

We had no idea what kind of impact a little piece of silver jewelry would have on our hearts...

We started doing Lily Olo silver clay jewelry in 2008 after learning about it at a convention. The introduction of silver clay jewelry was to our middle school aged girls during glaze dayz summer camp class. We started promoting fingerprints at a mommy camp where mothers signed up to create a Mother's Charm bracelet. I made one with my children and wore it with pride. It didn't take long for my friend Jill to notice. She mentioned wanting to do one with her children's prints. Not long after that comment, Jill was diagnosed with lymphoma. During her treatment, I took Jill's children to glaze where they each pressed a precious little finger into a clay mold hosting their initial. Jill was thrilled when she was given a silver charm bracelet with the fingerprints and initials of Julia, A.J., and Tommy. Unfortunately she was only able to wear it a few times.

Her battle with cancer went very quick. She knew her journey on earth was coming to an end when she asked if I would help her create some keepsakes for her husband and children. The night Phil and I walked into Froedert Hospital with a stack of ceramic plates and the Lilly Olo silver clay kit was both emotionally rewarding and extremely devastating. She asked us to paint her hand using her children's favorite colors. Her hand print then went on the back of each child's plate. Another one was done for her husband, and one was done for her parents. We discussed how she wanted to decorate the piece-making it unique and personalized. While the paint was drying and with great effort, Jill wrote a message to each of those loved ones later to be traced over with glaze. In her own handwriting, using her own words she left a piece of herself behind for her family to treasure forever.

In between the painting of her hand by Phil, I pressed her fingertip into molds of silver clay resulting in ten silver fingerprint charms for her friends, sisters, and daughter.

Jill passed away 10 days later, but she was able to leave behind a memory of herself for her loved ones to hold on to. My eyes fill with tears every time I think of her son placing his hand on top of the print of his Mothers. It is his way of remembering her touch. I have worn my charm around my neck every single day since she died drawn to placing my fingers on top of hers. It is one of my most cherished possessions.

Glaze exists to create a relaxed atmosphere in which family and friends can come together to create, connect and converse while making lasting memories. We recognize that we now also exist to offer a way to help preserve that memory of a loved one.