

JAMES MICHAEL WHITINGER

FUND

A FUND OF THE



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2005



You certainly do not have to be an adult to make an impact in your community or to leave a mark on the world; in fact, a person can be eleven years old and make a difference for good, a difference forever. For the community of Elma, James (or Jimmy as he was affectionately called by family and friends) did just that.

On October 29, 1967, Joe and Kathy Whiting were blessed with the birth of a son, James Michael Whiting. Joe and Kathy had moved to Elma, Iowa, in January of that same year. They were very active community citizens, operating a number of businesses in Elma and the surrounding area.

Jimmy and his brothers and sister attended the Elma Elementary School where he participated in various athletic programs. Jimmy really enjoyed playing baseball with his friends on the field at the Elma School and in the local city park. He also enjoyed being a Boy Scout and was very responsible in caring for his younger brothers and sister.

Jimmy regularly attended religion classes in Elma and was chosen as a "Student of The Week," quite an achievement for an elementary school student!

One school year, his class took a trip to Des Moines to tour the State Capitol. While on the class trip he had his picture taken with then Iowa Congressman Charles Grassley, something he was so proud to do. He was so impressed and inspired by his experiences that day that, when he returned home, he wrote to then Governor Robert Ray about his dream and plans to be the Governor of Iowa one day.

Unfortunately, his dream of being Governor was never met as James "Jimmy" Michael Whiting passed away on April 29, 1979 as a fifth grader. Everyone has always remembered him by his special smile and caring attitude toward others.

As a way to honor Jimmy's memory and to carry on his caring spirit, the Whiting family decided to establish the James Michael Whiting Fund through the Elma Area Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Northeast Iowa. This unrestricted fund will provide opportunities for the Elma Area through a variety of programs including children's initiatives and other local efforts.

Jimmy certainly made his mark on his family, his friends, and his community. Now, the spirit and memory of such a young, devoted Iowan will continue to impact members of the Elma Area forever. Who would have thought that an eleven-year-old child would accomplish so much in life and even more after his death!

ONLINE GIFTS CAN BE MADE TO THE JAMES MICHAEL WHITINGER FUND AT CFNEIA.ORG. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS FUND, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST IOWA AT 319-287-9106.