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 At 5 p.m. See the inspirational story of a local woman who is changing the lives of children around the world. At 9 p.m. Colorado families are trading homes and trading lives in ABC's Wife Swap.

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**Girl Injured In 2001 Hit-And-Run Dies**  
*Driver Pleaded Guilty to DWI*

POSTED: 5:39 a.m. MST November 24, 2002

**LAKWOOD, Colo.** -- A 13-year-old girl seriously injured when she was struck by a drunken hit-and-run driver nearly two years ago has died following a seizure while she slept.

Ali Meyer had become a rallying point for people opposing a legislative plan that would have eliminated the requirement for front license plates in Colorado.

A front license plate left at the scene of the crash led police to the driver who hit Ali. She and a friend were walking near her Littleton home on Feb. 10, 2001, when a 2000 Ford Explorer driven by Dennis McNamara, 44, slammed into her, throwing her 93 feet.

McNamara pleaded guilty to hit-and-run with serious injuries and driving while impaired. He was sentenced to two years in jail with work release and has since been released,

something that still bothers Ali's parents, who came to look upon Children's Hospital as a second home during her efforts at rehabilitation.

After the accident, Ali couldn't talk or walk, but communicated by blinking in answer to yes or no questions.

Over the last few months, she had been making progress, speaking a little and moving her arms. She had resumed her schooling and even was smiling and laughing on occasion. With each day, her parents gradually shed their fear about her survival and began to think she would outlive them.

That made her death early Friday that much more troubling.

"She really was getting better," Ali's father said Saturday. "This was out of the blue. We weren't expecting it."

Ali died in her sleep after suffering a seizure, Dennis Meyer said. Meyer,

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who slept on a cot in Ali's room, found her when he awoke. He had made a practice of spending nights in her room so he could hear any noises she might make to indicate she needed help. He didn't hear a thing that night.

The family plans to donate much of Ali's equipment to Children's Hospital or the Fletcher Miller school, a school for special-needs students that Ali recently started attending.

**Previous Stories:**

- February 21, 2001: [Front License Plate Sponsor Reveals New Information](#)
- February 14, 2001: [Couple Opposes License Plate Bill Following Accident](#)
- February 13, 2001: [License Plate Leads To Hit-And-Run Arrest](#)

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