



**KATIE DECUBELLIS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**  
**P.O. BOX 3188**  
**NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882-0796**  
[www.kdmf.org](http://www.kdmf.org)

*“her life still shines...”*

**Fall/Winter NEWSLETTER**

**2007**

## ***Letter from the Executive Director, John E. DeCubellis Jr.***

October 29<sup>th</sup> marked the eighth year anniversary of Katie's and Marsha's deaths. As we continue to move forward, putting more and more distance between our times last spent with Katie and those memories, and continually knowing that we will never experience what would have been new milestones in her life, each day it becomes more difficult to cope with Katie's death. This year, Katie would have been a college senior, undoubtedly preparing to graduate and applying to medical schools. Kyle is now a college freshman, and this spring, Eliza will be older than Katie was at the time of her death. As Katie's life stands still and the years pass her by, it is difficult not to question how different their lives might have been having their big sister around all these years. What wisdom and/or life lessons might they have learned from her?

Fortunately, Meg and I continue to be blessed with the means of keeping Katie's spirit alive and continue her legacy through the KDMF. We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel around the Country, introducing Katie to more than 75,000 people. We have most recently traveled to Pittsburgh, Las Vegas, North Carolina, Delaware, and will visit Wichita, Kansas early this winter. We have spoken at middle schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and recently at several Air Force bases.

Once again, it is solely because of your efforts, support and generosity that the KDMF continues to make a difference, and Meg and I are able to share Katie's life and legacy with others in an attempt to somehow educate them on the importance of making responsible decisions. As we often say, this is our way of hopefully, having something positive result from Katie's death - to somehow spare other parents, siblings, families and friends from having to bury loved ones killed by drunk driving!

Finally, as we approach this 8<sup>th</sup> Holiday Season without Katie and Marsha, we should all take the time to appreciate and enjoy our families and friends. Although the holidays are probably joyous for most, they are also very stressful and sad for many. That is

why we all need to support each other and remember those who are no longer here with us to share the holidays. Meg and I thank you for your continued support and friendship, reserving a special place in your hearts for Katie, and allowing **“...her life to continue to shine”!**



**Dover Air Force Base**



**Pope Air Force Base**

## Library Dedication

Narragansett's snug library, located two blocks up from the ocean, and the seawall, was a favorite destination of Katie DeCubellis.

It was a place where she could find an endless amount of books, or revisit old favorites. It was a place where she could find the next installment of a favorite series, such as the Little House on the Prairie books, or check out a volume about one of her favorite topics, animals.

So it was fitting that on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation, after weeks of planning, dedicated the children's room in Katie's honor.

The Foundation donated \$50,000 "to continue Katie's spirit and legacy by permanently naming this children's area, Katie's Room," said her father, John DeCubellis, before a packed crowd.

"The Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation is committed to continuing Katie's legacy by promoting youth leadership, supporting education, and generating public awareness of the dangers of drunk driving and substance abuse," said her mother Meg, surrounded by family and friends.

"This library was one of Katie's favorite places throughout her short 13 years. She enjoyed reading and this library so much, and spent so much time here,



that even from the young age of six or seven years old, she was always trying to figure out a way to get a job here. John and I cannot think of a more fitting way to memorialize Katie's life."

Quoting from one of Katie's poems, John said: 'Every time you help someone, you help that person help someone else.' Can that ideal be any more evidenced by the services this library provides to our community and our support of those services?

"The Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation supports education, and reading is the means to that end. The library offers this opportunity to everyone. Reading is truly the gift that keeps on giving. The Katie DeCubellis Memorial Foundation and support of this library is a perfect match.

"We have no doubt that as Katie looks down on us this morning, she is extremely proud and delighted... We hope that this is just the beginning of a long-term partnership with the library and together, we can make Katie's Room one of the best children's rooms in the state."

Library director Patti Arkwright welcomed the overflow crowd, which included two television crews, to the children's room.

