



June 22, 2005

Dear Vickie Doan,

On behalf of RTI Donor Services, I express my deepest sympathy to you and your family on the death of your son, Jeffrey. I appreciate your kindness in wishing to help others have a better quality of life through your generous decision to donate Jeffrey's tissue.

Jeffrey donated bone, connective tissue, and skin. Because reporting of tissue recipient information by surgeons and hospitals is voluntary, records are often incomplete. Tissue may also be stored for up to five years before being transplanted. We've received as much information as is available at this time on your son's donation.

Donated bone and its surrounding tissue help many people. Jeffrey's donation of bone created twenty-seven grafts that can be used to restore mobility, prevent collapse of bone, reduce pain, and reduce the chance of nerve damage. Recipients of these grafts include eight males (ages 28 to 75) and thirteen females (ages 33 to 70) in California, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Virginia. Six grafts are still available for transplant.

Your son's donation has also created four connective tissue grafts that can be used to repair injury. Connective tissue grafts can be used as tendon in such surgeries as rotator cuff, Achilles' tendon, and ACL replacements to restore mobility and independence in the activities of daily living. Recipients include a 52-year-old female in Colorado.

Skin grafts can be used to speed the healing process and prevent infection for burn victims, to repair a multitude of defects (such as hernia, urological, gynecological, and periodontal), and for the reconstruction of complicated wounds that have failed all other applications. Unfortunately, there is no information at this time about specific recipients of these skin grafts.

If there is anything else we can do for you, any questions you might need answered, please don't hesitate to call. On behalf of the lives that may be improved because of your son's donation, I thank you for your most generous gift.

Best wishes,

Robin Stephens
Family Services Coordinator