



Aaron Linton Brawley

Died Age 23

Heroin

My name is Susan Brawley and I want to honor my son, Aaron, by including his lost promise on the memorial wall. Aaron was my first born of three children, and was, from the first moment he entered this world, incredibly beautiful. He was a 10 pound, bald, blue-eyed bundle of joy. He was my only child for 4 years and we spent much time together walking, talking, reading and exploring the world. Aaron's brain always worked faster than mine and his curious questions kept me on my toes! He grew into a tall, intelligent young man with a heart packed full of kindness and sensitivity. Unfortunately, Aaron's sharp intelligence and physical beauty somehow escaped him and his lack of self confidence became a burden as he grew.

As his mother, my heart would break seeing him struggle so, trying so very hard to help him along and reassure him constantly of his abilities and gifts. At an early age Aaron



was introduced to alcohol, and then marijuana. It wasn't apparent for a few years, though, that Aaron was sliding down the slippery slope. His intelligence was abundant, and his lop-sided grin charming, so Aaron made his way through high school and some college. But eventually, the demons caught up, and despite numerous attempts at intervention, Aaron died at the age of 23 from an overdose of heroin.

June 23, 2003.

I came home from work to find Aaron unresponsive in the bathroom. Now, my life is forever changed, forever without my 10 pound bundle of joy. Now I have ashes and memories, neither of which I can kiss, hug, tease, squeeze. Aaron also left behind a brother and sister who miss his sharp, dry wit and funny way of giving everyone a nickname. Some people say my son made his choice, and that choice was drugs. I say my son was a victim...he chose drugs, but addiction chose him. Aaron was preyed upon by a man who introduced him to heroin, a man who knew my son was vulnerable and useful for his purposes. Heroin was readily available and affordable...in the beginning. But in the end, the price was as high as the heavens. I am forever Aaron's mother and my love for him is also forever. But Aaron and I have both been robbed, our future together stolen. My heart is forever broken.

Susan Callaway Brawley, mother of Aaron Linton Brawley
2/12/80 - 6/23/03

Remembering Lost Promise