

ALLIANCE AGAINST INTOXICATED MOTORISTS

Victim Stories



The Tony Borcia Tribute

June 3, 2002 - July 28, 2012

My son, Tony Borcia was ten years old when he went tubing with his father, Jim, and siblings, Kaeleigh, Joe and Erin on the Chain-o-Lakes on July 28, 2012. Tony was having the time of his life until he fell off the tube. Before his father could pick him up, he was hit by a large boat despite wearing a bright red lifejacket and waving his arms. The man who hit Tony pled guilty to causing the incident and operating his boat under the influence of cocaine and alcohol. He was sentenced to ten years in prison.

Prior to July 28, 2012, I had everything I ever wanted. I had a wonderful husband and four beautiful, healthy children. Tony was the youngest and completed our family. His smile, with the big gaps between his teeth and his sweet dimples, lit up the room.

My world was shattered by one phone call from my husband. As the night wore on, I slowly got more details about what happened. I was eventually told that Tony's body had been dismembered. It was only then that I truly realized the horror that my husband and children had witnessed.

The days, weeks and months after Tony's death seemed to blend into one another. It has been four years since Tony died and my family is still struggling everyday to deal with this loss.

There is not enough time or words to describe Tony. He was an incredible joy in our lives. He was always happy and made you happy just being around him.

I miss the little things about him the most. The feel of his hand in mine, the smell of his head after he took a bath, cuddling with him in my bed every night before bedtime, trying to steal a kiss from him at the bus stop because he thought he was too big to kiss his Mom in public, the way his eyes lit up when he saw me after work, and giving him a piggy back ride to bed every night singing our bedtime song "Tony Mine", kissing him good night, telling him "I love you" and hearing him say "I love you too Mommy".

Our family and friends have formed The Y-noT Project (Tony's name spelled backwards) as a tribute to him. The Y-noT Project is dedicated to stopping intoxicated boating. Driving a boat is one of last places where it is still socially acceptable to drink and drive and The Y-noT Project with help from AAIM seeks to change this culture and make our lakes and rivers safe again.

Margaret Borcia