



Kale Donovan

June 18, 2009 - July 14, 2009

Kale Pierce Donovan's time on this earth was brief, yet he managed to touch the lives and hearts of an extraordinary number of people. He now smiles down on all of us from Heaven. Born at home on June 18th 2009 to Ryan and Rachel (Kunz) Donovan, Kale was quickly admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Poudre Valley Hospital due to respiratory difficulty. After two weeks of numerous tests and procedures, Kale was diagnosed with Zellweger Syndrome, an extremely rare genetic condition. With no known cure or course of treatment, Kale's parents did everything possible to cherish every second with their son and ensure that the quality of his life was the best it could be. Undoubtedly, the best gift they could give Kale was to make him a child of God through Holy Baptism on June 23rd. Throughout his stay at PVH, the NICU doctors, nurses, and staff were remarkable in every way, and our family would like to thank them all from the bottom of our heart. After a week long stay at The Children's Hospital in Denver, Kale returned home on July 12th. Here, in the comfort on his own home, Kale passed away peacefully and became an angel in Heaven early on the morning on July 14th. We thank God for granting us this quiet time at home together as a family. Along with his parents, Kale is also survived by his paternal grandparents, Nancy Donovan of Hudson, WI and Terry Donovan of LaCrosse, WI; his maternal grandparents, Dan and Vicky Kunz of LaCrosse; his three aunts, Jessie Kunz of New Haven, CT, Emily Rick (husband, Carl) of New Ulm, MN, and Hannah Kunz of LaCrosse; and one cousin, Calvin Rick In celebration of Kale's life, a

memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, July 18th at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4610 Hogan Drive Fort Collins. A viewing will precede the service from 9:00-10:00.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kale Donovan*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *My heart is full of sadness and my prayers have been abundant. My deepest condolences during your time of sorrow. Please comfort knowing Kale was a true blessing and he is amongst the angels in heaven. His journey was too short but very powerful. God Bless you all!*

*In Sympathy,
Lynn*

Lynn Quandahl - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thinking of you all and wishing you peace through God's love.*

Bunnie McHenry - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about Kale. You have our deepest sympathy. God Bless all of you at this time.*

*Dianne and Roger Peterson
Nichole, Kylie and Eric*

Dianne and Roger Peterson - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

OP

“ Please accept my deepest sympathies for the loss of Kale. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during the most difficult time.

Odas Parsons - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ We are so sorry to hear about Kale. Our thoughts and prayers have been with your family these last few weeks. The emptiness of your home seems to have been more noticeable as of late. Not a day has gone by when we haven't been thinking about all of you.

Dan and Kathy Kern - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ So sorry to hear about Kale. Words don't do much good at this time, but just wanted to express my sadness for your loss.

Kevin Martin - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Our hearts go out to you. Loss is never easy, but there is comfort in knowing that Kale was made a child of God. We offer our prayers that God will bring comfort and healing to your aching hearts and fill you with the hope and reassurance of eternity with Him. May the good Lord bless and keep you.

Rick and Mary Schlicht - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ My heart goes out to your family and feels your pain. Losing a little one is so difficult. May you find peace with your faith and the knowledge that heaven has a bright little angel named Kale. Kale and your family is in my thoughts and prayers.
Carol Skoy

Carol Skoy - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Nancy and family--we were so sad to hear of your loss. God's blessings on you all as you grieve the loss of this precious child. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Judy Crowder - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Rachel and Ryan, my heartfelt condolences go out to you and all of your family. I know Kale is in Heaven with Jesus, and I also know that you are suffering so much pain over losing that sweet little boy. I had been following everything on Caring Bridge, and praying for all of you. There are no answers that we can see as to why these things happen, but God is the only One who knows. May the Lord comfort you at this time of such a tremendous amount of grief that you are going through. May the peace of God keep your hearts and minds through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God's abundant blessings go out to you and your family.

Audrey Hanson - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My daughter, Jenny, shared your child's story with us. She couldn't read it all because it was just so sad. This is one of those times when I know sending my kids to Luther was the right thing to do. When you have a whole school + parents and friends praying for you it makes us all stop and remember the important things in life. Your child really accomplished a lot in a short time. Not only your close friends but not-so-close friends like us have been touched by your lives. Thank you.

Jim & Judy Fabian

Jim & Judy Fabian - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Ryan: I was so sorry to hear this news the other day when Gay sent out an e-mail. I met you last year, when you arranged for one of the student-trainers to go over an exercise program with me that I had requested. Anyway, I truly don't know what to say, as this is something that no one can really comprehend unless they've been through it. All I can do is pray that you and your wife remain strong, keep your faith, and know that one day you'll have your own family!

Tom Locashio - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ We are so sorry for your loss of baby Kale. Having lost a son ourselves, we know what a difficult time you are going through. The pain seems unbearable right now, but time will help ease that pain eventually. And though you will never forget baby Kale or get over his loss, you will learn to move on with your life without him. Cherish the short time you were able to spend with Kale. Please find comfort knowing that you have many family and friends to support you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Bruce and Vicki Olson - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ We are thinking of you all knowing this is the most difficult situation one could ever find themselves. I pray that your faith will sustain you through this heartbreaking time. I know Christ will draw you near and give you strength. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
With love,
Darwin and Darlene

Darlene Isaacson - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Thinking of your family and praying that the Lord gives you strength and comfort. Baby Kale made a huge impact in such a short time. What a blessing from the Lord!

