

By Danielle Ray

Everyone has heard the phrase 'Life Can Change in an Instant', but to truly understand what that means you just have to ask the family of Kurt Kelly.

Kurt, a Westford family man originally from Chelmsford, was driving home on September 21, 2012 on I-495 from work at his family's business, Specialized Plating in Haverhill, when he was hit by an airborne car and killed. He left behind his beloved wife Amy, and his 7-month-old son Brady; Amy and Kurt would have celebrated three years of wedded bliss in October.

"Kurt meant the world to our family," said his brother Eric Kelly, who added that Amy is "struggling" but that their son Brady is "helping her get through this".

Kurt was an avid hockey fan who grew up eating, breathing, and living hockey. Enrolling at a young age in the Learn to Skate program in Chelmsford sparked a love for the sport that propelled him through eight years of traveling teams and high school.

As Kurt got older, his passion for the game of hockey only grew stronger as he continued to play in local men's leagues and tournaments with his father, brothers, and some of his former youth hockey teammates. An avid Boston Bruins fan, Kurt attended many of their games throughout the years, including the winning Game 6 of the B's 2011 Stanley Cup Series.

Kurt forged friendships through hockey that lasted his lifetime, and so it seemed only natural this his family would set up the Kurt Kelly Hockey Memorial Fund in the wake of the tragedy. The fund was created to honor the life of Kelly and will provide scholarships to young players in order to pay for the high costs of hockey, including dues and equipment.

Upon hearing about the Kelly family's heartbreak, the Greg Hill Foundation did not hesitate to step up to help and decided to donate \$5,000 to the Kurt Kelly Memorial Hockey Fund.

"The donation of \$5000 into this fund was extremely generous and will go to help many youth hockey players in the town of Chelmsford," Eric said.

Although the scholarships have not been finalized, Eric said the family will be working with the Chelmsford Youth Hockey Association to determine the needs and act accordingly.

Kurt was the youngest son of Paul and Anita Kelly, who were two of his biggest supporters cheering him on at the countless hockey games he played in. Along with his parents, Kurt's three older brothers, Eric, Dean, and Brad, are committed to honoring Kurt's legacy through the Kurt Kelly Memorial Hockey Fund.

"The entire Kelly family is eternally grateful for the Greg Hill Foundation's generosity," said Eric. "I know this fund has helped many families such as ours cope with such devastating loss."

For more information on the Kurt Kelly Hockey Memorial Fund visit www.charitysmith.org, click on memorial funds and the Kurt Kelly Hockey Memorial Fund is at the bottom of the page.