"I went to college to be a swim coach and gym teacher but never graduated. I spent most of my life working in water treatment. After my transplant, I decided since I had a new life I would change careers. Now I am finally a swim coach and personal trainer. I love my job and I love helping other people. I am now living my life in dedication to my donor. Advocating for donation has given me new purpose in life."
"Knowing that our ten year-old son, Garrett, was able to help so many people has allowed me to see beyond our immediate loss and to see the life that his gifts were able to provide others. As we read the letters from his recipients, we felt their sincere appreciation for Garrett and we began to share in the joy that good health provided them. It gives me great comfort knowing other families are celebrating life."
"Organ donation has cured my life from the horrible disease of diabetes. I no longer have to worry about other complications and I can watch my son grow up. I can enjoy my life with my son and husband. It is the true meaning of love and I have huge appreciation for everyone involved in the process. A lifesaving gift to help another person is the true meaning of a hero never forgotten."
Nadine was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015.

"Because of a generous gift from a donor family, I was able to have reconstruction done during the original mastectomy surgery. My surgeon used AlloDerm, which is made from donated skin, to wrap the implants to reduce chances of infection and rejection. I returned to work in four weeks with no additional surgeries."

www.IowaDonorNetwork.org
On November 19, 2007, Mia Luciana Vail was born. She was quickly swept off to the NICU. Our baby girl had a heart defect. After a few weeks were able to take our daughter home. In April 2008 she had surgery. On April 6, doctors and surgeons feared she was brain dead. We were asked about organ donation. We decided to let Mia save the life of another child. There is no greater gift that one can give.
"Luke was born three months premature with a birth defect causing non-immune fetal hydrops. He was given a 5% chance of survival. We knew early on that he would one day need a kidney transplant. On April 6, 2016, I was able to donate to Luke, which has allowed him to go back to being a regular teenager. We know this will likely not be the only transplant he will need and are thankful for every person who registers."
In 2007, my sophomore year in high school, I became very ill. After a few months I had hardly attended school. In July 2008, I learned that sometime later in life I would need a kidney transplant. On November 31, 2008 the transplant center called; they had a kidney. I had surgery on December 1, 2008. I returned to school in January 2009 and completed my junior year. I had one dream - to beat the fight and live life to the fullest!
"A family friend came to my high school class saying my mom collapsed from a headache. She died the next day from a brain aneurysm. Luckily, she had talked to us about organ donation. I'm so thankful we had that conversation because when my dad asked if we wanted to donate her organs, it was the easiest decision we made during that very difficult time. She saved six lives through organ donation."
"Becoming a living donor was not just a choice, it became my life's mission to be able to save my father's life. I donated my left kidney to him on November 11, 2015. While going through the process as a living donor, you have many different things to think about. I had my moments of excitement, fear, uncertainty. When I was wheeled into surgery, I had a sense of calmness and knew in my heart this was the right thing to do."
"On January 6, 2006 our life was instantly changed when we were faced with the decision of whether or not to donate my father's organs. My dad was a very giving person so it seemed fitting to let his legacy live on in others. He was able to help save six lives! We have since met one of his kidney recipients and still communicate regularly with his lung recipient. This has given us great comfort on our grief journey."
Daylea entered a foster home as a four month-old with biliary atresia. At eight months of age, Daylea was listed for a liver transplant in Iowa. At age three, she was also listed for transplant in Wisconsin. She received her liver transplant on October 29, 2015.

"I received a liver transplant when I was four years old. When I grow up, I want to be a surgeon to help people."

www.IowaDonorNetwork.org
"When we lost our sister unexpectedly, we were able to donate her corneas and tissue. She was able to give sight to two gentlemen in Texas which meant a part of our sister was going on another journey. I know how hard it was to lose my sister, but I have also been able to see how donation can give someone a second chance at life. That check mark on your driver's license means so much more than you can imagine."
"As a donor mom, I was confronted with an unexpected decision when my son Jeremy left us suddenly. We had discussed donation several times, as we were trying to get him listed on a transplant list. Because of his kindness toward strangers, I know he would be proud to know his eyes have helped two men, and his tissue has been transplanted in an infant and a toddler."
"In the spring of 2009 I was a college student. I was diagnosed with IgA nephropathy. I spent 1.5 years on dialysis, during which time I remained a full-time college student. In the fall of 2010, my Aunt Diane called and said she was a match. We had surgery in December 2010. This transplant bonded us in many ways. Everyday I am grateful for the life that I have, and I owe it all to my donor!"

www.IowaDonorNetwork.org
In the summer of 2014, Jonathan had just finished a season as a catcher for his high school baseball team. He was running ten miles a day to prepare for the upcoming cross country season. That ended when he damaged his left interior meniscus. In April 2016, he received a meniscus transplant.

"I thank my donor and their family everyday!"

www.IowaDonorNetwork.org
En el verano de 2014, Jonathan acababa de terminar una temporada como receptor de su equipo de béisbol de la escuela secundaria. Él estaba corriendo diez millas por día para prepararse para el campo traviesa. Eso terminó cuando se dañó el menisco interior izquierdo. En abril de 2016, recibió un trasplante de menisco. "¡Agradezco a mi donante y su familia todos los días!"
On June 7, 2000 Jim was told he had liver failure due to a rare blood disorder named Budd-Chiari. He was immediately placed on the transplant list.

"June 12, 2000 at 4:30 a.m., the doctor came into my room and said they may have a liver for transplant. All of my doctors and nurses are heroes to me. My special hero is Shane."
"I am alive today because of organ donation. I was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, and at eight months of age I received a heart transplant. Because of my transplant, I was able to grow up. I am a graduate of the University of Iowa and the University of Southern California and I have a career in medical social work. Everything I do is because someone made the choice to become an organ donor."
ANGEL DOMINGUEZ
Receptor de corazón
Coralville, IA

"Hoy estoy vivo gracias a la donación de órganos. Nací con síndrome del corazón izquierdo hipoplásico y a los ocho meses de edad recibí un trasplante de corazón. Debido a mi trasplante, pude crecer. Soy un graduado de la Universidad de Iowa y la Universidad del Sur de California y tengo una carrera en el trabajo social médico. Todo lo que hago es porque alguien tomó la decisión de convertirse en donante de órganos."

www.IowaDonorNetwork.org
"My dad was diagnosed with IgA nephropathy and was on dialysis for three years. The doctor told him it was time to find a living donor or be put on the waitlist. When he got the news, he called and asked if I would consider it. It was a no-brainer. He was my dad. It turned out I was a perfect match. The transplant changed our relationship - it brought us closer."