

Funeral Home Connection



A newsletter published by Donor Network of Arizona

Ah-cado toast: Food for the soul



Most kids love cake for dessert, but 2-year-old organ and tissue donor Will Hutchison's favorite meal was "ah-cado" toast.

Will's recipients—I love them like family so much, and I haven't even met them," says Cori Hutchison, about the loss of her 2-year-old son who saved and healed others through donation. "I just love that kid so much. We miss him."

Will passed away in 2018, and his family has since submitted a recipe for the first edition of the *Donate Life Arizona Recipes of Remembrance* cookbook. His favorite—ah-cado toast.

"While we could have submitted any family recipe, we wanted one that was his recipe. The kid loved avocados. And he couldn't pronounce avocado so he would say 'ah-cado.'"

Cori says Will was fun, funny and photogenic.

"He was just this gorgeous boy," she says. "He was born at 42 weeks. Ten-pounder. He came out with this white, brilliant hair. And he was able to keep up with his older siblings."

But there were moments that he was not even able to stand. Born with a vascular disease—venous

congestive myelopathy—the concerning signs revealed themselves as soon as he learned to walk.

"Whenever he would get sick, his vascular system would compress his spinal cord and cause permanent damage," says Cori. "When I say sick, we're talking ear infection, common cold, anything like that. He would quit walking, which was alarming."

Will had a procedure to cut one of the vessels causing the compression. It improved his symptoms, at least for some time. He eventually got sick again, and the problem got worse.

"He got a cold, pneumonia, collapsed lung. Then one morning he had multiple strokes," Cori says. "The following morning, he was declared brain dead."

His short life was full of smiles. While still grieving, his mother also smiles at the thought that Will saved two people through organ donation, including a 5-year-old girl who received his liver. Will also donated two heart valves. Heart valve donations go to pediatric patients 75% of the time, so he and his family offered hope to other young patients much like him.

"Before he passed, his big thing was *The Incredibles*. He loved them," Cori says. "We just took the superhero theme and ran with it. He's incredible."

To view Will's recipe, or all 84 pages of the food memories filled with love, visit www.DNAZ.org/RecipesofRemembrance. Each donor family recipe comes with words of tribute and a picture of their donor hero. We invite you to honor Arizona donors and their families in such a unique way, cooking up new recipes with a pinch of love!

"We still make ah-cado toast the same and we think of him every single time," Cori says. "I just love him so much, and to know that he's improved their quality of life and saved [two] people, it's what helps me cope."

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Generosity by the numbers

2020 DATA

811 LIVES SAVED
BY ARIZONA ORGAN DONORS

3 FEWER
ORGAN DONORS
THAN 2019
RECORD

DESPITE
COVID-19

311
ORGAN
DONORS

1,644
TISSUE
DONORS

655
EYE
DONORS

390
HEART VALVE
DONORS

47
PLACENTA
DONORS

NATIONAL
HEART VALVE
RECORD

60% OF ORGAN DONORS
WERE REGISTERED

ARIZONA
RECORD

31% INCREASE
IN DONOR
REFERRALS

4 MILLION
REGISTERED
IN ARIZONA

DonateLifeAZ Registry

4,096,592

* As of May 14, 2021



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Donor Network of Arizona's Virtual Donor Remembrance

Save the Date! Join us July 31 at 7 p.m. by visiting DNAZ.org/remembrance.

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