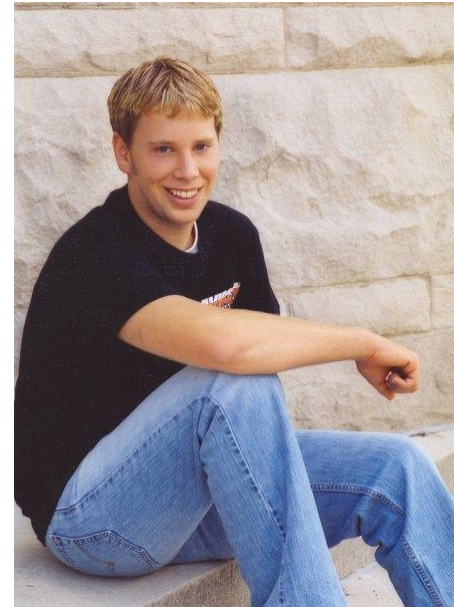


The Jayson McCalla Memorial Fund

In rural communities across the country, there are often certain hobbies and trades that are treated with the upmost importance. In Fulton County, baseball and farming are highly respected. For Jayson McCalla, these were the things that helped him gain a well-known face and a grand reputation throughout the Rochester area. Citizens of the community remember him for his constant bright-smiling face and loving nature.

Jayson's father, Harold, has been a farmer in the Rochester area since 1974 and both Harold and Jayson's mother, Donna, have been Rochester residents for their entire lives. From the time Jayson was born in 1985, he was said to have been, "A fun-loving kid who loved life and had one of the brightest smiles you will ever find."



Jayson McCalla had a strong passion for baseball. He found that it was a way to bond with his father, who was his Little League coach when he was a young boy. Before graduating from Tippecanoe Valley High School in 2004, Jayson played baseball all four years of high school, along with playing football his freshman year.

After graduation, Jayson attended Vincennes University where he planned on majoring in History Education. After his first year, he found he could not be away from the Rochester area and his family, so he returned home and received a job at Lau Industries. He worked as a painter for this company and was spoken very highly of by his employers because of his hard-work and positive attitude.

Jayson was tragically killed in a car accident in 2006, all-too-young at the age of 21. After his accident, his classmates and those who knew him best spoke only of how he loved life and how he could brighten a room with his contagious smile. Shortly after his death, his parents were approached by Harold's sister, Judy, and her husband, Barry, about starting a memorial scholarship in Jayson's name. They founded the scholarship with help from the Northern Indiana Community Foundation and memorial contributions in 2007. The scholarship goes towards students in any Fulton County high school who are not at the top of their class grade-wise. A special consideration is also given to those who play baseball.

"The scholarship has been very rewarding for us," Harold said. "It is a way for us to keep his name alive."

Through the Jayson McCalla Memorial Scholarship, Jayson's memory will forever be remembered by Fulton County residents. His good-natured ways and bright smile will never fade, and he will be able to continue helping high school graduates forever in the community that he loved so much.