**Gail Gallagher**

**Donor Mother**

**Monument, CO**

When Kate Gallagher was placed on the waiting list for a liver transplant in 2009, her mother Gail did not expect her to become an organ donor instead of a recipient – but that is exactly what happened.

The 2005 Air Academy High School graduate was diagnosed with Budd-Chiari Syndrome, a clotting disease of the liver, during her senior year and was placed on the transplant list four years later.

Known for her joyous spirit, compassionate heart, and special way with young children, Kate went on to study early childhood development at Pikes Peak Community College, work with elementary students, and become engaged to be married.

Tragically, Kate suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on March 12, 2012 and passed away before she could receive a new liver. She was 26-years-old. As an organ donor, she saved three lives that day: one of her kidneys went to a grandfather, the other went to a grandmother, and her heart went to a 12-year-old girl who had suffered a heart attack on the basketball court.

In addition to honoring their daughter's life through the Kate Gallagher Memorial Fund scholarships for Colorado Springs School District 20 resource students, Mark and Gail Gallagher have advocated tirelessly for organ donation. They work to educate Colorado Springs residents on the power of being an organ donor because they know that through her choice to donate, Kate's compassionate heart continues to beat today.