

Gone Too Soon

Caitlin Brondolo was just 12 years old when she died. This little girl, who adored golf and loved to paint, was excited to stay the night with her best friend, Amber Wilson, on May 31, 2009. Caitlin and Amber died that night of carbon monoxide poisoning in Amber's house.

Her family's world hasn't been the same since.

But her mother, Jill Brondolo of West Boca Raton, is resilient. Though she admits there are days when her heart yearns for her oldest daughter, there are also days when she's ready to tackle life and continue her journey of healing. And what better way to do that than through the Caitlin Brondolo Foundation.

The foundation, which started in 2009, focuses on a collegiate golf scholarship created in Caitlin's honor. Golf was one of Caitlin's passions and she often played on the course at Broken Sound Club in Boca Raton.

Today, that course holds tournaments to raise money in honor of the beautiful brown-haired child who had such a bright future.

The foundation awards \$2,500 to one student a year who has a good academic record and intends to play for a college golf team. It also raises funds to purchase carbon monoxide detectors, which are given to new parents after their babies are born at Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

Brondolo credits her Christian faith for getting her through the last few years.

"I've always had faith in knowing that God's hands are in everything and allows certain things that we don't necessarily understand," she says. "That gives me hope in knowing he ultimately has a plan for our life and knows how to use things for good."



FAMILY FOREVER:
Jill Brondolo, with
a picture of
daughter Caitlin



The foundation is a way to do just that. It helps those who loved Caitlin grieve while assisting young adults in beginning their exciting path into adulthood.

Caitlin would have been a high school senior this year. Her mother admits it's difficult to think about. She wonders what her daughter would have wanted to do after graduation.

She wonders a lot of things.

And when those thoughts begin to flood her mind, she sometimes finds solace sitting in Caitlin's room, which has basically been left untouched since the day she died. Her golf trophies and stuffed animals are still on shelves. Her paintings still decorate her bulletin board.

Though Caitlin is gone, the little things let her family feel close to her. Like part of their little girl is still here.

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— Jill Brondolo,
Caitlin Brondolo Foundation

For more information about the Caitlin Brondolo Foundation, call 561-350-9906 or visit caitlinfoundation.org.