A framed photo of Katie was unveiled, noting that Katie's Room is dedicated in loving memory of her as "a passionate reader and library enthusiast."

It is hoped that the Foundation can help support upgrades in the children's room, or sponsor special programming said her mother, "to help them get what they need."

## Garden of Hope Update

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, about 30 volunteers and board members gathered at the KDMF Garden of Hope and Remembrance to install the first phase of plantings. The weather was brisk and clear while the group planted about 50 various evergreens and flowering shrubs. Lastly, a top coat of mulch was added for winter protection and the day was complete.

Thanks to all of those who gave an early Sunday morning to get this project underway. It looks great. See you again in the spring?



As we move into 2008,  
we would love to  
update our database.

Please e-mail us at [www.kdmf.org](http://www.kdmf.org)  
with your address to allow us to  
contact you about upcoming  
events and volunteer opportunities  
as well as e-mail your newsletters  
to save printing and postage.

*Thanks so much.*

## 8th Annual Katie DeCubellis Golf Tournament and Auction

The 8th Annual Katie DeCubellis Golf Tournament and Auction returned to Valley Country Club on Monday, September 17, 2007. After a delicious lunch, the four-somes teed off at 12:30. The weather was perfect for a fine round of golf. At the conclusion of the competition, players and guests were treated to a delicious buffet dinner. Prizes were awarded to the top four teams, men's and women's closest to the pin, and longest drives.

Then the auction began. Over thirty five auction items were up for bids in either the silent or live auction. The bidding action was lively as golfers and their guests vied for their favorite items. Many thanks go to Meg DeCubellis' team of basket designers. As usual, the silent auction themed baskets were gorgeous. Approximately 75 raffle prizes were also awarded.

After dinner, Peter Vigient, 2006 KDMF Memorial Scholarship award winner from Prout High School, addressed the crowd. Peter thanked the foundation and its supporters for helping him pursue his education at Providence College through the generous scholarship which is renewable for a total of four years. Peter joins the list of seven other Memorial Scholarship winners since its inception in 2000.



**Pictured above: Peter Vigient,  
2006 KDMF Memorial Scholarship award winner**

## E-mails Received

*Hi. I got a briefing from both of you this morning at Dover AFB. I just wanted to tell you thank you for having the strength to share your story. I think it hits people a lot harder and makes them realize the consequences of their actions when there is actually a victim standing in front of them and they can see the pain they went through first-hand. I've never had to deal with drunk driving personally, or lost anyone to it, so I can't even imagine the heartache and pain you have gone through. Just know that you are being thought of and prayed for daily, by more than a few people*

*I wanted to thank you so much for speaking at Bishop Gorman High School. Your presentation opened up my eyes to the destructiveness of drunk driving. Thank you so much for introducing us to Katie. Your presentation was heart breaking, but also life changing. It really helped me put things into perspective. Thank you so much for the bracelets and the bumper stickers. The clear beaded bracelet hangs around the rear view mirror of my car. I will always keep Katie, your family, and all those affected by drunk driving in my prayers.*



*I am a driver's education instructor and during the last class I was driving with a young girl the day after we showed "Left Behind." She told me how she just got in her mother's car and was quiet. Her mother asked her what was wrong and she said "I just broke down and cried" she had on her crystal hope bracelet and told me what an impact the video had made on her. I have seen this same response many times. I can't tell you how much the videos have impacted my students. Thank you.*

*I wanted to e-mail you to let you know your appearance at Dover AFB was very touching. I've got a 14 year old daughter who lives in Tennessee and living without her everyday is so hard. I see in your story that strength is the key to survival. I will be reunited with her in nine months when I retire for the Air Force. Thanks for the time you took to speak with us and good luck to you and the rest of your family in years to come.*

## Upcoming Event



**9th Annual  
KDMF Road Race  
June 8, 2008**

**Don't forget to update us with your  
e-mail address  
Thanks!!**



***... her life still shines***