Spring 2021

## **Funeral Home** onnection









YouTube.com/ DonateLifeAZ





**Contributors:** Tim Brown **Rob Houghton** Sara Pace Jones Jim Simpson

Writers and Editors: Alexa Citro Kris Patterson Nico Santos

## A newsletter published by Donor Network of Arizona Ah-cado toast: Food for the soul

rill'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."

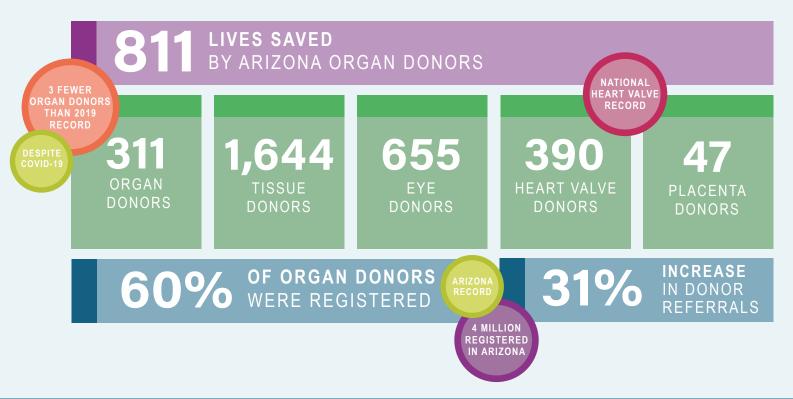
To view Will's recipe, or all 84 pages of the food memories filled with love, visit www.DNAZ.org/ RecipesofRemembrance. Each donor family recipe comes with words of tribute and a picture of their donor hero. We invite you to honor Arizona donors and their families in such a unique way, cooking up new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

## Generosity by the numbers



**2020 DATA** 



## DonateLifeAZ Registry







Donor Network of Arizona's Virtual Donor Remembrance
Save the Date! Join us July 31 at 7 p.m. by visiting <a href="mailto:DNAZ.org/remembrance">DNAZ.org/remembrance</a>.

Contact us by call or text

602-241-5555



REGISTER TO BE AN ORGAN, EYE & TISSUE DONOR

DonateLifeAZ.org 1-800-94-DONOR