

Abigail Hope Dahlen

April 9, 2008 – April 11, 2010 (today is exactly 3 years from her angel day)

Abigail Hope's story begins on April 9, 2008. Abigail met the world with passion and enthusiasm. She was Brandy and Michael Dahlen's fourth child and second daughter that they had been praying for; a sister for Anna Faith and another chance to use girly hair bows and dresses. Abigail blessed the Dahlen family with much love, joy and direction. "To say Abigail was bossy isn't entirely accurate, she was THE boss, but we were all happy with it that way" her mother, Brandy Dahlen, remarks lovingly.

April 11th, 2010 was a beautiful spring Sunday, only two days after Abigail's 2nd birthday. It was the first day of sunshine after a long period of rain. The Dahlen family had a peaceful day together, enjoying church and an afternoon t-ball game. Later that afternoon, Mom and Dad divided their childcare duties. Michael stayed home with 3 of the children and Brandy took their oldest child and 5-week-old baby to an event.

Abigail was inside the home with her father and the older kids were playing ball in the yard. Unbeknownst to her father, Abigail slid out the front door to play. Abigail chased the ball into my neighbor's driveway, tripped and fell at the same time a teenage neighbor got into his SUV and proceeded to back out of the driveway. Not seeing Abigail in the driveway, he backed over her.

Abigail was temporarily revived at the hospital long enough for her mother to arrive, but the damage to her brain was extensive and the doctors could do no more. Abigail died 5 minutes after Brandy arrived at the hospital.

The Dahlen family's world stopped that day. They had to tell their other children they would never again play with their sister. They had to find a way to exist in a world without their "spunky one."

Abigail's story doesn't end with her tragic loss. Her family wanted to find a way to still share her passion for life with the world. The Dahlen family, including all seven of their children, pushed forward to honor their little Abigail. They have worked closely with KidsAndCars.org to prevent other families from experiencing the heart-breaking loss of a child due to a backover tragedy.

Their oldest son, Nathan's Eagle Scout project was a family event where he worked to educate their community about the preventable tragedy that took the life of his sister... or as Nathan says, "his best friend."

Contact Information:

Michael & Brandy Dahlen (Abigail's Parents)
Pelham, AL
Michael Cell: (205) 422-1936
Brandy Cell: (205) 422-1748
Brandy Email: bldahlen@aol.com

