

James Arps Memorial Endowment



The James Arps Memorial Scholarship was established as a tribute to our brother, James, but he was also a friend, son, father, and husband.

James went to South Middle School and Westfield High School, graduating in 1986. He was a great kid with an infectious smile and a wonderful sense of humor.

James was the guy who would do anything to help most anyone, and he managed to accumulate all of the tools to do just about every job that could come up. If he didn't have the right tool, he would just go buy it; Home Depot loved James! And so did everyone else.

Because of his close relationships in his family, James became a sort of nucleus connecting each one of us through his unselfish heart. The absence of this heart in the center of our family is a loss we feel every day.

James dabbled in college, but it wasn't to be. Having interests in just about everything, He wasn't able to funnel his attentions in one direction. He worked in construction and began to focus his interests on the trades. He left Westfield and moved to Quincy, and then relocated to Worcester where he began working as an electrician. In 1998, James moved to Maine where he worked as an electrician for Philips. He had finally found his calling, his niche.

James' eldest child was a daughter, Ashley, who lived in Connecticut. He picked her up or dropped her off quite often, so he took that opportunity to visit family and friends in Westfield. He married and had a son, Thomas. Shortly after his wife Beth became pregnant with their second boy, Joey, James was killed in a car accident in February 2001.

Each year since the accident, we have held the James Arps Memorial Golf Tournament to raise money to fund this scholarship. Due to the generosity of James' family, friends, and local businesses, the fund will be able to provide an annual scholarship for a Westfield High School student. In loving memory of James, we hope to help provide an avenue to young individuals to find their calling, their niche.

Written by: Jeff Arps and his sister Jennifer Arps
November 1, 2005