

Krista Lynn Baker

October 24, 1979 - August 19, 2000

Krista, a Spokane native, lost her battle with (CF) Cystic Fibrosis on August 19, 2000 at the age of 20. Krista was a Spokane Youth Sports player and assistant coach for several years. Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis as an infant, Krista's passion for playing softball started in second grade. Krista developed into a multi-position player gaining experience at shortstop, first base, catcher and pitcher.

The Wishing Star Foundation, a local wish-granting organization, gave Krista her "Wish" in 1985. At age 5, Krista met the cast of NBC's "Punky Brewster" in Hollywood, CA.

Krista attended Jefferson and Hamblen elementary schools, Sacajawea Middle and Ferris High School. She was attending EWU prior to her passing. Krista loved the game of softball. She encouraged her team-mates and players "to do your best and give it all you have!" In 1995, Krista played her last year of organized softball. As a sophomore, she received the Coaches Award from her Ferris junior varsity coach.

In 1997, as a senior in high school, Krista was nominated for a Chase Youth Award for courage in overcoming personal obstacles. Also in 1997, while no longer able to "run the bases as a player," Krista served as assistant SYSA coach with her father, John Baker. Their team was awarded the SYSA Sportsmanship Team Award for Division 4. John Baker has served as a volunteer coach for girls softball for Spokane Youth Sports for eight seasons.

In August 2000, though denied her hope for a double lung transplant, Krista chose to become a cornea donor. She informed her family in advance about her preference to become a cornea donor. Her gift improved sight for two young men in their twenties in Washington State within five days of her cornea donation.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is a genetic disease affecting more than 30,000 children and adults in the United States. One in 28 American Caucasians is a carrier of the defective gene. The illness affects the lungs and digestive system. An individual must inherit a defective copy of the gene, one from each parent, to have Cystic Fibrosis.

Over 110,000 people in the United States are waiting for life-saving organ transplants. More than 1,500 live in our region. Half of the people listed for a solid organ transplant will die waiting because of the shortage of donated organs. 18 people die each day waiting for a life-saving organ. Families who talk about their decision are better prepared to address the issue of organ donation when faced with a tragedy. One organ and tissue donor can save or enhance the lives of more than 50 people.

Go to www.donatelifetoday.org or call 1-877-275-5269 NOW to enroll as a donor.

Thank you for participating in the Krista L. Baker Memorial Softball Tournament and Home Run Derby!

