



December 16, 2008

Family and Friends:

It's been 1 year since Shaun's death and our lives have been changed dramatically. We miss him so much and will carry the emptiness in our hearts forever. The most challenging part has been living without the love and companionship he gave all of us. We miss his witty personality, determination and motivation. Most importantly, we miss his love. I would give anything to hold him one more time or have the opportunity to say good-bye. Many people have commented.....I could never do it. My answer is, you have no choice. You are forced to live through it. The emptiness and loneliness are unbearable and the tears uncontrollable. The support that I received from family and many friends has been valued more than you will know. The visits, cards, phone calls, emails, lunches, encouragement and heartfelt hugs have kept me going. I have read several books trying to understand this process they call grief, and I call hell. The books state that shortly after the funeral, your friends and family don't know what to do so they start to stay away. I'm grateful that my family and friends didn't follow this pattern and their perseverance helped me get out of bed everyday. Thanks for not being afraid of me when I needed you most. And, for being there through the tears. You've continued to pick me up in so many grateful ways.

I would also like to thank you for all you've contributed to Shaun's Memorial Fund and the tremendous support you've given our entire family. We've donated \$1,500.00 to the Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield. The University of Wisconsin Foundation – Cure Kids Cancer in Madison received \$750.00. The majority of the fund which was \$8,728.04 has been utilized to establish a Memorial Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin, Marathon Campus. The Scholarship will be given each year to a sophomore advancing to the University of Wisconsin Madison in pursuit of a Medical career, so they can achieve their dreams. Now, the difficult part....how to keep the fund going so Shaun's dream lives on.

So, I have created *Inspirations from Above* because his passion for nature and appreciation for life inspired me. By doing this, it gave me a way to take the sadness and grief and focus on something uplifting. The beauty of nature has been insightful to me since Shaun's passing, I think it was his gift. Inspirations from Above will feature: note cards, memorial jewelry, garden stones, wind chimes, candles and other pertinent items. I hope to bring comfort to others during a loss. Please join us by keeping Shaun's memory alive. There are many more inspirations to come. Visit the website, pass it on, donate to the scholarship or order a gift for a friend or yourself.

www.inspirationsfromabove.com

Enjoy.....I hope you are inspired as well,

Cindy
Creator

I would especially like to thank my daughter-in-law Maria for all her assistance and encouragement.