



## News All Day

### Organ Donation Keeps Memory Alive

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When you get your driver's license, you're asked to check a box that asks if you want to be an organ donor.

Some people hesitate to make that mark, but a girl from Corry's decision is impacting lives long after hers was cut short.

Four years after her daughter's unexpected death, Kelli Meerhoff still finds it hard to reconcile with.

"Peace is hard thing to find," she said. "It is comforting to know that there's a little piece of Carly out there somewhere helping other people."

Carly Combs was twenty one years old when she passed away in her sleep. A stroke of ink on paper has allowed her to live on and continue to touch lives, like she did when she was here.

"She touched so many lives we didn't even realize until after she had passed," said Meerhoff, "and we just want to continue touching others in her memory."

Many people have reservations about becoming an organ donor.

"We have a lot of myths and misconceptions," said Colleen Sullivan of the center for Organ Recovery and Education (C.O.R.E.). "They're concerned that the doctors won't work to save their lives, or that the EMT staff are going to be looking for their drivers license to see if they're a donor."

She said those fears are unfounded. "Donations not even considered until every life saving measure has been made."

For Carly, it was never a question.

"I was talking to her about her decision to become a donor and she just looked at me she said 'well why wouldn't you be?'" said Meerhoff. "I had never been able to myself, I was ashamed because I had never been able to check the donor box."

"She just looked at me and said 'Ma, you don't need that stuff after you're gone.'"

Kelli has since checked the donor box, and she encourages others to do the same by acting as a spokesperson for C.O.R.E.

She speaks about how fitting it is that Carly became a cornea donor, since her eyes were such a defining part of her personality.

"She always played up those eyes," Meerhoff said. "The way she would roll her eyes... just all her expressions that she would make, knowing that, I mean, that's really huge."

April is donate life month, and C.O.R.E. is reaching out in a special way to encourage people to think like Carly.

"In Pennsylvania we only have 45%, so were not even at 50% that have actually made that decision," said Sullivan, "so were encouraging them to make the pledge for life."

If Carly's story has inspired you and you'd like to become an organ donor, click [here](#).

<http://www.erietvnews.com/story/21974360/corry-girls-decision-keeps-memory-alive>