

Christina Jean Brooks Memorial Education Endowment Scholarship



Christina Jean Brooks, only child of Danny and Sheila Brooks, was born December 02, 1970 at Duncan Regional Hospital, Duncan, Oklahoma. She brought much joy and happiness to us throughout her life. She was heaven-sent and being her parents was an honor and blessing. She matured into a wonderful young lady and responsible adult.

Christina's life-long dream was to become a teacher. Had she lived, there is no doubt she would have achieved her goal; however, at the age of 22, her life tragically ended in a one vehicle crash, while traveling as a passenger.

To perpetuate the memory of our beloved daughter, we established the Christina Jean Brooks Memorial Scholarship at Duncan High School in 1993. The Scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating DHS Senior in the amount of \$2,000. A second memorial scholarship was established at Southern Nazarene University (SNU) and is the first largest individual scholarship offered through SNU School of Education. At SNU there are eight \$2,000 awards (\$16,000 per semester) presented in memory of Christina.

Christina had a gentle spirit, a kindhearted soul, was peace loving, tolerant, merciful, forgiving and always eager to assist others. She had a brilliant smile and an excellent disposition and was devoted to family and friends.

She was a third generation Nazarene and attended Oak Avenue Church of the Nazarene (OAN), in Duncan Oklahoma. Her paternal grandparents, Weldon A. and Stella R. Brooks, attended OAN since the early 1950's. Christina was an active church member since birth and as a teenager she assisted in the nursery and taught vacation bible school.

From a very young age she "played school" most every day. Being an only child, she was creative and easily entertained. Sitting at an old school desk/chair, Christina played both

teacher and student for hours at a time. She became acquainted with “Bam-Bam”, at age three, when the two served as flower girl and ring bearer at a family wedding. From that day forward, “Bam-Bam” became Christina’s imaginary friend and student when she played school. Vivid imagination and lots of fun. She loved reading books and acquired a large library as a member of multiple book clubs. She would mark the book pages and read one book then switch over to read another and often read as many as three books simultaneously.

She attended private pre-school in the home of Mrs. Jackie Collins. She was very mature for her age, which most likely developed from being around adults since there were no siblings. During this time, a collie breed female dog joined the family, and Christina happily named her “Candy.” The two enjoyed many delightful times and developed a strong bond of loyalty for one another.

Christina was very energetic throughout her school years participating in many academic and school sponsored activities while consistently maintaining a high GPA and honor roll. Studying piano for six years with Mrs. Vala Harmon and Mrs. Emma Lou Hall, she acquired several OMTA Certificates of Merit, District Achievements, at State level. Her piano studies prepared her to become piano accompanist for both DHS jazz band and DHS orchestra.

She developed a love for music and played numerous band instruments including the clarinet, bells, xylophone, marimba, chimes, bass drum and vibes. She also learned to write music for different instruments while recuperating from a severed nerve on the index finger of her right hand. She incurred the injury while preparing a surprise wedding anniversary dinner for her parents. She led the Duncan High School Band at the 1988 Disney World Parade as Disney commemorated their 100th Constitutional Bicentennial. She achieved All Region Honor Band (1986-1987), became a member of the All-State Marching Band at Oklahoma University (1988), lettered all four years at Duncan High School and received numerous Superior Ratings at Solo and Ensemble (1986-1989).

She was a member of Key Club, Junior and Senior Council, Future Homemakers of America, French Club (serving as Secretary-Treasurer), Students against Drunk Drivers (SADD), Young Democrats and Republicans, Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council, was selected to represent DHS sophomore class at Hugh O’Brien Youth Foundation Leadership Seminar and returned her junior year to serve as a Counselor. She was F.H.A. delegate to Cluster Meeting in Denver, Colorado, 1988 Girls State delegate in a citizenship program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. She also worked as the principal’s office aide.

She assisted Charlotte Carman to organize the first chartered membership for Duncan Juniorette Club in March, 1988. The organization was part of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs.

Christina served as a teen “candy striper” at Duncan Regional Hospital for three years, accumulating over 250 hours of volunteer service. She also worked after school (grades 9-12) as a Duncan Banner newspaper carrier. OAN Pastor Charles Stroud offered the North Duncan routes to Christina when he and his family prepared to relocate from Duncan. The Stroud’s had the routes for several years and wanted to ensure a dependable replacement for their faithful customers. As anticipated, Christina excelled and was awarded “Carrier of the Month” numerous times during her service tenure. Rain, shine, or ten inch snow drifts, the young lady faithfully delivered over two hundred newspapers every weekday afternoon and on Sunday mornings prior to church.

Upon high school graduation, Christina pursued her chosen field at Oklahoma State University majoring in Elementary Education. She was a member of the OSU marching band and served as Kriedler House secretary treasurer and chairman of the welcome committee.

In 2000, Dr. Jim Weaver, OAN member, referred to Christina as “the perfect teen” in his written memorial document, for the church’s 50 year anniversary celebration. As the oldest Brooks grandchild, she set a wonderful example for her younger cousin’s and church family.

Christina was truly an extraordinary young woman who possessed many admirable traits and qualities. The high values and work ethics instilled in Christina contributed to the kindness and conscientiousness she extended to others. Her desire and willingness to be involved in her school and community, as well as her dedication and enthusiasm, speak volumes about her true character. Christina was a rare and unique individual, who would have succeeded in whatever endeavor she pursued because she possessed the essential qualities. Truly her legacy will continue to inspire and positively impact the lives of many.

The following was a hand written verse which Christina had attached to her bedroom mirror and most surely read often:

This is the beginning of a new day God has given me this day to use as I will I can waste it or use it for good What I do today is important Because I am exchanging a day of my life for it When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, Leaving something I have traded for it. I want it to be gain; not loss Good; not evil Success; not failure In order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it.

Many have remarked that Christina accomplished more during her brief twenty two years than some individuals accomplish in a full life time. Her parents thank God for the blessing of being chosen as Christina’s earthly parents and for the wonderful memories. Their tight bond of loyalty and dedication remains today and always.

Christina Jean Brooks was rightfully named, **CHRISTINA**, and was a **true Believer in Christ!**

For graduating students applying for Christina's Memorial Scholarship, we thank you for taking time to learn more about the young lady for whom this Scholarship is established. This is why we request **an essay** be submitted in addition to the Scholarship application, to ensure applicants have insight into Christina's life.

We wish you much success and happiness as you embark on this new chapter in your life. Live each day to the fullest, pursue your goals and create your own unique, long-lasting legacy.

Congratulations and Best Wishes, Today and Always!!
Dan and Sheila Brooks