

Matt Update

February 1, 2019

As I have said every year for the past fourteen years, the hardest part of this update is getting started. And so, here we go...

Matt turned 35 years old this year. He has missed so much in fourteen years.

*He never found his great career, or the love of his life that he'd hold dear.
He never had any little ones, a beautiful daughter or a handsome son.
He never saw his brother become a man, missing all this was never the plan.
We lost a lot that fateful night, oh to have it all back and do it all right.*

To this day I can't help but wish I had done something different, anything, to create a different outcome for my son. As a mother/parent, you can't help but feel some responsibility when something horrible happens to your child because from the time you find out you are pregnant your whole world revolves around protecting them. But alas, all I have left to do for Matt is make a difference in honor of his precious memory.

And so, I continue my mission to bring awareness to the dangers of hazing. Teaching children and adults, educate, educate, educate. Filling their brains with the knowledge they need, creating little change makers who will grow up and change the world. Walk with confidence into a room, a team, a group, or organization and see where people are being misled and say NO! THIS STOPS HERE!

The AHA! Movement has established very well received high school and college programs and has mostly been concentrating on high school. We are set to launch our middle school program this year and, as of last night are in talks regarding an elementary school program. It is never too early to shed light on this horrible and deadly problem.

AHA! teaches our young people, and adults, to recognize what they are seeing in their everyday lives because in its early stages hazing happens right in front of them and they don't even realize it, or especially how dangerous it can become. It is accepted, even encouraged.

I am excited about the future of AHA! and the many lives we have had and continue to have the opportunity to touch. Doors continue to open for us. People are talking about hazing and that is a good thing.

I've been saying for the past four or five years that we must be doing something right because our young people are finding their voices, speaking up. This is huge if we want to make significant strides in our mission. But it is not enough, we need our courts to take it seriously, there must be accountability!

On another note. We are working with Anomaly Entertainment on an upcoming documentary for Investigation Discovery depicting the investigation surrounding Matt's case. I will be leaving for Chico this Sunday, February 3rd as we make the rounds of interviews with Sgt Keeney, who ran Matt's case and DA Ramsey, who was the prosecutor in Matt's case. We will also be going to the frat house where he was killed, now a Jewish Chabot, and the house he lived in with his adorable roommate Molly and Sarah. We will return sometime Tuesday afternoon evening and begin other interviews the following day throughout the week.

Sunday when we arrive, I will be going to the frat house where Matt was last alive and leave flowers and a candle with a message to Matt, keeping his memory alive in Chico.

My struggle has been excruciating at times these past months and I am not sure why. You never know what or when it is going to hit you like a ton of bricks and take your breath away. I am glad to know I can call on God and He will give me the strength to bounce back. Not always as quickly as I'd like but having done it before gives me the fortitude to fight until I do.

Tomorrow is our day of sorrow, even though the horrible sadness starts rearing its ugly head as the last three days of Matt's tortured life approaches, the 2nd is by far the worst. I do not dwell on it. It is something I cannot change, I will

light candles inside and outside the house for all to remember him and be ever so grateful for the amazing 21 years I had with him and the wonderful memories we created. You are welcome to come by if you would like.

Thank you for remembering Matt in your prayers and your incredible support throughout the years. If you think of it please light a candle in remembrance tomorrow night, February 2nd and post it on Facebook tagging me if it's not too much trouble.

Please remember life is short and memories are precious. Time goes by too fast; in the blink of an eye...don't miss out. MAKE MEMORIES!!! And when you are feeling down, remember the good things in your life and be thankful you have them, life is a blessing.

"Hug your children and tell them you love them EVERY DAY!"

God Bless....

Love and Smiles,

Debbie, MM

www.ahamovement.org

www.wemissyoumatt.com