

Brandon Ferreira Story  
June 4, 1992 - December 30, 2017

Brandon passed due his injuries on December 30, 2017.

On February 8, 2015, Brandon Ferreira was 22 years old and paralyzed from the chest down in a car crash. He was a passenger in the rear seat of his friend's vehicle when they were struck by a drunk driver in Crystal Lake, IL.

For weeks following the devastating crash, his parents didn't know if he would live or die. He spent months in the hospital and in an inpatient rehabilitation center. For two entire years following the wreck, he was in and out of the hospital due to the complications of his paralysis.

Brandon's parent's focused on being with their son in the hospital as they absorbed the reality of the struggles their son was going through. Kelly Krenzer, AAIM Victim Advocate, supported Brandon and his family in and out of the courtroom as they cared for their son.

The criminal part of this case finally concluded in 2016. Brandon spoke in court to the man responsible for the crash. He described in intricate detail the grueling daily challenges he now faced and how his parents supported him every step of the way. He also explained how his paralysis was a permanent reminder of how the selfish stupid decision to drive impaired had changed their lives forever. Listening to his story unfold was heartbreaking.

On December 26th of this year, Brandon who was now 25 years old, suffered a stroke and brain bleed due to complications of being paralyzed. He spent four days in the critical care unit and his parents never left his side. On December 30, 2017, he was removed from life support.

Brandon made the courageous decision prior to his stroke to be an organ donor. His parents, who understood the magnitude of what their child was going through, were in awe of his human spirit. While grappling with his paralysis, he found the strength to make the unselfish decision to donate his organs. Brandon will be helping to save the lives of more than 35 people because he was an organ donor.

Brandon was an amazing young man. His infectious smile, joking demeanor, and caring spirit touched so many lives. His death, though prolonged, was the direct result of being hit by an impaired driver. Brandon Ferreira will be greatly missed.

Kelly Krenzer

AAIM Victim Advocate