

# The Gift of Life is...Priceless

Karen and Bob Brown were active parents and never missed an opportunity to cheer on their athletic son Howard. Always pushing himself and excelling in many sports including basketball, football, and track and field, his speed on the football field earned him the nickname "Downtown Howard Brown." He also metaled in the long jump and hurdles, and broke the high jump record as a member of the South Jersey delegation of the JCC Maccabi Games, a teen athletic competition often called the "Jewish Olympics." His abilities and drive were a great source of pride for his mother and father.



try to repair Howard's valve, but there was a strong possibility it would need to be replaced. With limited insurance and personal resources, Howard was concerned of the considerable cost of the procedure and the mountain of debt he would be saddled with.

To the relief of all, the valve repair was a success, providing Howard with many years of good health since then. As to those nagging worries about the bills? Howard soon discovered that Deborah Heart and Lung Center has a 100-year tradition of not balance billing its patients. Therefore,

Howard never received a bill from Deborah. Better news yet, just three short years after his surgery, Howard became a father to a 7lb., 8oz. son, Jace.

Not only grateful to still have their son -- but now a grandson -- Bob and Karen decided to include Deborah Hospital Foundation in their estate plans, with a gift designated in their wills. Knowing their future gift will help another Deborah patient in need, just like a past donor's gift helped Howard, provides them pure joy.

Bob adds, "Shooting hoops with my son and grandson isn't too bad either!"

But then, eight years ago, Karen and Bob faced the grim reality that their 29 year old son might not live long enough to become a father himself. The news came following a routine annual exam where an echocardiogram detected significant heart valve disease. At the time, Howard was between jobs with limited medical insurance. Although there were multiple cardiologists nearby his home in Voorhees, NJ, no appointments were available for weeks or months. Fortunately, Bob remembered advertisements for Deborah Heart and Lung Center, and within days, Howard was scheduled for exams and tests at Deborah, revealing the urgent need for mitral valve surgery.

Lynn McGrath, MD, cardiac surgeon, informed the family that he would

