

Brenda Mahan

(mother of organ donor Justin)

Her Story: "This really is 'J's' story," says Brenda Mahan, mother of Justin. Justin, or "J," died in January 2007 shortly after his 27th birthday. And although his life was short, the mark that he left on those around him, especially his three children, parents, brother and sister was simply larger than life.

"You never met a more kind-hearted and giving man than my son," says Brenda. "He literally gave the shirt off his back to others less fortunate." Justin's passion was the Denver Broncos. In fact, Justin loved his team so much, he had the Broncos tattoo on his arm to prove it. "He was just crazy about that team," said Justin's father Roger "He even bought a car and rebuilt it 'Bronco style', painting it bright orange and royal blue."

The family made the decision for "J" to become an organ donor based on his love for life and his giving spirit. "We learned recently that two of Justin's organ recipients live in Colorado," says Brenda. "'J' would be thrilled to know he is now living on in Bronco-country. How amazing is that?"

The family recently heard from two of the recipients which has been an honor for them. While the loss of "J" is still painful for the family, they are finding peace in hearing that good has come from something so tragic.