Mark and Lisa Loersch - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Rachel and Ryan,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you both. I can not imagine what the two of you are going through right now. May your faith in God give you strength. Thank you for letting us get to know your little angel through his story and pictures. If Chad and I can do anything for the two of you please let us know.

Brooke Schmaltz - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Ryan and Rachel,

My heart goes out to you. Please know that you are not alone. Our daughter Caitlyn also passed away from ZS. We understand the pain that this devastating disorder can cause. We found acceptance, knowledge, and friendship through a Yahoo group called Peroxisomal_Disorders. This group is made up of some of the strongest people we know. If you need to talk or even just need to cry with someone who understands....please call. I encourage you to check out the group online when you are ready. Kale was and continues to be a blessing to you and all who met him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Adam and Melanie

Adam and Melanie Hunter - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *I had been following Kale's progress on the Caring Bridge website and was heartbroken when I got word about little Kale's passing. I'm sure you miss him desperately and I would like to extend to you both, Ryan and Rachel, my deepest and profound sympathy. What a beautiful child and what loving parents. You were truly a match made in heaven. God bless you both!*

Janet Raimer-Cunitz - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ *Many prayers from my family to yours.*

April Massey - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ I learned about Kale from another mom of a child with Zellweger Syndrome. We have an international group on Yahoo to support one another. I wanted you to know that I am deeply saddened to learn that Kale's time on earth was so short, and can empathize, as I also have a child with this rare disorder.

If you would like to connect with other parents of children with Zellweger Spectrum Disorders, please feel free to contact me. My thoughts are with you.

*Shannon Butalla
Lincoln, Nebraska
mom of Sam Butalla 7.1.2002
Peroxisomal Biogenesis Disorder
Zellweger Spectrum of Disorders +
Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia - diagnosed 11.13.2008*

Shannon Butalla - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Dear Rachel and Ryan-

*My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.
Thank you so much for allowing me the honor of caring for you and Kale while he was in the NICU. The two days I spent with him will remain in my heart forever.*

Cheryl, RN PVH

Cheryl, RN - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“ *With much love ... and unbelievable sadness....*

From Neil and Diana

Neil Brooks/Diana Jackson - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ *Ryan&Rachel So sorry we can't be with you but we are with you in our hearts. We love you and you are in our thoughts and prayers today and everyday. Love you. Aunt Lisa, Uncle Jim, Bobbie, Jenny, and Jonathon*

Lisa Hill - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *You're not alone. Christian's who've lost someone special know that the real test of your faith will be through the grieving that begins, not when family and friends are gathered, but later, when everyone has gone back to their own lives... Please know, especially then, that you are not alone, that those who care for you & Love You truly wish to share your thoughts and feelings throughout this difficult time. Trust, they will be there for you just ask. Our love and prayers are with you and Ryan. I Thank GOD for my faith every day. Love Sandy & Dave Minor*

dave and sandy minor - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ *So sorry to hear about Kale's passing. I send blessings to you all of you and to your little child of God.*

Lorie Oldenburg - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ We are deeply saddened by your loss. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

John Hibshman & Donna Anderson - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ We wanted to let you know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. It is very touching to read over all of the loving words your family and friends have left for you both. We hope they bring some comfort.

Mark and Carol Trehey - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ We are so sorry to hear about your loss. May God be with you.

Dick and Margie Olson - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ May God grant you the strength to make it through this difficult time. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Chad & Tara Johnson - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I consider Nancy a very dear friend and she was kind enough to share Kale's story with me soon after his birth.

We have followed Mommy, Daddy, and Kale's journey very closely on your Caring Bridge Website. It was very clear from the writings found there that Mommy and Daddy (the apple does not fall far from the tree) are exceptional people. Kale was obviously a special child of God and God could not have entrusted his care to a more special family.

Please know you are in our daily prayers as you grieve the tremendous loss of your very precious son.

*Kimberly Chudy
Dennis Chudy
Adam Chudy
Ryan Chudy
Caroline Chudy*

Kimberly Chudy - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I left on vacation to Lake Powell 2 days before Kale died. Although I expected him to live longer, I had a deep feeling I'd never see him again. I spent Tuesday sunset at Lake Powell remembering him and thinking about his wonderful parents. When I returned home and found out he had died on Tuesday, I was touched. I think Kale was one of those people who touch you deeper than you think a young person can. I will always remember his "Mona Lisa smile". Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. It was truly a privilege to take care of him. -- Joan

Joan Swim - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ Our prayers and thoughts are with you. It is a blessing that we have comfort and peace in knowing that Kale is a child of God and is at home with Him in heaven.
May He comfort you and bless you during these difficult times.

Ken and Laureen Lehman

Ken and Laureen Lehman - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ My thoughts are with your family in this tough time. There is a lot of love in your family.

Shana Martin - July 14, 2009 at 12:00 AM