that's life! campaign

He loved

fishina

s I cooked dinner in the kitchen, I could hear my son, Jamie, 18, rushing down the stairs. 'I'm off fishing with

the lads, be back later!' he yelled. 'Have fun, love you,' I replied. 'Thanks, love you too,' he said as he headed out the front door. Jamie absolutely adored fishing, it was his favourite thing to do.

And when he wasn't doing that, or with friends, he was busy with college, where he was training to be a plumber.

He had big ambitions and wanted to set up a plumbing business with his friends Josh and Nathan. once they'd all completed their course.

Jamie was a good lad and I couldn't have asked for a better son

He was particularly close to his older brother Callum, 23, so I knew the house would be in good hands when my partner Jeremy and I left them alone over

10 that's life!

New Year.

Jeremy and I were off to Canada to celebrate our 10-year anniversary, which coincided with New Year's Eve. Later that evening. I finished

packing my suitcase and zipped it up.

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son Jamie

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save lives in

memory...

'I'm all ready to go,' I smiled to Jamie, who was sitting nearby. 'Are you both excited for your trip?' he asked.

'We sure are, but we'll both

miss you,' I said. 'Are you excited to watch the fireworks around Nathan's tomorrow night?' 'I can't wait, it's

always a laugh when we get together,' he said.

'Have fun and see you next year,' I laughed.

'Bye, Mum, enjoy your trip!' Jamie said as we hugged. Jamie and Callum gathered out the front to wave us off as we

left for the airport. After hours of travelling, we

finally landed in Canada and made our way to Niagara Falls. where we were staying.

The following night, on the evening of December 31st. Jeremy and I headed out for dinner to celebrate our anniversary.

But at around 10pm, my phone rana

'His mates said he feli answered. unwell

My stomach tightened with fear.

'Why?' I asked, worried. 'He's had a heart attack,' he replied.

I froze in shock and confusion. 'How? What happened?' I asked A million questions raced

around my mind, I couldn't think

straight, or get my words out. 'His mates said he felt unwell a couple of hours after midnight,' Gavin explained. 'They said he went outside for some fresh air but shortly after, he collapsed. When his friends went out to check on him, he'd gone into cardiac arrest.' I couldn't believe what I was

hearing. 'Can you come home?'

Gavin asked. 'Of course,' I said, before I

hung up. 'It's Jamie, he's in hospital,'

I said to Jeremy, relaying what Gavin had told me. His face paled, and we quickly

settled the bill. We hurriedly left the restaurant and made our way to the hotel. so we could pack and head to

the airport. Thankfully, British Airways were able to put us on a flight the next day. Hours later, we landed at

Heathrow and drove straight to hospital. Gavin was at Jamie's bedside.

lamie

and me

He told us that when Jamie collapsed, his friends had called an ambulance.

In the meantime, his friend Josh and Nathan's dad Tim, took it in turns performing CPR.

They'd asked the call handler if they could take Jamie to the hospital themselves, but they'd said no.

While they waited for the ambulance, the police arrived, but they didn't have a defibrillator in their car.

Jamie's friends knew there was one in the school just around the corner, but it was locked inside and they weren't able to access it.

After 18 agonising minutes

 that his pals said had felt like hours - the ambulance finally arrived. The paramedics managed to

Me with Jamie

and Callum

get Jamie's heart going in the back of the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

But in the time it had taken them to get there. Jamie's brain had been starved of oxygen and his condition deteriorated.

Two days after we arrived at the hospital, the consultant called me and Gavin into a room.

'Have you thought about donating Jamie's organs?' he asked. I felt a lump in

my throat. Jamie was caring, and as





It was Jamie and Callum's dad. Gavin. Puzzled, I

'Jamie's in hospital,' Gavin said. Me, Callum, Stanley Tucci and Jeremy

Jamie was so selfless and we knew it was what he would've wanted.

Five days later, Jamie passed away.

During his final days, the doctors looked after his body so that his organs were in the best condition before being donated.

Incredibly, he went on to save five lives the night we lost him - including a baby girl who received part of his liver. In time, we learnt Jamie's

cause of death was sudden arrhythmic death syndrome.

A couple of weeks later, I had an idea. 'Shall we set up a

JustGiving page?' I said to Callum. 'We

can raise some money in Jamie's memory and use it to get a defibrillator installed in an outdoor cabinet at the school.

'That's a great idea. Mum.' he said.

'Let's aim for £500,' I said. Donations soon poured in, and when I checked the JustGiving page later that day, I was stunned. We'd managed to raise £3000

in just a day. 'Callum, come look!' I called out to him from the kitchen. We couldn't believe it.

It felt like it was what Jamie would've wanted. He'd touched so many lives.

I was so numb and anorv that Jamie was unable to access a defibrillator, so if we could do anything, we wanted to prevent this from happening again.

Every time the donations climbed higher, we all felt an immense sense of pride.

In time, we held his funeral. Scores of family and friends turned up, armed with flowers, to help remember our wonderful lad.

Many wore black hoodies and tracksuits - Jamie's favourite thing to wear.

'Jav always made sure everyone else was OK, never really thinking about himself,' explained the funeral master of ceremony, Shirley.

Callum told everyone about their magical trip to New York together.

Meanwhile, we waited an agonising seven months for Jamie's inquest, but sadly, it left us with more questions than answers

We were told that no reason could be found for Jamie's

We can

raise some

money

cardiac arrest, and the pathologist had stated that Jamie's heart was the healthiest she had ever seen.

Our Jamie was one of a kind - and

lit up the life of everyone he came into contact with

Since his death, we have raised more than £140.000 in total and we've just installed our 105th defibrillator.

Installing accessible defibrillators and raising awareness of the importance of CPR is our new way of life and is what keeps us going.

It's Jamie's legacy and we will continue making communities more heart-safe in his memory. Naomi Rees-Issitt, 43, Rugby, Warwickshire

