



## MELANIE MIERS

Four Organ Donor

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Melanie Miers attended San Bernardino High School and was very active in sports. She was on the water polo, swim and cross country teams. Melanie was also involved with her church, Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, and was to be the narrator of a play that the youth were putting on for their parents. Unfortunately, on the the day of the play she was in the hospital.

Melanie was very loving and compassionate and often times put others before herself. It was Melanie's choice to donate. In November 2005, Melanie turned sixteen and was excited about getting her driver's license. Melanie and her sister, Michelle, informed their mother that they would like to put the pink donor dot on their driver license when they received it.

Melanie had the opportunity of donating her heart, liver, kidneys and pancreas. She gave the gift of life to four recipients, one of whom was her age at the time of her donation. "The grief my family went through was just about unbearable," said Melanie's mother Linda. "However, through all our pain and sorrow we felt some comfort knowing that Melanie's wish to be an organ donor was granted."

Melanie's family has received a letter with pictures from Angel, her liver recipient. "To see the picture of Angel before the transplant and then the picture after the transplant where he looks great and is doing well brought tears to my eyes."

"If Melanie didn't say anything to me about wanting to put the pink dot on her driver license, I probably would have said no because of my ignorance toward organ and tissue donation," said Linda. "That is why I tell people now to educate themselves now," says Linda.

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