

Connecting On a Deeper Level
A “Happy Birthday Troy!” Kind of Connection

By Corinne Summers
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At my Senior Stretch session today I was sharing with a good friend of mine who takes the class with me about the surprise I received yesterday! I was at Trader Joe’s, and as I was checking out, the sweet cashier who rang up my purchases asked me about my necklace with Troy’s picture on it. I told her that the picture was of my son and he had died 22 years ago. So many people are not comfortable with this, but she was, and she wanted to know what had taken Troy’s life at such a young age.

Since she asked, I shared with her that he had been at a local hangout place enjoying a game of pool with some of his favorite friends. A deranged man came in with a gun and shot randomly into the crowd. One of those shots found Troy, taking his life.

Big tears welled up in her eyes, and she said, “My Grandma was murdered by a mad man on drugs one year ago.” Then she gave me the biggest hug (which I needed by then)! As I was walking to the parking lot, she came running after me with a dozen roses. What an unexpected surprise!



Troy’s birthday is tomorrow (August 23rd) so I am enjoying the roses for his birthday week. 😊

Now, my reason for sharing this story is that a new lady in the class brought up the subject of how nice the checkers are at the Trader Joe’s in South Sac, so I shared my story. She looked at me and said, “My son, David, died by suicide three years ago!” So I gave her a big hug and told her about our group of moms who gather together to encourage one another because we’ve all lost a child.

When the class was over, we walked out together and I was able to share with her a little more about our support group.

We just never know when we share our story how it will touch somebody else.