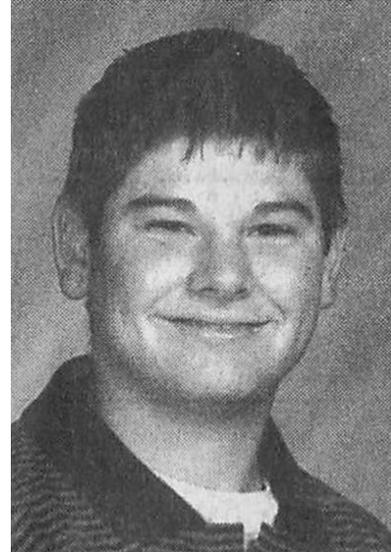


The Steven Bruce Mattice Memorial Scholarship

Steven Bruce Mattice, son of Bruce and Sara Mattice, tragically passed away in May of 1999 due to injuries sustained during an ATV accident. Steven was only 14 at the time of his passing, and had just entered the teenage years of life. He was just discovering his gift of athletic ability and his way of making people feel welcomed with his great smile and humor. His enthusiasm for living and doing things at the best of his ability were some of his greatest characteristics, and what his parents remember most about him.



After Steven's passing, many members of the community could still feel his presence. Reminders of casual encounters, long time friendships, chance meetings, and new relationships often flourished thanks to the visual memory of his smile and his easy to talk to demeanor. Classmates and those who knew him jumped on the chance to help relieve Bruce and Sara's pain. They sent cards and letters and even helped around the Mattice household by cooking and cleaning. There also was a special memorial service held in Muncie a few weeks after the funeral service. The way the community came together to help a family that had only lived in the county for a couple of months was astonishing, as a results, the Mattice family decided that it was their responsibility to give back to the community by providing a scholarship in memory of their son.

"We needed to give back to the community," Bruce said. "That is what it is all about."

The Steven Bruce Mattice Memorial Scholarship, established in 2002, goes to graduates of Caston High School who show a desire to further their academic career. However, the community did not stop giving once the fund was created. Proceeds from the Fulton Fun Days Bulldog Run, a 5k run or one mile walk established in 1999, go directly to the fund. This helps the family keep giving in the name of their son, who touched so many during his short lifetime.

"He made a difference," Bruce said.

The true nature of humanity shines through this tragedy, and shows what a community can do when individuals come together to help one another.