

## ALLOSOURCE & DONOR ALLIANCE INTRODUCE TISSUE RECIPIENT TO HIS DONOR'S MOTHER

AlloSource and Donor Alliance, the federally-designated nonprofit organ procurement organization serving Colorado and most of Wyoming, worked together to introduce Phil, a cartilage recipient, to his donor's mother, Annette.



As former Division I soccer player and athlete, being active was crucial to Phil's lifestyle. In 2011, he started having knee pain and then suddenly lost the use of his leg. After receiving a diagnosis of Osteochondritis Dissecans, Phil underwent surgery in 2012, which unfortunately failed. Determined to regain his mobility for his wife, new son, and himself, Phil sought another surgeon in 2014 and was amazed to learn about the possibilities of tissue donation.

After undergoing an osteochondral allograft transplant for a femoral condyle defect, Phil wrote several letters to his donor's family to express his overwhelming gratitude, not knowing anything about his generous donor and donor family.

What Phil didn't know yet is that his donor was Marcos, Annette's son. Marcos was the life of the party, a joy to his family and

friends, and a beloved person in his local community. He loved dancing, food and was proud of his Puerto Rican heritage. When he passed away suddenly, Annette knew Marcos would want to continue to help others through the gift of donation.

When Phil visited AlloSource and Donor Alliance this summer, the organizations collaborated to facilitate an in-person meeting between Annette, Phil and Phil's wife Lisamarie. A meeting between a tissue recipient and donor family is rare and this was the first of its kind for both Donor Alliance and AlloSource.

After Annette arrived, she and Phil embraced for several moments before sitting down to learn more about each other. Phil and Lisamarie finally had the opportunity to say "thank you" in person and hear about Marcos, the man who helped Phil return to his life as an active husband, father of two boys, and avid cross-fit athlete.



During the span of nearly two hours, Annette, Phil and Lisamarie shared stories, marveled at similarities between their families, and learned more about how Marcos continues to make a positive impact in all their lives every day.