

Trisha's Story

Outwardly, Trisha Nagpal was a healthy, talented and giving girl with her whole life ahead of her.

A scholarship student in the biopharmaceutical science research program at the University of Ottawa, Trisha was also a volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society, the United Way and studied classical Indian dance.

In March 2005, she began to suffer a bloated stomach and her ankles began to swell.

Less than two weeks after her symptoms first appeared, she was put on the top of the liver transplant waiting list and underwent emergency surgery. During the transplant operation she suffered a fatal cardiac arrest. She was only 18.



It wasn't until after the autopsy that the family found out that Trisha's death was directly related to Wilson disease, a rare liver condition leading to copper build-up that had quietly and insidiously caused the deterioration of her liver with no warnings or symptoms.

To honour Trisha and to help others avoid their tragedy, the Nagpal family – father Daljit, mother Kamal and Trisha's sisters Sonya and Simrin – decided to volunteer with the Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF) to help raise awareness, raise funds for research, and to encourage people to learn about the importance of liver health.

“When people hear of liver disease, they generally don't associate it with children or teens,” says Daljit. “We want to encourage parents to have their children screened for hereditary and other liver diseases, and to learn about symptoms that tragically escaped all of us when Trisha fell ill.”