



Brian Herzog

August 4, 1961 - February 2, 2011

If you are reading this my life's journey is complete. And what a journey it has been. My name is Brian M. Herzog. I lived in Hazelhurst, WI and died on Feb. 2, 2011 at the age of 49.

I was born on August 4, 1961 in Manitowoc, son of Clyde Herzog and Dawn McNamara Herzog. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1979, I had the wonderful experience of working on the crew that built the first eighteen holes of Blackwolf Run golf course in Kohler. It satisfied my love of operating heavy equipment. For the next 24 years I was self-employed as an automobile wholesaler in Libertyville, IL. I enjoyed the fast pace and exciting challenge of buying and selling cars and the friendships I made with the dealerships in Libertyville. This was the perfect occupation for me.

On October 19, 1991 I married Laurie Schwartz, the love of my life and tireless supporter. From 1992 until 2006 we lived a wonderful life in Grayslake, IL. Our three children were born there. In 2006, Laurie and I purchased Home Xpressions, a furniture store in Minocqua, WI. I had always wanted to live on a lake in northern Wisconsin so this move and our new business was a dream come true. But the best of plans can go awry. In August of 2007, I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. With this devastating news our lives changed. My wife, Laurie, became responsible for operating our store. I am proud of the excellent job she has done and I know she will continue to do so. I want to express my gratitude to all of our families, friends, neighbors,

customers and all of the great people I have come to know. You brought food, you drove my children, you hunted with my son, you spent time with me, you called. Without your concern, the quality of my life and that of my family's could not have been sustained. Very special friends Mary Fried and Dee Dee and Jack Frost were always there for us day in and day out. God bless you all. I need to acknowledge my doctors and friends in oncology at the Marshfield Clinic, the staff at Howard Young and the Dr. Kate Hospice. Hope is a wonderful thing. You always provided it.

Eventually, I had to make peace with the fact that cancer would take my life. I had been diligently working the best plan I could to fight it, if I died at least I would feel I fought the good fight and gave it my all.

Brian

January 21, 2011

Brian Herzog is survived by his wife, Laurie, His children Lindsey, Kate and Erik, his mother, Dawn Herzog, sisters Kim (Brian) Brown, Kerry (Todd) Weishoff, brothers, Jeffrey Herzog, Kirk (Debbie) Herzog, Tim (Lisa) Herzog: in-laws Richard and Diane Rohrer, Rivian (Jim) Hatt, Robin (Kory) Brockman, and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Clyde Herzog and his father in-law Irwin Schwartz.

Brian was loved by many and touched the lives of those he met. Brian was the anchor of our family. His love, generosity and fierce tenacity were always present in everything he did, right to the very end. You could not find a more dedicated father and husband than Brian. His children were one of his greatest joys. He taught his children, through his words and actions, the meaning of hard work, character, love, and responsibility. He always stood behind his wife and family and loved them more than anything. We will forever be grateful for the strong example he set forth, his perseverance, kindness and love. He will be greatly missed!

A celebration of Brian's life will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church, 8950 Cty Road J, Woodruff, WI. Visitation will be 5:00-8:00pm on Friday, Feb. 4 and on Saturday, Feb. 5 from 9:30-11:00am. A mass will be held at 11:00 with lunch following.

Reinbold and Pfeffer Family Funeral Service, Manitowoc, in conjunction with Bolger Funeral Home, Minocqua, are serving the Herzog Family.

Memorial donations would be appreciated in Brian's name to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (Research), 1500 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, or Holy Family Catholic Church Building Fund or Dr. Kate Hospice, Woodruff, WI 54568.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Our shared time was valued and much too short. brian's life attitude was inspiring.
we're nearby, anytime.

joe,linda, pam,ron,mark, and cedar and even kauba

joe mastalski - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

JJ

“ Brian, I will never forget the gift you gave to the Minnesota gals and I in December. Even though your life was winding down, you unselfishly thought of your wife and others. It was a weekend that touched my heart - a weekend so special- I will never forget. Laurie, my love and prayers go out to you and the family. Our 25+year friendship is one of my most cherished gifts. You hold a special place in my heart always. I am always here for you.

