGrew Siegfried to honor her donor, Sara Bongartz. It was inspired by Sara's bedroom colors and a Robert Service poem chosen by Sara's mom, **"God made a heart from gold ... shimmering and sweet and true..."**. The photograph was Sara's senior portrait.

I was grateful and humbled to receive a heart from the beautiful 17-year-old Californian. Sara was critically injured in an auto accident. She passed away on July 23, 2005. During her final hours Sara was surrounded with love by her mom and stepdad, Lisa and Jesse Delaney, her sister Lauren, her dad, Bill Bongartz and many of her friends. In spite of their devastating loss and shock, Sara's family honored her wish to be a donor and in so doing, saved many lives.

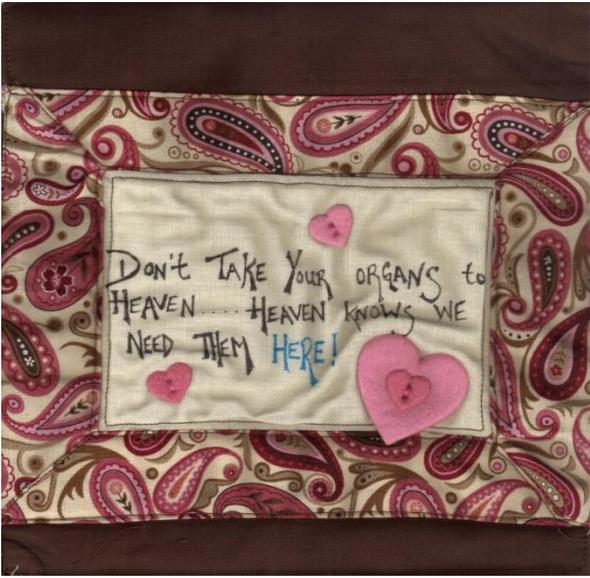
Nearly a senior, Sara dreamed of becoming a psychiatrist. Loving and exuberant, she cherished family and friends. Sara was quiet, grounded, reflective and intense but also goofy, silly and full of laughter. Sara enjoyed skating, skiing, surfing, and travel. She was good at drawing and was learning guitar. Sara loved classic rock.

In 2005 I was in excellent health without any risk factors when quite suddenly an unknown virus caused viral cardiomyopathy, destroying my heart. My heart, liver, and kidneys failed and I was placed in a medically induced coma. Heart pumps kept me alive for five months until I could receive a heart transplant.

Our lives became forever linked when Sara passed away on July 23, 2005 and I received her heart on July 24, 2005. Not only did Sara give me the truly awesome gift of a heart, but she also gave others second chances with her kidneys, liver, and lungs. Having Sara's heart beating inside me is my ever present source of pride and inspiration.

Quilt Square Submitted by Lisa McGrew Siegfried

Quilt 13 - Block B2



Submitted by: Northwest Donor Advisory Committee
Quilt 13 Block D6



In Memory of Rafael Miranda Gonzalez
Submitted by: Dora Alvarado
Quilt 13 Block B1