

**David: Hope, Family, and Inner-strength**

In January 2007, David Jenkins life changed instantly because of an on-the-job accident. Working as an operator assistant in the oil and gas industry, his machinery was pumping under high pressure when a 4-foot piece of iron broke free and hit David’s legs below the knees. The accident, sudden and severe, caused his right leg to be almost completely severed. Although his left leg suffered major damage, he was still able to feel his toes, offering a glimmer of hope in a dire situation.   
  
David was transported via helicopter to a local hospital where they had to amputate his right leg while he fluttered in and out of consciousness. His best chance for his left leg to recover was at Presbyterian St. Luke’s in Denver, where they specialize in limb-salvaging treatments. The surgery team used allograft bone, donated from a deceased donor, and successfully saved David’s leg, putting him on course toward the long journey to recovery.  
  
But the road was daunting. He faced the challenge of learning how to walk all over again, with a prosthetic on his right leg, and limited motion in his left.

“If it wasn’t for my family’s continuous support and having my wife and son by my side, I don’t know if my recovery would have happened so fast,” he said. David was able to return to work a year after the accident happened, thanks to the gracious act of his donor.

“I feel grateful that someone made the decision to be a donor because it gave my doctors the opportunity to save my leg. Without my left leg, I feel strongly that my quality of life would not be as great as it is now.”

Since the accident, David has been able to resume a normal life and enjoys fishing, hiking, golfing (with an improved swing) and coaching his son’s baseball team. David’s family has grown with the addition of another baby, and he proudly reports that keeping up with two children is never an issue.

\* Story provided courtesy of AlloSource