

ALFONSO GARCIA
Liver Recipient

"I was on the edge of dying, and through a miracle I am alive today."

As the youngest of three brothers, Alfonso Garcia always thought he'd follow in their footsteps by boxing at the amateur level and perhaps entering a career in the military.

But following a workout in the ring in January 2010, Alfonso grew sick. The whites his eyes and his skin changed to mustard yellow color. He was tired and couldn't get up out of bed. Why, his parents asked, had their normally healthy son suddenly grown so sick?

Doctors didn't know. And once they found the answer, it wasn't one any parent would want to hear. A previously undiscovered genetic disorder caused Alfonso's liver to suddenly shut down. Without a liver transplant, the Northern California high school student would likely die in days. From his hospital bed, Alfonso told his shaken father, Oscar, that he wanted priest to administer the last sacraments. Would anyone step forward to save the life of this teenager? Alfonso's miracle came about 24 hours later.

George Becker signed up as an organ and tissue donor when he got his driver license at 16, never anticipating his life would end at 22 as the result of a sinus infection. His liver would save Alfonso's life – and other organs rescued two others.

Today as a college freshman, Alfonzo is living the life he once might never have had. "I was on the edge of dying, and through a miracle I am alive today. It's because of a donor and his gift. I think about George every day."

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