



## *The Stephanie Lake Children's Fund*

On Christmas Eve in 1976, a wonderful gift arrived for Jeff and Cheryl Lake of Newburgh. Stephanie Lynn Lake entered this world with bright red hair and a sparkle in her powder blue eyes that seemed to say, "Look out world, here I come!"

"We used to teasingly blame Stephanie's nature on her red hair but came to realize it was just the first hint of passion she held in her heart," said the Lakes. "We always knew that this energetic toddler and typically argumentative teenager would make a difference in the lives of many people. No one could stop this champion of underdogs, and there was no holding back the flood of compassion and love that grew within her and would spill over onto all she met."

The Lakes lost their beloved daughter when she passed away at the tender age of twenty-eight. But in her short life, Stephanie did make a difference in the lives of others.

After attending Castle High School, Stephanie went on to graduate summa cum laude from the University of Kentucky. She earned her master's degree in social work from the University of Chicago and then took a position with the Joseph Academy in Chicago, where she worked with teenagers with behavioral problems. She was known as a social worker with endless love and patience for her students.

Work was very important to Stephanie, but equally important were her friends and family. They remember her as a fountain of energy for others. Friends say she would wear herself out, spend her last dime on others, drive hundreds of miles—whatever it took to show her caring, loving attitude. Stephanie's parents and sister, Allison, cherish wonderful memories of her.

"Taking care of others was Stephanie's goal in life," explained her parents, "and now her memory and zeal for helping others will live on with the Stephanie Lake Children's Fund," said the Lakes. They established the fund in 2005 with the Warrick County Community Foundation to support programs for children at the Carver Community Organization in Evansville.