

CHRISTOPHER DIXON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Born on July 31, 2004, Christopher Paul Dixon loved many things, but especially music, dancing, traveling by air and trains, tigers and penguins. He never spent a day in which he didn't gladden the hearts of everyone he met with his smile and infectious laughter.

In many ways, Christopher's autism allowed him to touch the lives of his parents, grandparents, caregivers and friends in unexpected and surprising fashions: he would reach up and take his mother or father's hand while walking for no obvious reason; he would sit and share special moments with his younger cousin, Michael, and ride with him on a special tricycle his grandparents obtained; he would swing so high that he became horizontal to the ground while laughing out loud.

Christopher traveled with his parents from infancy; he went with them everywhere possible. He visited the Smokey Mountains, Nashville and Chattanooga, San Diego, Mackinac Island, Toronto; but his favorite destinations were Chicago, to the Shedd Aquarium, where he was overcome with joy to see the penguins walk in their aquatic show and Frankenmuth, Michigan, where his

favorite holiday, Christmas, happens every day. Christopher would also run to the tigers at the Potawatomi Zoo, where he would stand long periods, waving his hands and calling to them.

Christopher loved the water, and would insist on playing in his backyard pool frequently. He was a lifelong fan of the South Bend (IN) Cubs, and asked every day to go to Four Winds Field, even on days when the team was traveling or not playing. At every game, he looked for Stu, the mascot, and would stand and shake his hands in excitement when he waved at him.

Christopher's autism challenged him in many ways, as well. He had not an ounce of fear in his soul, and no conception of danger. But even this allowed him to make new friends at the Elkhart County Sheriff Department, who served him with Operation Lifesaver, a project to track and locate people who wander off.

Christopher lost his life in a tragic drowning accident on September 22, 2017 at the age of 13. His loving family, and everyone who knew of Christopher, were touched by his life and will be forever changed by his untimely death.

Virtus Health has established the Christopher Dixon Memorial Scholarship, in Christopher's memory and in honor of his family, to provide funding to assist families needing ABA therapy and Autism services who cannot afford to do so. To apply for the Christopher Dixon Scholarship, or to contribute to this scholarship fund, or for further information, please visit www.VirtusHealthFund.org. Your tax-deductible donations to provide financial support for families needing assistance is greatly appreciated.

For more information, please visit www.VirtusHealthFund.org, contact us by email at info@VirtusHealthFund.org or by phone at call 800-217-9289 Ext 728.

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