

Dear Mary and Kyle,

Please accept my enormous gratitude for your generous gift of life by donating Kelly's heart to me.

From your letter I now know how special Kelly was: fun-loving, adventurous, athletic, an excellent student, with a loving family and many friends and interests.

I can't express enough my deepest sympathies for the sudden loss of Kelly. Knowing that my heart transplant occurred due to Kelly's death weighs on me immensely.

Your generous decision to donate Kelly's heart has given me a new life. Over ten years ago at the age of 43, my cardiologist told me that I would need a heart transplant in the future. Since then my doctors, my wife and I did everything possible to delay my heart from deteriorating further. However, this spring my cardiologist told me that my life expectancy was less than six months and he recommended that I be evaluated for a heart transplant. After extensive testing I was accepted to the heart transplant list.

My transplant was extremely successful with no complications and a very quick hospital discharge for a heart transplant patient. I truly believe the reasons for my successful transplant and quick discharge were the excellent medical care combined with Kelly's strong heart, spirit and will!

Two months after my discharge, I returned to my work full time in the information technology field. I have also been gradually resuming the activities my wife and I enjoy: swimming, hiking, sailing and biking, and am looking forward to skiing this winter for the first time in years. Again I believe Kelly had a lot to do with this.

I am now 54 and my wife, Elizabeth, and I have been married for 28 years. Elizabeth's daughter is a graphic designer and last year she moved back to the area after living in Washington, D.C. for ten years.

For the past 25 years I have been a Big Brother in the Big Brother Association. Over these years I have been fortunate to have three Little Brothers: Alex, JB (who is now 32), and currently Danny, who is 15. These relationships have greatly enriched my life.

Your enormous act of kindness will give my wife and I many more years together, allow me to see JB's baby who is due this spring, and enable me to continue as a Big Brother to Danny.

Because of this tragic accident our lives are intertwined forever and I hope you find comfort in knowing how many people you have given a second chance at life.

I think of Kelly often. Now though every time I use ketchup, ranch dressing, or eat a caesar salad, spaghetti, bruschetta or enjoy a smoothie or ice cream or ski, hike, bike or see Irish step dancing or hear Irish music, Kelly will be foremost in my thoughts. Always.

If possible we would like to meet you and thank you both personally. We also hope to learn more about your very special and very wonderful Kelly.

Thank you again for your tremendous gift. Blessings to you.

With deepest gratitude,

Michael

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