

#### TO LIFE!

In 1972 Ricky was diagnosed with a rare disease. His doctors told him they could control the symptoms, but there was no cure. They cautioned that the long-term use of the prescribed drugs would cause future harm to the body. Ricky was given the choice between drugs that would harm but promised longer life or to let the disease run its course resulting in less time to suffer. Ricky chose life. Doctors warned Ricky that his body would rebel and he would die young and he would be in constant suffering. Ricky's life was filled with unrelenting pain, frequent humiliation, constant suffering, multiple surgeries, despair, and debilitating depression. Life was inconvenient at best and unbearable at worst.

Ricky's life, however, was also filled with family, friends, smiles, a rewarding career, hobbies, and laughter. He has visited all 50 states, the Holy Land, the Caribbean, and Europe. Six years ago, Ricky celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and is still as active as his body permits. In spite of the trials, inconvenience, humiliation, suffering, and hardship, Ricky rejoices in his choice for life.

This is why Ricky supports the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty and how it advocates for life!

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