

Christina Jean Brooks Memorial Education Endowment Scholarship



Christina Jean Brooks, was the first born and only child of Danny and Sheila Brooks. Our daughter was born December 02, 1970 at Duncan Regional Hospital in Duncan, Oklahoma. This dainty six pound blessing of joy captured our hearts at first glimpse. To describe the attributes of our daughter is an easy task because she was perfect in every sense of the word. It was pure pleasure to nurture and observe Christina as she matured into a wonderful young lady and responsible adult.

Christina's life-long dream was to become a teacher and had she lived, there is no doubt she would have achieved her goal; however, at the age of 22, her life tragically ended. Christina was fatally injured on February 17, 1993, in a one vehicle crash in which she was traveling as a passenger.

To perpetuate the memory of our beloved daughter, we established the Christina Jean Brooks Memorial Education Endowment Scholarship in 1993. As of August, 2015, her Endowment Scholarship is the first largest individual scholarship offered through Southern Nazarene University, School of Education. To date, a total of two hundred seventy scholarships have been awarded in her memory. There have been two hundred forty eight awarded to Southern Nazarene University students and twenty two awarded to Duncan High School graduating seniors. DHS scholarships are awarded annually in the amount of \$1,000 and this past semester (fall, 2015) there were eight scholarships awarded at SNU in the amount of \$2,000 each.

Christina was beautiful inwardly as well as outwardly. She had a gentle loving spirit. She was kind-hearted, peace loving, tolerant, merciful, forgiving and totally devoted to family and friends. She had a brilliant smile, an excellent disposition and was always willing and eager to assist others.

She was a third generation Nazarene at 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 and during her teenage years she assisted in the nursery and taught vacation bible school. Shortly after her death, Christina's parents remodeled the church nursery in loving memory of their daughter. She loved babies and children and usually carried them around at every opportunity.

From a very young age Christina "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 the "pretend student" when she played school. Vivid imagination and lots of fun. She loved reading books, often multi-tasking by reading more than one book during the same time period. She would mark the pages and read one book then switch over to read another and sometimes read as many as three books simultaneously. She accumulated quite a library of books over the years, as member of several book clubs.

Christina attended a private pre-school in the home of Mrs. Collins for two years prior to kindergarten. She was very mature for her age, which most likely developed from being around adults since there were no siblings. She was happy, a real

sweetheart and wore a big smile across her face most always. In 1975 Miss Candy joined the Brooks family. The female dog was a mixture of border collie, german shepherd and coyote. Christina was elated and happily named her new pet, "Candy." The two enjoyed many delightful times and developed a strong bond of loyalty for one another, becoming best of friends!

Christina was very energetic throughout her school years participating in numerous academic and school sponsored activities, all the while maintaining a high GPA and consistently making the honor roll. She studied piano for six years with Mrs. Vala Harmon and Emma Lou Hall, earning several OMTA Certificates of Merit in District Achievements at state contests. Her piano studies prepared her to later become the Duncan High School jazz band and orchestra piano accompanist.

She developed a love for music enabling her to play numerous band instruments including the clarinet, bells, xylophone, marimba, chimes, bass drum and vibes (percussion). She also learned to write music for different instruments while recuperating from a severed nerve on the index finger of her right hand, an injury that occurred while preparing a surprise wedding anniversary dinner for her parents (August 1988). She participated in the Blue Bonnet Bowl at Houston, Texas (1985), was a member of the All Star Marching Band at Oklahoma University (1988), marched and led the DHS Band at the 1988 Disney World Parade as they commemorated the 100th Constitutional Bicentennial, made All Region Honor Band (1986-1987), lettered all four years at Duncan High School (1985-1989) and received 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 and Student Council. She was selected sophomore class representative to attend the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation Leadership Seminar and returned her junior year to serve as a HOBY Counselor. She was F.H.A. delegate to the Cluster Meeting in Denver, Colorado and was selected as 1988 Girls State delegate in a citizenship program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. She also worked in the principal's office as an 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 (1985-1989). Rain, shine, or two foot snow drifts, the young lady faithfully delivered newspapers' to over two hundred customers every afternoon and on Sunday's.

Upon high school graduation, Christina attended Oklahoma State University pursuing her career 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 documentation for the church's 50th year anniversary celebration.

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 these essential qualities. Truly her legacy will continue to inspire and positively impact the lives of many.

Several have remarked that Christina accomplished more during her brief twenty two years than most individuals accomplish during a full life time. She was very determined, dedicated and energetic.

We are thankful for the blessing of being chosen as Christina's earthly parents and our tight bond of loyalty and dedication remain strong, today and always. Our family of three enjoyed twenty-two wonderful years together. **Christina is forever, the love of our lives.**

The following was a hand written verse which Christina had attached to her bedroom mirror and most surely read at the beginning of each day:

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.

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.

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!!

Dan and Sheila Brooks