

LIFE FOREST

never charges
for a child 



BY MARY BEAN

Valentine's Day. A day when we send our children to school with small notes of affection to pass out to their classmates. A day we acknowledge those that we love; their presence in our lives and the roles that they play. A day of giving and receiving.

But for Stacy Adams, Valentine's Day is the day her daughter Arianna was killed. Arianna was struck by a truck in a tragic accident on the heart of West Main street in the small community of Hillsborough. Arianna was 20-years-old and she was just embarking on her jour-

ney through life. Arianna's quick and tragic death resonated within the community. Small communities come with big hearts, and people came together to support and mourn the loss of one of their own.

Arianna left behind two younger brothers, one of which is Airic. While out riding his bike one afternoon Airic happened upon Life Forest. Led by his curiosity and perhaps a higher power, Airic rode his bike down the long gravel drive to find the Life Forest burial ground. He had always known that his mother and family wanted a burial spot for his sister as well as a tree planted, and it seemed that he had found the place that it could happen.

Late that night he found the Life Forest website, and used the chat feature to reach out to Life Forest, asking, "What is your cheapest tree? My sister died on Valentine's Day last year and I want to buy her a tree and be able to bury her. I found you while riding my bike with my friend."

What Life Forest's

ing children.

Life Forest does that by never charging to bury a child, as well as providing education and support to children who have lost a caregiver. Not income dependent, just the moral thing to do, Life Forest has tied-in with the non-profit "Children's Burial Assistance, Inc.," and will work with families to ensure that any child up to the age of 20 years old has a respectful, deed recorded burial giving honor to lives cut short, and providing a lasting legacy within Life Forest Conservation Cemetery.

Airic spent his summer giving back to Life Forest by helping to mow the lawn and water the flowers. He showed up with pride, paid respects to his older sister who is buried there, and greeted Life Forest land with love. This we believe is the ultimate in Valentine's Day sentiment; and the most beautiful way of celebrating this day of giving and receiving.

"At Life Forest, my Arianna finally has a beautiful place to rest in peace," said Stacy Adams, Arianna's mother.

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Valentine's Day celebrated at SAU 24 schools

Press release

SAU 24 Learn at Home teacher Sue Fountain has been trying different ways to reach out to her Learn at Home students with a personal touch all year. Fountain teaches 4th and 5th-grade students from Henniker Community School, Center Woods Elementary, James Faulkner Elementary, and Center Woods Upper Elementary.

"My students are learning 100 percent remotely and it can be hard and so isolating. I teach math and science, but I think it's important to bring them some of the personal connections that would occur if they were at school in a traditional classroom along with the academic lessons," said Fountain.

Some of her ideas of how to connect sprang from when she read the book *From Me to You* to students. It's a story about a rat who is lonely until one day an anonymous note written on bright paper changes everything and shows how far a little love can go.

"It made me think, who doesn't like to get mail? So, I bought some red enve-

lopes and wrote a letter to all my students about how much I liked being their teacher and mailed them home," said Fountain. "I heard from parents and students alike. They loved it!"

Fountain has continued to mail letters and notes home to all her 44 students about twice a month. One time it was a bookmark project.

"I sent each student a bookmark-sized white card and asked them to write down five or so things that help them get rid of stress with my examples of what helps me (take a nap, listen to music, look or go outside, enjoy nature, etc.). I included a self-addressed envelope addressed to me at school so they could return them to be laminated," Fountain explained.

Up next, Valentine's Day. Mrs. Fountain has offered students who want to participate in the opportunity to drop off at school a Valentine for each of their classmates. She plans to sort them all, bag them up, and get them to the intended students.

"Valentine messages are so sweet and uplifting. When a parent asked how we might celebrate Valentine's Day, I knew I had to figure it out," Fountain said.



Remote Learning teacher Sue Fountain found a way for students to send actual, not virtual, Valentines to their school friends. (courtesy photo)



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— Stacy Adams, Arianna's mother

EVERGREEN MEMORIAL GROVE

In the presence of a beautiful evergreen tree, a single cremation grave (sold per person or pet) in our Evergreen Memorial Grove provides natural, in-ground burial with nearby memorialization that links to your remembrance page.

Single cremation burial plot pricing includes a Life Forest celebration post, deed recorded burial records and coordinates, an on-site QR code link to your remembrance page, and membership to the Life Forest Community - \$850



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