

September 15, 2008



On Mother's Day 2008, my son, Michael, brought home some little sunflower plants. As my husband hung the Sunflower Challenge sheet in the garage, he told our son how they would care for the plants and watch them grow big and tall over the summer, then send the pictures in.

On May 31st, Michael passed away suddenly from a car accident. He was four years old. He never got to see his sunflowers grow, but we kept our promise in caring for the sunflowers and are sending the photographs in his honor.

Each day I would see the sunflowers on the porch, starting as seeds, growing bigger, stronger and taller until they finally blossomed into beautiful flowers. I would look up to the heavens and hope that Michael was looking at his flowers' progress with pride smiling. He smiled so much.

In retrospect our son's life is symbolic of the beautiful sunflowers' life we were able to share, starting as a little seed, sprouting, growing, budding and blooming into a beautiful flower. Just as the sunflower's lifecycle ends, there's promise of its seeds starting the cycle again. The sunflower truly lives on.

Although dinosaurs were Michael's favorite toy in the world, we'd be honored with the donation in his name to the African Wildlife Foundation.

Thank you,

Donna Ptak