



Pheonix Matthew Woda

June 20, 2001 - July 17, 2015

Pheonix Matthew Woda (Cunningham) was a gift to this world and to his family, born on June 20, 2001. He pushed past the limits of his condition to show that anything can be achieved if you are willing to work for it. His radiant smile and boisterous laugh was contagious to everyone he came into contact with. Pheonix touched hearts with a soul that is true joy. He is truly a beautiful bird, giving hope and strength to everyone who had the great fortune to know him. Pheonix would not let his physical limitations stop him from experiencing everything this earthy life had to offer. He found great joy in hiking in the woods (the more bumpy and barely passable the better), fishing, swimming, ice and roller skating, sledding, Frisbee golf, playing baseball and basketball, bowling, walking his dogs, action movies, science and building, video games, music, cooking, gardening, reading books, computers, superheroes, playing the guitar, fast cars, flying kites, playing board games, and celebrations with his family. "Can't" was never an option for him. Please join us in celebrating this amazing soul and the powerful message he shared that even if obstacles stand in your way, there is always a way as long as you are willing to go for it. A gathering to celebrate his extraordinary spirit will be at his favorite park Blendon Woods at 630pm Wednesday, July 22 under the Dogwood shelter. The Pheonix Fund for adapted technology has been started at Colerain Elementary and individuals can donate in his name to help other children have the opportunities to learn and grow that he had. Donations to The Miracle League of Central Ohio can also be made to help support giving individuals

with disabilities an opportunity to play baseball.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pheonix Matthew Woda*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Denise- so sorry for your loss. You and Pheonix are in our thoughts and prayers.*

tom richner - August 03, 2015 at 03:37 AM



“ *Pheonix was one of a kind. He was so cute with his beautiful eyes and black dark hair I remember taking him with me a lot when we had a concert or assembly that he didn't like we would go in my room and play and laugh His laugh was the best. I loved him and he will be missed. LOVE Tina Wallace (Colerain)*

Tina Wallace - July 23, 2015 at 07:35 AM



“ *What a precious sweet child. I was blessed to spend time with Phoenix when I was principal at Colerain ES. His smile could just light up your day. My condolences to his wonderful family. God must have needed a very special angel. Much love coming your way...*

Doni Jackson - July 22, 2015 at 06:32 PM

KR

“ I'm so sorry for the loss of your beloved Pheonix. He had such a positive energy and infectious smile. I only met him once but enjoyed seeing him on Facebook. He really was an inspiration, never letting anything hold him back. I am thinking of you Denise. May he rest in peace.

Kelly Revilla - July 22, 2015 at 11:45 AM

MH

“ Pheonix had a smile that could brighten any room and a laugh that can make you forget your cares. I only saw you about once every 60 days but like the other people you touched I am a better person having witnessed your kind, soft smile. It was a pleasure having the opportunity to take care of you.

Michael Hodge - July 22, 2015 at 10:11 AM

 Micky Hannah

“ I remember Pheonix well as a much younger boy, I especially remember the day I met his little 4 legged pets and actually held one for the first time...thinking how cute they were. I got to watch for a moment in time as he met his challenges head on, always his precious Mama at his side, his love for you always so apparent. He was so charming then, I wish I could have known the young man he became. I am so sorry for the loss of your sweet boy, Denise.

Micky Hannah - July 21, 2015 at 06:02 PM

PH

“ I had the pleasure of having Pheonix on our Miracle League Baseball team for several years. He was always excited and enjoyed playing. He is truly an inspiration and a very special young man. He will be missed! -Peg Hart

Peg Hart - July 21, 2015 at 08:02 AM

NR

“ It is extremely hard for me to look at this without getting so emotional because I am still so very much in shock. I was Pheonix's nurse for a long time. I watched him grow, laugh, relay his wants, transition from TV show favorites to new TV show favorites and so much more. His laugh was so contagious. I remember always doing things just to make him laugh so that I could hear and see his smile. I remember taking long walks with him after school and how popular he was in the community. I watched as his family collectively made efforts to make sure that he knew he was loved and that his happiness was important. To Denise: you should know that watching you with Pheonix has helped me to be the mother I am today. To Bayless: watching you with Pheonix was a perfect image of what all fathers should be. I wish for peace and strength into your hearts at such a difficult time. Pheonix was a beautiful soul and his presence here on earth will never be forgotten. - Love, Nikeisha

Nikeisha Rumph - July 20, 2015 at 11:52 PM

 Kim Oswald

“ I never really met Phoenix but I know him through his Grandfather, Robert Woda. Bob would light up with his stories about him & how they would play games. My heart goes out to the entire family. I know how losing some one you love at such a young age is harder than anything. But he is with the Angels now, he's running & jumping, he's now no longer in pain. So my prayers to o all of you during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

Kim Oswald - July 20, 2015 at 07:53 PM

MC

“ I have not lived the life that Phoenix did! What an amazing and inspiring young man!! I pray for comfort for all of you during this difficult time. I love you all.

Misty Coleman - July 20, 2015 at 07:42 PM

MP

“ Phoenix was my favorite hockey fan. A sweet and funny boy. My condolences to his family.

Megan Pencek - July 20, 2015 at 05:04 PM

DA

“ Pheonix was a most special young man! I had the pleasure of working with him for several years at Colerain ES! His smile could light up the room...and I looked forward to seeing him every day! While he will be very much missed, I know he is now experiencing the wonder of total mobility...and I rejoice in that thought!
Donna Aldridge

Donna Aldridge - July 19, 2015 at 11:16 AM

DJ

What a sweet precious child! His beautiful smile could just make your day. I was blessed to have been with him at Colerain and my thoughts and prayers go to his family. Another very special angel has been added to God's kingdom.

Doni Jackson - July 20, 2015 at 01:50 PM

CA

SO very Special in my heart!! From when he would cry when he came into the gym at Colerain as a little boy--to smiling, laughing and enjoying music, fun games, and total chaos sometimes- in Adapted Physical Education Class. The most special times were when the family would be walking with Phoenix and their dogs at Woodward Park and stop by when I was teaching tennis. A special Family and A special love that is everlasting!!

Chris Althouse

Christine Althouse - July 20, 2015 at 10:40 PM

HK

Mrs. Bayless has been a positive role model to my daughter Mari ever since she met her when she was a 5th grader in Liberty elementary. Unfortunately I never met Phoenix, but everytime I heard about him from Mrs. Bayless or my daughter (summer over 7 years), I was reminded that the love Mrs. Bayless has toward Phoenix was a strong unconditional love full of energy and fun. He was a lucky child to have a mother like her.

Hiromi Kikuchi

Hiromi Kikuchi - July 22, 2015 at 03:24 PM