



Student card



Organ donor gives life to many others

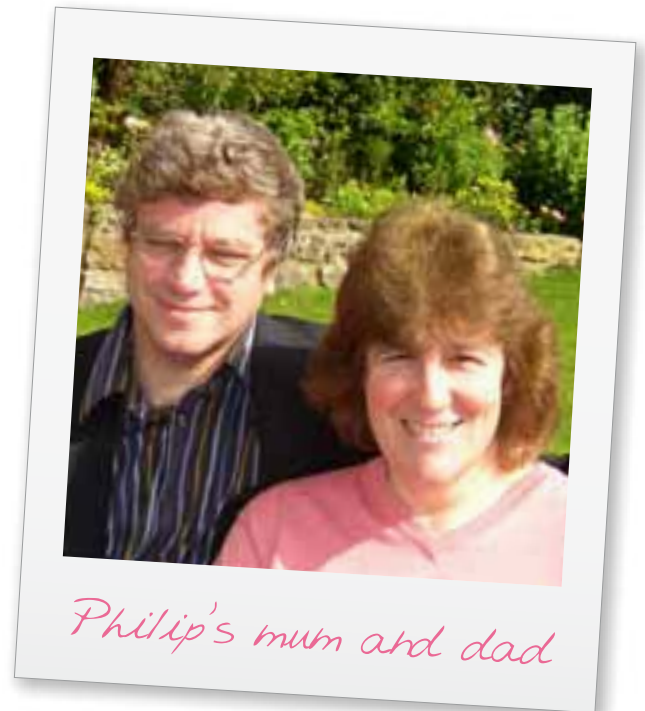
Philip Traher had always been interested in medical television programmes, and he knew that his parents believed in organ donation.

Philip died in a road traffic accident when he was only 13. His parents, David and Anthea, were devastated, but they knew that their son would have wanted to donate his organs to give someone else the chance of a better quality of life.

Philip never kept anything he didn't need anymore, he always gave things away when he'd finished with them.

That was another reason why we knew Philip would want to donate his organs.

Philip's organs benefited six people and his corneas were also used to restore someone's sight. His heart was donated to a 57-year-old man and, 10 years on, Philip's parents still meet up regularly with the recipient.



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NHS
Blood and Transplant



Fact file

- 1 Transplants are one of the greatest achievements of modern medicine, but they depend entirely on the generosity of donors and their families.
- 2 Today more than 10,000 people in the UK need an organ transplant that could save or dramatically improve their lives, but only around 3,000 transplants are carried out each year.
- 3 A major reason for the shortage of donors is that not enough people have discussed their wishes with their family.

Live debates

Choose one or more of the following statements to debate as a group. Write the arguments for and against the statements and decide which side you are on. Do all the members of your group agree?

- "Everyone should be made to join the NHS Organ Donor Register."
- "It's my body and I can do what I like with it."
- "If a family has been kind enough to agree to a loved one's organs being donated after their death, they should be given some financial reward."*

Getting into their shoes

- There is no minimum age when you can join the NHS Organ Donor Register, but anyone wanting to join the Register should discuss it with their family first – especially if they are legally a child. With a partner, role-play a conversation between a teenager and his or her parents about joining the Register.
- Imagine you are the transplant co-ordinator at the hospital where Philip died. How would you discuss with his parents the idea of using his organs for transplant at this difficult time?
- Be a fly-on-the-wall as Philip's parents, David and Anthea, meet up with the man who received their son's heart 10 years ago. How might the conversation go?

*In the UK, it is illegal to buy or sell organs.

You'll find information to help you form your arguments on the website at www.giveandletlive.co.uk