

LifeLink of Florida Newsletter Sample:

As the eldest of five children, Jacquez was a role model for his younger siblings. Marcia, Jacquez's mom, described him as the peacemaker of the family who always had a smile on his face. Jacquez began playing football in eighth grade and continued to do so as a student in high school. In the middle of a football game, tragedy struck and Jacquez collapsed on the field. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors discovered that Jacquez suffered bleeding in his brain due to an undiagnosed condition called arteriovenous malformation, or AVM; a condition so rare that only 1% of the population is affected. Doctors told Marcia there was no way to prevent or predict such an event, and it could have affected Jacquez at any time. Jacquez had registered as an organ donor when he obtained his driver license, telling his mom, "I would love to be a donor one day if I can."

His family honored his decision and Jacquez saved seven lives through organ transplantation. His story touched many people, not only in his hometown, but all around the country. Marcia still mourns the loss of her eldest son but focuses now on the Jacquez Welch Foundation created to bring heightened awareness to AVM and to provide scholarship funds for higher education. Marcia wants others to know that organ and tissue donation is a great thing. "We all have family members who may have health problems. Why not help someone if you can?"

This April, during the federally sanctioned National Donate Life Month, LifeLink® of Florida and (insert hospital name) honor the spirit of those individuals who make transplants possible—organ, eye, and tissue donors. We celebrate the lives of those who received their second chance - and finally, we call attention to the more than 106,000 individuals, over 4,800 of whom are local men, women and children, still waiting for their gifts of life across the United States.

"We remain grateful for the generosity of donor families; our dedicated and committed staff; and partnerships with hospital staff, surgeons, medical examiners and transportation providers for their respective contributions to our mission of saving more lives through organ and tissue donation," shared Liz Lehr, Senior Vice President and Executive Director of LifeLink of Florida.

Organ donation, with the primary exception of living kidney donation, takes place after death, and provides the gift of life to tens of thousands each year through heart, kidney, lung, liver, pancreas or intestine transplants. Without the generosity of organ donors those waiting will die. Register your decision to donate by visiting www.DonateLifeFlorida.org, or when you obtain or renew your driver license or state identification card.

LifeLink of Florida is a non-profit community service organization dedicated to the recovery of organs and tissues for transplantation. Visit www.LifeLinkFoundation.org to learn more.



Caption:

The Welch Family is featured in the 2022 LifeLink Faces of Transplantation Calendar. Two years after Jacquez’s untimely death, his loving family continues to honor his memory and inspire others by sharing the story of his selfless act of love.