



Ryane Robert Frank

Died Age 28

Cocaine

On September 28, 1974, Ryane Robert Frank was born into our family a health beautiful baby. Ryane was the third child--Ingrid the oldest followed by big brother Brandon and to follow was Robert and Jacob. Ryane was the quiet shy child. Ryane loved airplanes, fishing, biking and golf, but mostly he loved spending time with his brothers and sister.

Ryane was articulate and caring, and yet, ultimately flawed by the monster of addiction. His time on this planet would be marked in many memories, both personal and collective. After high school, Ryane went to work and planned to go to school to become a pilot. They say ignorance is bliss. I really understand that, but our bliss was not long-lived for, within a year, Ryane's world came crashing in and so did ours.

Our lives stopped when we learned Ryane was using cocaine. We told no one, not even our parents, not our closest friends. This was our secret, until we could not hide from it any more. Ryane tried local treatment programs but would relapse as soon as he was done. Ryane eventually ended up in the criminal justice system which we thought would be the absolute worst thing that could ever happen to our family. Every member of our family was affected, our son brother, friend, grandson, nephew was a drug addict. The criminal justice system was cold and unfriendly; naively, we thought that these people only wanted to help; I soon realized that many of them

would rather see Ryane behind bars than deal with the disease that led him there. Bill and I set out to help as we always had. How could we fix our broken son? After several months in the county jail, Ryane was released and that very same day we had him in the car and on the way to Hazelton in Minnesota. Ryane flourished physically and emotionally within the AA philosophy and was blessed to find his sponsor, Dan, who he loved and respected.

We were hopeful, but always apprehensive; many good days, many conversations, many blessings from the Ryane that we knew. October 6, 2002 Ryane relapsed; this time for the very last time. As Ryane lay in the hospital on life support, his friends came from every corner to comfort each other and our family. During all of his better days, days which far outnumbered his worst, he was a giving and compassionate man. Thanks to Ryane, five lives were saved through his organ donation.

In Ryane's memory, Bill and I are working on opening a transitional living house for men in the Racine community and helping others that they many begin a life free from drugs.

~ Ninna & Bill Frank

Remembering Lost Promise