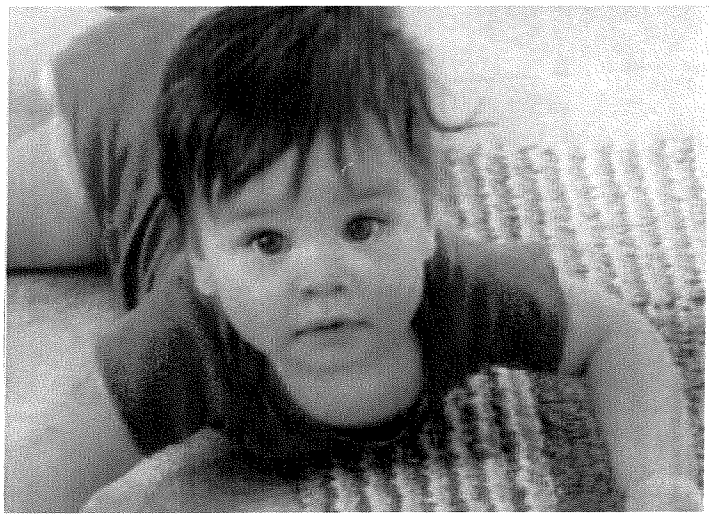
A Hero's Story - Kyle Ray Horning



Kyle Ray Horning

May 1, 2005 - October 19, 2005

Kyle's family asked that Public Act 176 of 2005 be named in memory of their little boy who inspired doctors, nurses, administrators, lawmakers and many staff from Gift of Life Michigan.

On October 19, 2005, at a hospital in Saginaw, a five month old baby died and his family approached the hospital and Gift of Life Michigan about the possibility of donating his organs.

In their time of tragic loss, this family graciously thought of others in need, offering hope that complete strangers might be saved by Kyle's organ and tissue donations. Unfortunately, the medical examiner refused to consent to the donation of Kyle Ray Horning's organs.

Gift of Life Michigan recognizes the importance to maintain a balance between saving lives through organ donation and the demands of investigative responsibilities. A 2003 study in the *Journal of American Transplantation* revealed that requiring organ donation in all medical examiner cases did not interfere with the ability to prosecute or investigate criminal cause of death in other states.

Based on this research and the knowledge that over 160 organs have been denied by medical examiners since 1999 in Michigan, Representative Hune decided to address the issue through House Bill 4938. The bill, backed by solid research, passed unanimously through the House and Senate.

On the day Kyle Ray Horning's parents consented to Kyle's *gift of life*, Representative Hune's bill was sitting on Governor Granholm's desk, awaiting her signature. In an effort to grant the family's wishes and save the lives of children on the waiting list, the Governor was contacted and many parties, most passionately Representative Hune and Representative Gleason, asked Governor Granholm to sign the bill immediately. The bill was signed and filed with the Secretary of State that afternoon. Public Act 176 of 2005 went into immediate effect.

Through his family's generous and unselfish decision, a four-month-old girl in Missouri received Kyle's heart. His liver provided renewed life for a five-month-old boy in Indiana. Both of Kyle's kidneys were transplanted to a 42-year-old woman in Pennsylvania. Gift of Life Michigan has been informed that all three organ transplant recipients are doing well.

Kyle will forever be a hero to those transplant recipients, their families and those who knew Kyle.

Gift of Life Michigan asks for your support of House Bill 5418.

MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Amy Olszewski, Government Liaison • Gift of Life Michigan
• aolszewski@giftoflifemichigan.org • 800.482.4881

GIFT OF LIFE

MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Michigan Patients Currently Waiting For a Transplant
November 1, 2005

Kidney	2187
Liver	395
Lung	56
Kidney/Pancreas	74
Heart	51
Pancreas	33
Kidney/Liver	11
Kidney/Heart	1
TOTAL	2808

Year-to-Date:

Received an organ transplant: 492
Died Waiting for a transplant: 77

Every day hundreds of people in our state are in need of other tissues such as heart valves, veins, tendons, bone, and corneas in order to survive or maintain their quality of life.

Sign the Gift of Life Organ, Tissue, & Eye Donor Registry
and
Give So Others Can Live
Register online at giftoflifemichigan.org or call 800.482.4881