

# Gerri's Story



**A sister finds "purpose through the pain" of her brother's death.**

On Sunday, November 22, 2008, at 6pm, I received a call that my brother had been taken to the hospital for a seizure. Later that evening, my family and I would learn that my brother had passed away of a massive stroke. After my family held hands, prayed and cried, I remember having a conversation with my mother. She said, "In all things there's a purpose and even though we do not understand this, God has a plan." My brother had chosen to be an organ donor. If you knew my brother, you would know he would do anything he could to help anyone. Even though this decision was made prior to his stroke, all throughout his life he thought of others to help, including during his time of death. This was the beginning of me understanding the purpose in this pain.

While writing this, I am reminded of the over 123,000 people who are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant, with over 3,000 waiting right here in North Carolina. My brother was able to offer hope to several families when he joined the NC Donor Registry. When you make this decision, know that you are part of a team that makes a difference in the lives of people, even during death. Death does not discriminate and every donation counts. I am thankful that my brother can "live on" through the lives of three people and the new lease on life they have been given through his donation. My hope is that we can embrace the memories of those who have passed on, educate those who have not signed up on the registry and empower those who are waiting or have received an organ transplant to continue to live life to the fullest.

Gerri, Donor Sister  
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