



William Lawrence Burkholder

June 2, 2010 - November 23, 2013

William Lawrence Burkholder, born June 2, 2010, passed away peacefully at home in Topeka, Kansas, November 19, 2013, of complications from Zellweger Syndrome. He immeasurably enhanced the lives of his family and friends during his brief 3 years of life. William is survived by his parents Nathan and Kellye Burkholder; sisters, Kellan Burkholder and Lauren Brown; brother, Trevor Brown; grandparents, Daryl and Leslie Rutschmann; great-grandmothers, Vivian Denison and Maidene Rutschmann; and wonderful aunts, uncles and cousins. The support, friendship, love and kindness shared with William and his family throughout his short life was sustaining, appreciated and treasured. For everyone who held Will, smiled at him, played with him, comforted him, and made him feel so loved, we thank you. To those who offered generous support through meals, visits and other creative gifts of caring, we thank you. To those who supported Nathan and Kellye at work so they could maximize time with Will, we thank you. To TARC early childhood development program, for the special toys and assistive devices, we thank you. To MK Thompson, for helping Will be the best he could be and helping to enhance the quality of his short life, we thank you. To Grace Hospice staff for being there whenever we called, we thank you. To Steve Pontoski RN, Will's angel on earth, for your calming presence, kindness, and always assuring that Will was as comfortable as possible, we thank you. To Dr. Parr and staff for all the extra time spent with Will, trying everything possible, and helping us understand that sometimes there is nothing else to be done, we thank you.

William made a remarkable and lasting impact in the lives of those around him. He never walked, but he transported us to places of joy and delight. He never talked, but he smiled and touched our faces and calmed our fears. He never grew, but our spirits were enlarged by his delight in our presence. Length of life and development are no indication of importance. In that regard he danced, and grew, and thrived, and was of great stature. To honor Will, please chase fireflies on a warm summer's night, catch snowflakes on your tongue, play in the rain, find at least one thing to be thankful for every day and hug your loved ones as often as possible. Family will greet friends from 12:30-2p.m. Saturday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614. Service will be at 2p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Mission Center Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to TARC Children's Services sent in care of the funeral home.

Tribute Wall



“ *William Lawrence Burkholder*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Nathan and Kelly, there are no words to ease your suffering. The smile on his face tells the whole story that he was loved, cherished and he will always be with you in his spirit. My deepest sympathy to your entire family.*

Nora Remington - December 04, 2013 at 02:12 PM



“ *Nathan and family,
My heart goes out to all of you. I am so deeply sorry for your loss. It sounds like William was much like you, Nathan; a truly kind soul and I am so glad he was able to bless your lives, if only for a short time. Treasure your precious memories, and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Love,

Claudia (Donovan), Jason, Brinley, and Joanie Pottorf

Claudia Donovan Pottorf - November 22, 2013 at 11:08 AM



“ *Kellye and Nathan,
My heart is full of sadness at your loss of sweet Will. The obituary was such a tribute to the amazing little boy he was and to how much he left on this earth after such a short time here. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers as you travel this final journey with him.*

Sandy Jacobs - November 22, 2013 at 08:51 AM

DM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I am glad you had some enjoyable time with him and he was able to touch so many lives in such a short time.

Deb Myers and Mike Matavosky - November 21, 2013 at 07:54 PM

MS

“ To the family of William Lawrence Burkholder,

I am sending my love and prayers and will chase fireflies, catch snowflakes, play in the rain, and hug loved ones....I will also play the music of the soul to honor his presence.

Melba J Sutton - November 21, 2013 at 12:21 PM

CB

“ I do not your family, but I was so touched by your love and faith regarding your son. My little sister died at age 2 1/2. Like your family we were devastated, but somehow--her love and courage helped us all get through it. May your joyful memories bring healing to each of you--and the peace of God that passes all understanding--dwell in your hearts. Giving thanks for your son.

Carol Brown - November 20, 2013 at 08:46 PM

DA

“ Kellye,

I know we have only known each other for a short period of time, but it seems like forever. I am so sorry for you loss and wanted you to know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Darcy McBurney

Darcy - November 20, 2013 at 12:22 PM

JG

“ *Nathan and Kellye,
My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. My heart is very heavy today as he truly was a remarkable little boy. I cherish the time I spent with him and will always remember the happy, smiling, little boy that he was. It was truly a joy to have him in my class and he always knew how to brighten my day. William was blessed to have you as parents and the love and care you gave him was above and beyond. Again, my deepest condolences are with you today and always.*

Jessica Garr - November 20, 2013 at 10:15 AM

SD

“ *Nate, Kellye, Kellan, Lauren, and Trevor~ Thank you for allowing me to enjoy William! You have all touched my heart in a way that I can't describe. It was a joy to work with you and get to know your wonderful family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Sarah Dahlstrom - November 20, 2013 at 09:24 AM