

DONOR STORIES

BRETT BERGSTROM

“Brett Bergstrom Memorial Fund”

Brett Bergstrom’s character and goodness derived in many ways from strong family and community ties within the Cedar Valley. Through the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, his family has memorialized his ideals, values, and the interests that characterized his life.

Born 1973 in Cedar Rapids to Robert E. and Mary Schlenger Bergstrom, Brett grew to become a strong, rugged, and sensitive man who cared deeply about life. While he competed in sports and participated in many extra curricular activities throughout his school years, he really distinguished himself most in creative areas and trade skills.

From a very early age, Brett displayed sensitivities and abilities that would continue to develop and later mark him as a true artisan. From his drawings and sketch making to his woodworking accomplishments, he was ever and always involved in developing his craft. Working after school hours at a lumberyard and working part-time in home building projects, he eventually established his own remodeling business.

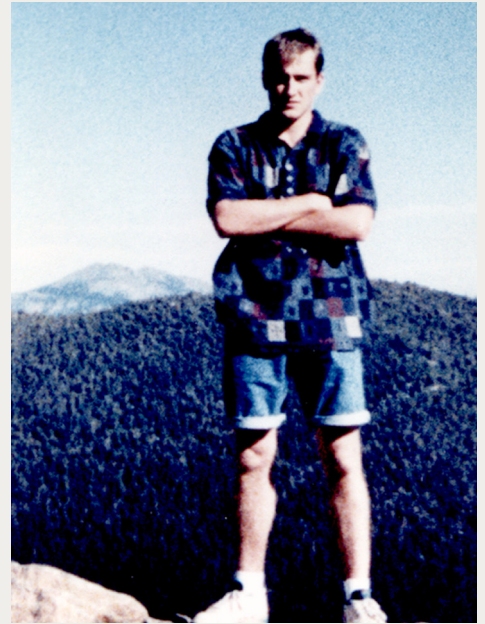
The skills that Brett developed enabled him to be of great service to the communities in which he lived. At the time of his passing in 1993 at the age of twenty, he was only just beginning to realize the fullness of his capabilities and potential.

“A powerful work ethic, dedication to common good sense, and a call to ply his skills as a tradesman, left a mark on all those who knew him.”

He leaves behind many friends and family in the Cedar Valley, as well as family and friends in Missouri where he attended high school and college. A powerful work ethic, dedication to common good sense, and a call to ply his skills as a tradesman, left a mark on all those who knew him.

Although Brett spent most of his years outside of the Cedar Valley community, his connection to roots in Northeast Iowa is significant. From the 1870s on, a certain number of his forbears and their

families called the Cedar Valley home. Among five prior generations of family in Black Hawk County there have been health care professionals, educators, ministers, farmers, laborers, merchants, managers, engineers, businessmen and tradesman. In a certain sense, this memorial honoring Brett’s memory is therefore a tribute to Cedar Valley origins.



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Grants from the Brett Bergstrom Memorial Fund will go to projects that benefit teens and young adults, environmental causes, and/or building programs such as Habitat for Humanity. These are the things Brett cared about. From his interests in home building and construction to planting saplings and trees as a young 4-H member, to his enjoyment of the spirit of teamwork and competition, this memorial reflects the spirit that so enlivened Brett's presence among us.

Roots planted in the soil of honesty, integrity and hard work. Stem and stalk fortified and derived of earnestness, decency, and love. Character and mettle built on compassion. It is his family's hope that such qualities be recognized and rewarded in this community, and furthered and promoted through this fund as a memorial in Brett's name.

***Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.*