

DAVEY'S JOURNEY

David Lewis's life began 44 years ago in Guam, a far-away island that has always seemed a lot closer because of how often it was talked about when describing Davey. After his adoption into our family at the age of six weeks, Davey quickly revealed the personality that we all remember and love. He was always smiling, quick to be a part of any antics his three sisters involved him in. Being the only boy in a family with a lot of strong female personalities around must have been frustrating at times, but he endured the makeovers with laughter and a slyness that wouldn't surprise anyone who knew him well.

In school Davey forged a few close bonds that lasted his whole life, but was friendly with everyone. It never mattered to him how old someone was or what background they came from. He treated everyone equally and this was a trait that never left him and endeared him to so many. School became increasingly harder for Davey as he moved into the difficult years all kids face. Middle school and then high school were challenges for him both academically and socially because he never felt like he truly fit in, despite the fact that he understood more about the world than most kids. But unfortunately that is hard to translate for someone that age and because he felt on the outside of what was accepted, he began to make choices that led down a very hard path for Davey. It was painful for his family to watch because we knew and still saw what an amazing person he was, but his journey was his own. Thankfully, with the help of the incredible people at Gosnold, Davey was able to turn his life around and enjoy almost eight years of sobriety before he passed away.

And in those wonderful years Davey met the love of his life, Christine. I remember him first talking about meeting her and how we knew how happy he was just by the way he spoke about her. His wedding in the hot air balloon and the precious years they were married were testaments to his love for her and her for him. They were made for each other and their life became about experiencing things together, and of course raising Takota. Christine was his gift and now she is ours.

Davey was the kind of person whose soul was too big for this world. It is heartbreaking he is not here with us, but his love and kindness needed to be spread farther than he could ever do in a human lifetime. He is always with us now and I know he is with the many people struggling to get their lives back on track who face very difficult choices every day. He is greatly missed, but we will always celebrate his life and having him in ours.