

When Theresa McClellan suddenly lost her husband Rick during a volleyball game in 2014, her whole world changed. "He's just a great guy gone way too soon," said Theresa. Because living an active lifestyle was so important to Rick, he and his wife had talked about organ donation and end-of-life care. "While in shock and coming to grips that terrible night, there wasn't a doubt that we were going to do organ donation," said Theresa.

It was impactful for her that Rick was able to help people until the very end with his gift of sight to others whose vision was threatened. Theresa says hospital staff, the funeral home director and Saving Sight all explained the process and made the difficult situation as positive as it could be.

Since Rick's passing, Theresa has become an avid supporter of the healing power of donation as a volunteer and ambassador for Saving Sight. She's spread the word about the importance of eye, organ and tissue donation for those who receive the gift and also the positive impact of donation for donor families in Saving Sight publications. She has also spoken to professionals who have the ability to help facilitate donation at state conventions such as the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association (MCMEA).

"It just helps me as I transition to life without him—it helps me know that I honored a wish of his," said Theresa. Saving Sight is thankful to Theresa for sharing their story and for her advocacy on the importance of donation in the community.

Theresa has become
an avid supporter of
the healing power of
donation as a volunteer
and ambassador.

VOLUNTEERS

2016

WIFE OF A DONOR SHARES HER STORY

by Christopher Polley, Saving Sight



Chief Communications Officer, Annie Kuhl (left), Ambassador, Theresa McLellan (center) and Chief Operating Officer, Tina Livesay at a Saving Sight Board of Directors meeting where Theresa shared her husband Rick's eye donation story