

How do we ensure our name is never forgotten? Is it through the things we create? The awards we achieve? Or the lives that we touch? The crushing fear of your life being dwindled down to nothing, all because you didn't have enough impact is terrifying. But the ways you can impact others is so vague, and ensuring that others feel the impact of us even when we are not here is hard. Having an impact on the world is even harder when you only live for 3 months and 19 days. My older sister, Kylie Xiu Clifford, passed away from SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) before she could reach the milestone of making eye contact. So why, after almost 21 years, is the community around my family still grieving her loss? She didn't create anything. She was too young to win any awards. How is it that her name is not forgotten? The answer is simple. Kylie Xiu's corneas and heart valves were donated.

A small act, yet a life ensuring act. A selfless act in the darkest moment of life, all so another doesn't have to experience the soul retching feeling of losing a loved one. Her legacy will be carried on in the lives of those who benefitted from her selflessness. As of 10:25 am, April 12, 2024; there are over 103,000 people in need of a life saving organ donation (UNOS). According to HRSA, 17 people die each day waiting for an organ transplant. These people can be saved through the life ensuring act of organ donation. For every person that receives the life long gift of an organ, there is a person that donated that organ. And they will never be forgotten.

It is our job as members of society to ensure the legacy of the people around us. With that comes the duty to share information about organ donation. The most vital piece of information when educating others about organ donation: we all have an opportunity to continue on through the experiences we create. We have a job to support our loved ones. Let their life continue on through a person that is in need. Let their legacy shine on. Just how Kylie Xiu's life is celebrated everyday. She is a part of our daily lives, talked about in our everyday conversations. As a forever grieving sister I haven't just learned to remember, cherish, and miss her, she is simply a part of me and so loved. She has saved lives and continues to do so to this day.

Works Cited

UNOS. "FAQs: Facts About Organ Donation & Transplantation." *UNOS*, 2 Feb. 2024, unos.org/transplant/frequently-asked-questions/#Waiting.

"Organ Donation Statistics." *Organ Donation Statistics*, HRSA, Mar. 2024, www.organdonor.gov/learn/organ-donation-statistics.