Jeanne Jones - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

MM

“ Laurie, Lindsey, Kate and Eric ~ There are no words that can express our sadness for the loss of your wonderful husband and father. He was a true friend and his spirit & memory will live on in us all. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

*Much love to you all,
The Meland's*

Michaelle Meland - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

BH

“ Laurie, Lindsey, Kate and Erik,
We are so sorry for your loss and want you to know that our family will always be there for yours. You are all truly incredible and I admire you Laurie for holding your family together during Brian's strong and courageous fight. Please let us know if theres anything we can do for you, any of you..... You're all such an inspiration to us. Our prayers are with you that time will mend your broken hearts.
Becky, Curt, Brandon and Brett

Becky Howard - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

“ Brian, I and my husband, Dave, came to know you just before you received the news you had cancer. You and your wife were working with us to design and build your home in Hazelhurst -- to complete Brian's dream of living on a lake here in northern Wisconsin. It was an exciting time for the family because they had been living in temporary housing and the new house was just weeks from commencing.

Then, you started to feel poorly, went to the doctor and were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

How devastating. After deciding to change your life; move your beautiful family from Illinois to the northwoods; buy that property on that lake and build your dream home, you're diagnosed with cancer just before you break ground.

My husband and I assumed, given the news, you and your family would decide it was in everyone's best interests to put things on hold. But, rather, you decided to move forward through the year long process. You privately told my husband that you wanted to move forward because it was important to you that your family had a home. You indicated you promised them you'd build them a home so that was what you were going to do regardless of what your short-term future was to be.

Through the next 12 months, you showed great strength and determination. There were days and weeks, after treatments, you were extremely weak and tired--we didn't think you could continue on; but, you kept charging forward. You were determined to get the project complete--you were concerned not for yourself but only for the well being of your family. That was apparent to us and we were extremely impressed by that and with you.

Now that you are gone, you will surely be missed by not only us but also by your family and friends. Rest assured my husband, Dave, will stand by his promise to you when you privately took him aside

and asked him to make sure Laurie and your family could always depend on us to take care of your home should you lose the battle your were fighting. God bless you -- we will miss you.

Lisa Moore - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

RS

“ Laurie, Lindsey, Kate and Erik,

We are so sorry for your loss. Anytime I saw Brian, he always had a smile on his face and such a positive outlook. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Renee, Rick, Kevin and Matt

Renee Schlichter-Domini - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

JM

“ Dear Laurie and family,

We feel we've known you through our daughter, Michaelle and feel such sorrow at the loss of such a fine young man who has shown himself to be a great husband and father. You can be proud of how much he is loved for that says multitudes about Brian. And now, after such long illness, he rests in peace.

Margo and Jack Mettler

Jack and Margo Mettler - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

SJ

“ Laurie and family,
We are saddened to hear of Brian's death. His self written obituary was very touching. But none the less very "Brian". We can not imagine your sorrow. We are very fortunate to have known him. We are also very fortunate to know your whole family through our relationship with Lindsey. You and your children are in our prayers and know that Brian's strength and love will help you all through the bad days. Thinking of you all.

Susan and David Jaster - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

RD

“ Brian you were a great friend and I sure enjoyed going to those couple Packer Games with you and tailgating in sub arctic temps at Lambeau Field.

Rusty Dinsmore - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM

MA

“ While I realize I am oh so late in writing these words of comfort, I hope they will still be valued as I put my heart into writing them. Kirk and family, I am so sorry to hear of the death of your loved one, Brian. Reading his letter touched me so and I was so glad to hear of the life he lived. I am so sorry that such a young life was touched by such a horrible disease that eventually took his life. He clearly had much to live for and much more to do. But it was so comforting to read of the many "loves" he had in his life and the value he placed on what his life had to offer. Such an inspirational man. Please know that my prayers and thoughts are with you all as you have recently recognized the anniversary of his death. I wish you all peace and comfort in your memories of times spent with Brian and I hope it helps to know that others share your burden of sadness and loss right along with you. Love and hugs to you all.

Michelle (VeZain) Atchison - March 22, 2013 at 11:53 AM