

LETTERS - Your support has sustained us**BYLINE:****DATE:** 03-09-2000**PUBLICATION:** Providence Journal Company**EDITION:** South Coun**SECTION:** NEWS**PAGE:** D-05

We wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to our family, friends and the entire community, including all the students, teachers and administrators at the Narragansett Pier School, for the outpouring of love and support extended to us since Katie's death.

Although this thank you is long overdue, we have never really been able to, and may never, find appropriate words to express how all of you have helped us to deal with this tragedy.

Not a day, and often not a moment, goes by when we do not grieve the loss of Katie. Yet every day we are also reminded how truly blessed we are for the 13 incredible years that we had with Katie, and for all our loving family and friends who have so unselfishly found the time to help us through this ordeal, even when you may have been suffering yourselves.

We continue to be overwhelmed by the way the entire community, children and adults alike, has pulled together to help us, and each other, to deal with Katie's death. Mere words cannot express our love and thankfulness to all of you who have been there for us. Our family would not have survived without your support.

Although we do not have the right to request any more of you, we hope and pray that we can rely upon your continued love and support, so that we can continue to work together, one day at a time, to go on from here. In exchange, we offer our love and support to all of you, as well.

Allow us to be there for you, to help ease your pain. Please do not hesitate to call upon us. Do not be afraid to approach us and to talk about Katie.

Reminiscing and enjoying the good times, as well as discussing and shedding tears over her tragic death, allow us to help each other heal and to keep Katie's spirit and dreams alive.

We vow to continue our fight to have something positive result from this terrible tragedy, so that Katie's death will not be in vain. As we persist in our efforts to survive Katie's death, we will continue to pursue the good and positive things that were so important to her. We pray that someday Katie will look down upon us and be as proud of her family as we are of her.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and thank you on behalf of Katie.

John, Meg, Kyle and Eliza DeCubellis

Narragansett

(The writers are the family of Katie DeCubellis, 13, who was killed last October in an auto accident that police believe was caused by a drunk driver.)