

Elizabeth Barcome Memorial Endowment



My daughter, Liz Barcome, graduated from Westfield High School in 1984. She was killed by a drunk driver, at age 19, in 1985, which devastated our family, but we cherish the many fond memories we have of her as she was full of life and had so much compassion for people and animals.

When she was five years old, Liz persuaded our whole family to go on a trip to Disney World which turned out to be such fun and full of precious memories for all of us. At age 14, she decided she wanted to go around our block on Christmas Eve dressed as Santa and wave to the small children peering out their windows. The parents later told me their children were thrilled and went to bed immediately.

Liz had a great love for horses and worked hard with her paper route and babysitting in order to purchase her horse, Dandy Boy, whom she loved and cared for. Also in 1982 Liz volunteered to clean up and nurse back to health a very abused and neglected horse. Liz also had a dream of being a writer and would spend many hours as a young teenager writing stories. Liz did not have a chance to realize all her dreams, but the Elizabeth Barcome Scholarship Endowment is so meaningful to us as it helps fulfill the dreams of students receiving the scholarship and thus is a living tribute to a very special person.

Lori Greaney, sister of Liz wrote the following: "Liz's favorite t-shirt that she loved to wear had large letters on it saying 'RELAX.' In a letter Liz wrote to her friend the day before she died, she said she dreamed of being in the Olympics jumping horses. The posters Liz had in her room portray her vibrant spirit: "A Journey of a 1,000 miles begins with a single step," and "Have the courage to be a leader." Her very favorite poem by Amanda Bradley, "Always Have a Dream," depicts her vibrant outlook on life. As a result of this tragedy, I went to Boston with Senator Melconian and initiated a change in the law to make the penalty for leaving the scene of a motor vehicle homicide equal to motor vehicle homicide while under the influence of alcohol. This law was passed and as a result the punishment for leaving the scene of a motor vehicle homicide was made equal to vehicular homicide under the influence which now hopefully deters people from leaving the scene of an accident. If the result of this law passing prevents one tragedy, it brings meaning to Liz's untimely death."

Rob Barcome, brother of Liz, wrote the following: "It is an honor for me to be able to present the Elizabeth Barcome Memorial Fund Scholarship. Liz was a very special person and her legacy is carried on through the efforts of the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation. Liz was taken from us at the very young age of 19. Her life was one of pursuing her dreams and constantly thinking of new dreams. She dreamed of someday training and showing her own horse which she worked very hard to fulfill.

“Liz always looked for the inner good in people and made it her mission to be a peace maker with her family and friends. Liz focused on working hard toward accomplishing her dreams. This scholarship is a wonderful conduit for her legacy to continue through you, the scholarship recipient. Make it your dream to learn, to love, to laugh, to better yourself and better the world. You absolutely can make a difference. Liz’s favorite poem by Amanda Bradley perfectly sums up what Liz was known for in her short life:

Always Have a Dream

Forget about the days when it’s been cloudy,
But don’t forget your hours in the sun.
Forget about the times
You’ve been defeated but don’t
Forget the victories you’ve won
Forget about mistakes
That you can’t change now but don’t
Forget the lessons that you’ve learned
Forget about misfortunes you’ve
Encountered but don’t forget the
Times your luck has turned.
Forget about the days
When you’ve been lonely but don’t
Forget the friendly smiles you’ve seen
Forget about the plans that didn’t
Seem to work out right but don’t forget
To always have a dream.”

Written by: Isabel Barcome, Lori Greaney, & Rob Barcome

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