

Health Care Connection



A newsletter published by Donor Network of Arizona

Without reason yet full of purpose...



Maria Rocha and her daughter, Leavictoria Hope Macías-Rocha, hold a framed photo to honor 4-month-old Sofia Victoria Macías-Rocha who offered the gift of heart and liver donation in October 2016.

Organ, eye and tissue donation cannot fix the grief of a donor family, but it often adds hope and meaning to the life and legacy of that person who gave the gift of life. Such is the case of Maria Rocha who knows her daughter's absence means she kept other families from going through the same anguish.

"Her laugh was one of a kind and her eyes," Maria says about her daughter, Sofia Victoria Macías-Rocha. "Oh! Her eyes were simply the most beautiful thing to look at."

Sofia passed away in October 2016 at only 4 months old.

"We lived four amazing months by her side before she was called to heaven," she says. "We remember Sofia every day. There is no day that passes where we don't think of her. There are so many great memories with her."

Doctors at Phoenix Children's Hospital tried everything to resuscitate her—the first grandchild of the family. Eventually they declared her brain dead, and the conversation later turned to sharing life with others. Maria's and her then-husband's authorization was a declaration: "She [didn't live long enough to] be a doctor, but she too helped saved lives," Maria says.

Sofia saved two other babies like her—a 4-month-old in California with the gift of her liver and a 4-month-old here in Arizona with a heart donation. Maria says she's put pen to paper to share more about Sofia with the families of both recipients, but she hasn't bothered herself to send the letters just yet.

"I had a good amount of pages, but as always, I was at a loss for words," Maria says about wishing to connect with the recipients. "There is so much I want to say about who Sofia was. It would be such an unforgettable experience to be able to meet who Sofia helped. Meeting them would be such an honor to me. I would be so grateful to cross paths with them one day."

Maria's message to others in the midst of inexplicable grief: "I would like to encourage every single person to become a donor because even when my daughter didn't make it, we had the chance to let someone else's son or daughter live," Maria says. "Sofia helped them. And although she's no longer here, we are thankful for her impact."

Facebook.com/
DonateLifeAZ

@DonateLifeAZ

YouTube.com/
DonateLifeAZ

Pinterest.com/
DonateLifeAZ

@DonateLifeAZ

Contributors:

Tim Brown
Leslie Futral
Robbie Glazner
Sara Pace Jones

Writers and Editors:

Alexa Citro
Kris Patterson
Nico Santos

DonateLifeAZ Registry

4,256,000

* As of Jan. 25, 2022

2021

ARIZONA'S GENEROSITY TO SAVE AND HEAL LIVES

315 organ donors
gave the gift of life in Arizona.

61%
were registered!

790 lives saved
thanks to the generosity of those donors.



DONOR
NETWORK OF ARIZONA
A Donate Life Organization

1,651
tissue donors

901
ocular donors

396
heart valve donors

249
placenta donors

231,584
Arizonans were added
to the DonateLifeAZ Registry

3 Fast Facts About Donation

Donation continues in Arizona, allowing donors and families to impact the lives of others in profound ways because of our hospital partnerships. **COVID-19 is not an automatic rule out for organ donation.** Patients who meet clinical triggers who have or have had COVID should be referred.

For donation champions at any Arizona hospital, new and veterans alike, here are three things to remember about your role in donation:

- 1 Please continue to refer every death, every time, regardless of COVID status.** All hospitals are required by hospital policy and federal guidelines to refer patients to Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) when they meet clinical triggers for referral. Once a referral is made, DNA will begin the process of assessing medical suitability for donation and will communicate next steps in the process to the health care team.
- 2 Avoid early or unplanned mention of donation:** Families are more likely to say yes to donation when DNA staff introduces it. An early mention can lead to a perceived conflict of interest. Please allow our trained and experienced staff to introduce donation to the family. If a family brings up donation, please let them know that you will notify DNA and then contact us immediately.
- 3 We are here for you!** We at DNA support you through the donation process. Our team is on site to evaluate for organ donation, education your team, and follow up on donation opportunities.

FOCUS
ON THE *one*



On-Demand Education

DNA's on-demand education is just that, ready whenever you are. Visit <https://www.dnaz.org/partners/focusontheone/> to get the latest in all things organ, eye and tissue donation in Arizona for all our health care partners!

save the date!

April

National Donate Life Month
Ask your donation coordinator
how to get involved!

April 22

National Blue & Green Day
Wear your colors to show
support!

DONOR REFERRAL HOTLINE:
1-800-447-9477