

## Autumn Danchanko

*June 14, 2009 - October 29, 2011*

Autumn Lynn Danchanko was born on June 14, 2009. Her family does not speak of the date she passed because it is just too painful. She is and always will be their "baby cakes", a bright beautiful 2-year-old girl; that now calls heaven her home. Commonly known as "OoutieScootie" she hugged, kissed and loved complete strangers. She inspired everyone she met. She had a love for all of god's creatures; frogs, snakes, spiders, worms and especially caterpillars (even though she was allergic). Always touching and holding each of them with love.

Autumn adored her big brother, Daric, mimicking everything big "brodder" did, as Autumn called him. Daric was seven when he lost his sister, and her loss changed his life forever.

Autumn's parents Eric and Dana, never imagined they would be the ones that would lose one of their children. They have heard stories of similar loss but "that" would never happen to them.



It was a chilly October day in 2011, heavy wet "snowman snow" covered the ground about six inches deep. Dana had Eric running all around the house setting up food, drinks and games. The last thing to do was blow up tubes for sled riding. Guests began to arrive while Eric remained in the basement inflating tubes. Dana was in the garage greeting people as they arrived. Autumn's Uncle Chris pulled his truck closer to the garage to let his uncle, who had recent knee surgery, out of the vehicle.

Chris was unaware of the eighty-one (81) foot blindzone behind his 2009, Ford F-150 truck. Unable to see that Autumn had run behind the vehicle, Uncle Chris backed over her. In late October, during this beautiful snowy Halloween party, the unthinkable did happen, Autumn was taken to heaven at the early age of two.

Everyone worked to save Autumn. The paramedics, the firemen, the ambulance workers, the hospital staff. ... Their efforts were heroic but God needed her.

The events of that day changed the Danchanko family's lives forever. In the days and weeks following the accident, Autumn's family did not know how they could continue on without Autumn Lynn.

They quickly found they were not alone. They learned that the lack of visibility behind all types of vehicles not only took the life of their beloved baby girl, it takes the life two children per week on average. The Danchankos work to raise awareness of the danger of vehicle blindzones to honor their little angel and with hopes that their efforts could save the life of other children.

The Danchanko family continues to preserve their daughter's legacy, celebrate her spirit and give back to the community. Laying a child to rest is the most devastating thing anyone could face and they want others to know that they are not alone in their struggle. Through faith in God, Autumn's family has started a non-profit organization called "Autumn's Angels Foundation".

The Mission of the foundation: Provide comfort, support and a place of tranquility for those who mourn the loss of a child and children who have lost an immediate family member; encourage faith in God to inspire the souls of the brokenhearted; revitalize play areas and create areas of beautification in memory of children who have passed; foster health, fitness and education for surviving family members.

The Vision of the foundation: The vision is to provide a common place where people can relieve their pain with unrestricted access – a place that's always available to anyone mourning the loss of a child or to any children who have lost an immediate family member.

Contact Information:

Eric Danchanko (Autumn's Father)

Ebensburg, PA

814-341-1583

[EDanchanko@hflenz.com](mailto:EDanchanko@hflenz.com)