

PLEASE CONSIDER:

1. From the COPES

We were shocked by the call from our sister-in-law two weeks ago Saturday that our 36 year old nephew, cousin, and only child, Ryan Cope, was in the hospital with brain trauma and not expected to recover. He had fallen out of bed, hit his head, and suffered a major brain bleed. How simple an accident. How senseless a death.

We were on a flight to San Diego the next day to help with the decisions. Monday was spent meeting with the medical team and learning of Ryan's status. There was no hope for him, but with courage, there was hope for others. A baby was recently admitted with burns to 90% of her body. A young father needed a kidney. Someone else's eyesight was failing. Surely something good could come from our great sorrow. The very difficult decision to stop life support was made late Monday along with the decision to give hope to others through organ donation or "life sharing" as the hospital called it.

All day Tuesday we waited for the recipients to arrive. We would never meet them, but would eventually know a little about each one. Time was also a factor. Much to our surprise, Ryan was not brain dead, although his brain function was almost totally absent. So we had several decisions to make. Once the Life Sharing Team took over, they placed a beautiful blanket over Ryan filled with butterflies taking flight. The blanket, they explained, would be a gift to his mother. Another blanket was prepared for his fiancé. A simple picture of a butterfly hung over his bed to subtly tell the staff the plan. In addition to his blanket, The Life Sharing Team presented Ryan's mother with a bronze medal for her son's heroism in a ceremony that was so much more than just sentimental. They had us write comments on cards about Ryan and the things he liked, where he traveled, and who his friends were. These cards would later be read out loud by the surgical team before the life sharing process began. In that way, each team of surgeons would know who Ryan really was as a son, a friend, and a man. In this way, they would respect the life he had led and would be more than just a donor.

Tuesday at 11 pm as our family was in the hospital meditation room waiting for the news of Ryan's passing, we thought of the four families in other waiting rooms hoping the organs would make it to their family member. We heard the next day that his kidneys went to a 45 year old man and 39 year old woman. Unfortunately, his lungs and liver could not be shared, but they estimated that another 80 people were helped with tissue and bone donations. We still hold the vision of the other families waiting for a future and am thankful our loss could help others have more birthdays and thousands of kisses from their loved ones.

Please use our story and discuss what we don't want to discuss. Have these difficult conversations and think of the other families you can help.

Thank you to the unbelievable people at [#lifesharing.org/](https://www.lifesharing.org/) that helped our family through this time.

Paula, Tim, Collin, Evan, Nicky, and Lindsey Cope

2. **LAST WEEK OF CLOTHING DRIVE:** for students of the Winooski school system who need winter-clothing drive, Karen Cote agreed to help organize this, and so we are asking those in the Temple Sinai community to considering donating by the deadline of **Nov 3** –

- Good warm coats for K-12, in good shape
- New Packages of new cotton underwear and athletic-style socks for boys and girls, sizes 3T-5T (toddler) as well as Youth Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large.

Please do your best to give! This is Tikkun Olam, making the world more fair and just, so let's put our donations where our Reform Jewish values are!