

## LEVI

RECIPIENT OF: SKIN ALLOGRAFT



## TISSUE DONATION HELPS YOUNG BURN VICTIM HEAL FROM BIKE ACCIDENT

On a warm summer afternoon, Levi, an energetic nine-year-old, ran outside to ride his new dirt bike. Unfortunately, his delight was short-lived: as he went over a jump, Levi fell off the bike and it landed on his leg.

The exhaust pipe on the bike seared into his leg and caused second- and third-degree burns.

*"I knew something was wrong when he didn't start screaming,"* Levi's mother, Melissa, said. *"I don't think he felt the full extent of how bad his burns were."*

Levi's parents were familiar with burns, as his grandfather survived being burned over 40% of his body in a work accident. After seeing the extent of his injury, Levi's parents rushed him to the hospital. They were sent to the burn center, where doctors anesthetized him and scrubbed the burns on his leg. Doctors then used donor skin to cover the burned area.



*Levi post-procedure*

Due to the lengthy healing time Levi needed, he missed school from the end of January through the end of April. Doctors instructed the busy young boy to refrain from bending his leg as much as possible.

After watching her stepfather heal from severe burn injuries, Melissa was familiar with the process. She took meticulous care of Levi's wound and dressings throughout his recovery.

*"The donor skin provided amazing protection,"* said Melissa. *"It protected him for so long, and with a wound as big as his, infection was a huge risk."*

Once the donor skin was removed, Melissa was astonished at the results.

*"His leg healed so amazingly,"* she said. *"In the beginning, I wouldn't have thought it could have healed that well."*

Watching Levi's experience with donated tissue inspired his older brother to become an organ and tissue donor when he got his driver's license.

Levi and his family are grateful for the generous donation that aided his healing.

*"I'm so thankful that somebody would offer that donation,"* said Melissa. *"It is a selfless act and an amazing gift. Even after somebody is gone, they are still giving and helping somebody. It's a blessing."*



*Levi now*