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A Mother’s Difficult Decision to Donate Her Son’s Organs Spared Two Lives

- Metro’s Barbara Facio-Gomez meets the men who carry her son Andrew’s heart and kidney

(June 9, 2006) On March 31, 1999, La Puente High School sophomore Andrew Ortiz was on his way home from school when he was attacked by two men who punched him and kicked him in the head.

When his mother, Barbara Facio-Gomez, learned he had been injured, she rushed Andrew to a hospital. He died of his injuries early the next morning.

Although reluctant at first, Facio-Gomez – now a Metro Bus operator at San Gabriel Valley Division 9 – donated Andrew’s organs for use by patients needing transplants.

In an April 27, 2006, article Orange County Register reporter Eric Carpenter recounted Facio-Gomez’s difficult decision in 1999 and her recent emotional meetings with two men whose lives were spared by the donation of Andrew’s organs.

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- [Death Do Us Unite](#) - Walking beside a mother at a Fullerton fundraiser will be two men her son's organs helped save. By Eric Carpenter, The Orange County Register. (pdf)