

## His Last Attempt To Give Help

By: Devin Robichaud

The words were articulated, leaving our minds filled with questions and our souls feeling empty. It was an October night, approximately 7:10 pm. Calm and cool, just a regular relaxing Sunday for my family as we got ready for the upcoming week. Moments later the phone rang out and a short and discrete conversation occurred. A phone call that would forever change our lives.

The phone rang out and my mother saw the caller ID appear on the tv screen. It was my dad's brother so she walked upstairs and gave it to him. She expected it to be one of those usual calls, one in which they talk about fishing or hunting. But consequently, it wasn't. It was a call to inform us of the death of my 16-year-old cousin, Branden. My father walked down the hall and said "Branden was killed in a car accident." The words echoed in my head again and again. My family was in total shock. It seemed as if the world had just stopped. We were all wondering the same things. What happened? How? Why? The moment is forever locked in my memory.

Branden lived in Gorham with his father but spent most of his weekends with his grandparents; who were moreover the ones who truly raised and looked after him. Earlier that Sunday morning he had asked his grandfather if he could spend the day with his mother. At first, his grandfather was hesitant about it, but Branden insisted again and again that he should allow him to go. Subsequently, his grandfather allowed him to spend the day with his mother. He always wanted to be with his mother, she had problems with drinking and he wanted to help her. That afternoon Branden's help would seem to fall just short. He went to a bonfire with his mother and her boyfriend where she ended up drinking a lot, too much a matter of fact. But the amount doesn't matter, any amount of alcohol can cause damage, and that is exactly what it did. After a long afternoon of drinking, she got in the car and began to drive her son and her

boyfriend home. In the following minutes, her 16-year-old son's bright future would be no longer.

As she began to drive home fully intoxicated, the car they were traveling in had reached up to 85mph, a speed almost double the legal speed limit in the area. Unable to control the car for numerous reasons, all contributed to the fact of being under the influence of alcohol, the car went off the road and into a couple of trees. It was a horrifying sight. All that was left was shattered glass, bent metal, splintered trees, two dead bodies, and one person alive with the responsibility of all of it.

Branden was a 16-year-old junior in high school. Standing at 6 foot 4 and weighing over 200lbs, he was a gentle giant. He was an excellent football player and kept his grades up. He had planned on attending college at the University of Maine where he would continue his football career. Staying in Maine meant he could continue doing other activities he enjoyed, like hunting and fishing with his grandfather. His future was just as bright as the smile he had at school. Even though he seemed to have it all going in the right direction, in an instant it can take a turn for the worst.

Drinking does nothing good, it just causes problems and leads to disasters. Branden knew this, which is why he tried to give his mother the help she needed. Sadly, this was the last time he could try and give his mother the help she so greatly needed. She decided to drink and drive and as a consequence, her son and boyfriend were tragically killed. Accidents don't just happen, so make the right decision and don't drink and drive.