



MY COUSIN NICKOLAS

My Cousin Nickolas has a disease that doctors can't find a cure for. So no matter what he will die. I love him very much. His mom's name is Rhonda, his dad's name is Joel and his sister's name is Samantha and their last name is Du Vall. I love them all, but especially Nickolas. He is not deaf, but he is blind. I wish he was not blind so he could see us. He has hair the color of a new penny. The color of his eyes are blue. At least



Nick surrounded by cousins Tiffany, Ashley, Jeremy, and sister Samantha

when we die we can see him and play with him again. My aunt Rhonda believes that in heaven Nickolas can run and jump and play and all kinds of stuff, but he could not do those things while he was alive. I love Nickolas very, very, very, very much. He is two years old now, in only a couple of weeks he would have had his 3rd birthday. Some people don't know about Nickolas, but we are trying to tell as many people as we can so they can help these kids. And so they do not lose someone they love like we did. Nickolas is soooo cute. I love him more than the whole wide universe. I also love my uncle, aunt, and cousin Samantha.

Nickolas died July 12, 2000 at 7:45 PM. We will all miss him very much. We love him very much.

Written with all my love
Ashley Louise Wittrock

Ashley was 8 at the time she wrote this story.

Nickolas Du Vall was born on August 5th, 1997. Tay-Sachs is a disease that doesn't let you grow very tall and doesn't let you go to school. His life was very hard on him. Everybody would take care of him, but that's not what he wanted though. His parents, Joel, Rhonda, and his big sister Samantha loved him very much. They had to feed him by a tube that went into his stomach. He had a special chair that he had been given by his parents. He had to be in a tent so he could have moisture in his body. He would watch shows with his parents. All of his cousins who took care of him were Jeremy, Ashley, Tiffany, Riley, and Kolton. His cousins loved to talk to him, but he just looked the other way. He is very blind. His Aunt Lana was very sad when she heard the news. She cried for at least 5 minutes. Her family cried too. His mom went online to talk to other kid's moms that have Tay-Sachs. A lot of people go online now on his website. The last few days of his life were very hard for the family. Everybody was crying. I don't think one eye was dry.

Written by Jeremy Wittrock

Jeremy was 10 years old at the time.

OUR TAY-SACHS ANGEL

Brad Nickum (2nd cousin to Nickolas Du Vall)

You came to us in a summer breeze
You shone so bright for the world to see
Enlightening our life was your purpose in hand
To teach us things we don't understand

You gave us joy through happy times and sad
Family and friends bless the times we had
We all know now you're in a better place
We wait for the day to again see your face

Now that you can laugh, sing, and dance
Say hi to Aunt Raine if you get the chance
Watch down on us and keep us all safe
Guide us in life and show us the way

Remembrance of you I'll never forget
Tears in my eyes sometimes I get
Now that it's time to say good-bye
We'll see you again where angels fly

Sally Foster Giftwrap Drive

The results from this year's gift wrap drive are in! Those folks who sold gift wrap to friends and family raised a net profit of \$8,000! This will go to the Helping Hand Grant fund to families who need assistance attending the 2002 Annual Family Conference. A big round of applause for all of you who participated!