

Jennifer Sime, is a mother, wife, and registered nurse from Decorah, IA. She grew up in Decorah and attended Luther College, graduating in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She has been a nurse in various roles for the last 26 years, from medical surgical care, childbirth education, and for the last 18 years, as a nurse case manager. Two years ago Jennifer transitioned from a business nurse consulting case manager to a clinic nurse with Gundersen Health System in La Crosse WI where she works as a registered nurse and work injury care manger in their Employee Health Department.



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Over the last 3 years Jennifer has been involved with the Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa (EFIA) as an advocate and fundraiser. Jennifer volunteered at the SUDEP Remembrance table for all three of Iowa's Walks to End Epilepsy in 2019. In 2020 Jennifer and her family, as part of "The B Team", were top fundraisers for the Iowa City Walk to End Epilepsy. In 2020 Jennifer became Iowa's first SUDEP Ambassador through the Epilepsy Foundation/SUDEP Institute, helping connect and support bereaved parents across the state of Iowa. On SUDEP Awareness Day, 2020, Jennifer, along with the EFIA, brought loved ones together for a zoom question and answer with two of the top SUDEP researchers, Drs. Richerson and Buchanan, from the University of Iowa department of Neurology.

Jennifer's passion and service for the epilepsy community comes from the love and life of her amazing son, and with the support of her wonderful family. On November 28, 2017, at the age of 19, Jennifer's son Brendan died of SUDEP. He was freshman at Iowa State, aspiring to be a mechanical engineer. His college friends said he was like the big brother who took care of everyone. He was an athlete and an honor student, always striving to be his best. Brendan had a quietness to himself that came with a very tender and loving heart. He lead by his actions more than his words, and that is what people remember him for, a quiet and humble leader. It is in the honor and loving memory of Brendan's life that Jennifer will continue to be a voice for all those affected by epilepsy.

In 2019 Jennifer first connected with the Danny Did Foundation, joining Team Danny Did in running the 2019 Chicago Marathon and then again in 2020 for the 1 in 26 Challenge with her daughter Ivy. It was during Jennifer's first phone conversation with Danny's uncle Tom, that Jennifer knew the Danny Did Foundation was something very special. From that fist call, and in every correspondence and communication since then, the Danny Did Foundation has been a beacon of hope and support. This past summer, Jennifer was invited to be a part of a panel discussion addressing COVID and grief. Facilitated through the Child Neurology Foundation and Danny Did Foundation, Jennifer joined Mary Duffy from DDF and Nancy Karst, bereavement coordinator with Akron Children's Hospital, for this very important discussion. Jennifer looks forward to continuing her work with the Danny Did Foundation to support their mission to help prevent deaths caused by seizures.