

DANAE'S SONG



Danae didn't just talk about life, she lived it. Whether bungee jumping or experiencing thrill rides, she looked at fear as a challenge to overcome.

Thoughtful, quiet and independent, Danae followed behind her two older sisters, Jocelyn and Celene, like a little chick. Determined to keep up with them, she began vocal and piano instruction at 6 years old. Before long, she was performing with her sisters regularly at church, weddings and various other functions. Danae won numerous awards and sang with the prestigious 'Fireside Singers". Achieving excellence in school, she graduated grade 8 with general proficiency and math awards. After completing all levels of swimming, Danae took up horseback riding. She always loved animals. She babied the family dog, Ebony, who had been part of her life since she was a baby.

From the age of 12, Danae worked part time during school and full time throughout the summer months. At the time of her death, she was juggling 3 part time jobs. Beginning in grade 7, she started investing \$1,000 yearly in mutual funds. She felt very proud when once a year, accompanied by her dad, they attended the annual meeting with her stock broker.

High school added a new dimension to Danae's life as she blossomed into a self-confident young woman. Teachers described her as the "ultimate debater" and "wise beyond her years". She had friends of all ages, in all peer groups. They remembered her as always smiling, cheerful and ready to defend her beliefs.

Despite her petite 5'2" frame, which fondly earned her the nickname, Mouse, Danae carved up the mountainside on her snowboard and was a fierce competitor on the badminton court. In grade 9 and 10, she won the city championship in doubles badminton twice, despite playing both finals with injuries. When encouraged to withdraw because of pain, she refused, quoting the song, "Eye of the Tiger", as her inspiration.

Drumming was her passion until June 2000 when she purchased her first car, a black Eagle Talon. Only certain kinds of music were allowed to permeate its interior lest it embarrass her car. Not even a light coat of dust was permitted to settle on it. She kept it spotless.

Entering grade 11, Danae set high goals for herself. She had aspirations of becoming a plastic surgeon and already had a long list of clients patiently waiting. Sky diving was next on her list to experience with her rather reluctant mom.

Sadly, Danae never got to complete her list. In the early morning hours of October 1st, 2000, after leaving a pool hall and only 3 blocks from the safety of her car, Danae, the front seat passenger in a small vehicle, was hit broadside by a pick-up truck.

Emergency vehicles responded to the call. The fire department used the jaws of life to free Danae from the twisted metal. Paramedics stabilized her neck before a fireman, gently lifted her from the car. Once in the ambulance, paramedics rushed the unconscious girl to an awaiting trauma team at the hospital. Despite the valiant efforts of the doctors and nurses, her closed head injury was too severe. After several days and tests, Danae was declared legally brain dead on October 3rd, at 4pm. Amidst the shock and horror, her family donated her organs for transplant.

Although her gifted life was cut tragically short, she lived more in 16 years than most people do in a lifetime. She's forever left footprints on our hearts.

<http://www.danaessong.ca/>