Gretha Hexum
P. O. Box 8139
Van Nuys, Ca. 91409
October, 1985

To You who shared with me the loss of Jon-Erik,

There is a quiet place along the shore with distant mountains, brisk breezes and here for a time shattered pieces slowly come together. I've gone to this quiet place before sunrise every day since my son's death. Jon-Erik's ashes were flown over Malibu along this shore he loved.

Always with me close at hand are the letters written by people who felt moved to reach out and comfort me. People who were in some way touched by Jon-Erik's life, able to separate him from the tinsel and feel the human behind the image. Caring is such a precious but seldom voiced emotion. The outpouring of concern touched me deeply. It has taken time but in the preceeding months in my quiet place by the ocean I have read each letter. The sheer volume of these expressions of sympathy make it impossible for me to answer each letter personally.

I thank you and will always remember with warmth and love all of you whom I will never meet but have met in some yet uncharted dimension.

Love,

Gretha Hexum

Northern California Transplant Bank
AT PACIFIC MEDICAL CENTER

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Medical Director

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Richard Ward, M.D.
Liver Unit
Sacramento

October 24, 1984

Mrs. Gretha Hexum
P. O. Box 8139
Van Nuys, Ca. 91409

Dear Mrs. Hexum:

On behalf of the entire transplant community, I wish to extend our condolences to you upon the tragic loss of your son, Jon-Erik. We are also extremely grateful to you and your son, Gunnar, for considering others during this very sad time.

Your incredible gift has touched the lives of many, many individuals. As a result of your kindness and generosity, a 37 year old man successfully received a heart transplant. One of the kidney recipients was a five year old boy who was also critically ill: physicians estimated that he would only have a few more months of life remaining if he continued to require the support of the artificial kidney machine. The other recipient was a 43 year old woman, mother to three and grandmother to three; this lady had waited for eight years for a kidney that was as closely matched as your son's kidney was.

Both corneas were also successfully transplanted; one cornea was used for a patient with an injury that required immediate transplantation. Had a cornea not been available, this patient would have lost entire sight in that eye. The other recipient had waited four months for the opportunity to regain his vision. Finally, skin that was donated was used today to treat a 3½ year old boy with third degree burns.

Through this gesture you and your family have made, several lives were saved while other patients were restored to a normal life. Although nothing can mitigate the tragedy of your son's death, your gift of life and sight will encourage many families to also think of donation. We only hope that this legacy of humanitarianism will comfort you during this difficult time. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance.

Most Sincerely,

P. Weber

Phyllis Weber
Program Director